Battle for Favor of Pacific Coast Voters Declared To Be Nip and Tuck

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Washington (Special) – The battle for the favor of Pacific coast voters is now considered nip and tuck by both sides in this presidential election campaign.

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The only state generally regarded here as probably certain in its direction is Alaska. In the 49th state's first opportunity to cast votes for a president, the Washington sooothsayers believe it will throw its weight to the Democratic contender, Sen. John F. Kennedy.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon is thought to be slightly ahead in Oregon. And both California and Washington state are considered touch and go for both sides.

Kennedy has been in all four Pacific coast states, but he passed up Hawaii. Nixon has been in Hawaii, California, Oregon and Washington, but has passed up Alaska.

The indications here are that Kennedy won't go all the way out to Hawaii this late in the campaign, nor will Nixon make a last minute trip to Alaska. Both contenders in the home stretch are mapping out speaking schedules that will take them into the most populous states where the slightest shift of votes could send large blocs of electoral votes tumbling into one column or the other.

California is the only west coast state now worth the personal attention of the presidential candidates. The other states are up to the local campaign chieftains and the touring spokesmen.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), the Democratic National Chairman, realizes that things are so tough for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket in the Pacific Northwest that he plans a swing through his own state of Washington and Oregon next week.

Crossing Paths

Sen. Thruston Morton (R-Ky.), his counterpart in the Republican party, has recently toured this same area. Jackson and Morton, in fact, are crossing paths constantly as they try to hit the areas which most require the attention of a party chairman.

Last week Jackson stumped through southern Indiana, for example, where hostility to Kennedy appeared strong. Making 10 speeches a day in the small towns, Jackson tried to turn back the tide, and then hopped on to Wisconsin and other midwest battlegrounds.

Morton the past week has been in Texas, Missouri and Indiana where the Republicans think their chances are promising for Nixon.

Jackson, who always "runs scared" in his own highly successful senatorial campaigns, is behaving the same way in helping direct the national campaign of his party.

"It's close, it's tough and hard," said Jackson, "but we're ahead."

Based on Confidence

He based this, he explained, on confidence that Kennedy is ahead in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, which constitute the big industrial states of the country which either contender can hardly afford to lose.

Nixon will be invading much of this territory, however, this week and next. And while neither side is discounting the importance of the western states, both appear to have concluded that the presidency will be decided here in the heavy centers of population of the East.

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Legion Delegates Hear Speech by Next President

Miami Beach – (UPI) – The American Legion convention, representing 2,600,000 men who fought the nation's wars, convened to hear the next president speak today.

Sen. John F. Kennedy, Democratic presidential nominee, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the Republican candidate, were to address the opening session of 6,000 delegates.

Kennedy and Nixon were expected to state their views on national defense, Cuba and the Quemoy-Matsu issue.

An estimated 60,000 Legionnaires and their families saw the Legion's famed six-hour, two-mile parade Monday night.

Bands, drill teams, floats, color guards, pretty girls, military machines and motorcycle cops sprinkled the parade while a fleet of jet combat planes roared overhead.

There were 200 units of veterans, representing each state and eight other departments of the Legion, including France, Italy, the Philippines and Mexico.

An estimated 200,000 persons jammed the curbs to watch the show.

Missing was the fun-loving 40&8 Society, World War I affiliate kicked out of the Legion because it restricted its membership to whites.

Also in the parade were the proud Caballeros of Hawthorne, N.J., winners of their third straight national American Legion drum and bugle corps competition. The group has won the title six times.

Japan Prepares For Elections To Test Support

Tokyo – (UPI) – Japan started preparing today for national elections which will test whether the pro-Western government retains popular support in the face of bitter attacks from Communists and other left wingers.

Emperor Hirohito opened an extraordinary session of the Diet (Parliament) this morning less than a week before the lower house is scheduled to go out of business.

He said in his brief address that Japan was facing "a grave situation internally and externally."

Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda's government announced Monday night the house of representatives would be dissolved Oct. 24. He did not announce a date for new elections but they must be held within 40 days after that. Government circles said the date probably would be Nov. 20.

Despite the leftist attacks on ruling conservative government over Japan's military ties to the United States, the conservatives have done well in by-elections since violence forced cancellation of President Eisenhower's visit last June.

However, the assassination of Socialist party leader Inejiro Asanuma by a young right-wing extremist last week has stirred up a new left-wing hate campaign against the conservatives.