

California Remains Mystery State in Coming Presidential Election

Demo Majority No Guarantee Kennedy to Win

By JAMES C. ANDERSON
Sacramento, Calif. — (UPI) — California, a rich prize with 32 electoral votes, is a mystery state in the coming presidential election.

Although new registration figures show Democrats with a husky bulge of 1,368,922 voters over Republican totals, that by no means guarantees Californians will choose John F. Kennedy, the Democratic nominee, over Richard M. Nixon on Nov. 3.

Californians, despite party registration which for a decade has run 3-2 Democratic, are an independent lot. Thousands of Democrats joined

GOP votes in 1952 and 1956 to help elect Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Who is the favorite as of this moment—Nixon or Kennedy?

Proof that neither is can be found in the fact that both parties marshalled their biggest oratorical guns for a final assault on the Golden State in the last three weeks of the campaign.

Plans New Swing
Kennedy, who already whistle-stopped the length of the state in September, plans

to return for a double-barreled assault on vote-heavy Los Angeles and San Francisco the week before election.

His running mate, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, will make his initial drive in California next week, with appearances in Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno and Sacramento.

And that old warhorse, Harry S. Truman, will give the Kennedy-Johnson ticket a helping hand with a major speech at Berkeley on Oct.

28. Democratic bigwigs say Adlai Stevenson, still about the most popular figure in the hearts of most California Democrats, is available for still another pitch in the West—and probably will be called upon.

As for the Republicans, Nixon wound up a strenuous four-day swing through his home state last week. He will return once and maybe twice in the closing weeks of the campaign, concentrating on northern and central California and probably making a

quick trip to Los Angeles.

His running mate, Henry Cabot Lodge, has finished his campaign chores in California but the GOP will call on Thomas E. Dewey to give the ticket a helping hand with speeches in San Francisco and Stockton.

The new registration figures show an all-time record-breaking total of 7,464,626 eligible voters, 4,295,330 of them Democratic. Since the June primary Democrats have gained 681,835 new voters while Republicans picked

up 406,433.

Since Eisenhower captured the state in 1956 by 807,533 votes, the Democratic percentage of the total vote has increased from 55.7 to 57.6. The Republicans' share, meantime, shrank from 41.2 per cent in 1956 to 39.2 for this election.

Only three of the state's 58 counties now show a GOP majority of registrants—sparsely populated Alpine and Mono counties and suburban Marin.

Los Angeles county, where

40.3 per cent of the total state vote is concentrated, shows 577,188 more Democrats than Republicans.

Yet, voter registration is no proof Kennedy will win here.

Cites Past Elections
U.S. Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, a Nixon man, said California is not "partisan-minded" and cited Eisenhower's dual victories in 1952-56 to prove it plus the fact that Earl Warren, a Republican, was elected governor three straight times in the 1940s

and was followed by another Republican, Goodwin J. Knight in 1954.

"I don't think registration figures provide an accurate key," Kuchel said.

Democrats are by no means certain that Kennedy will win despite the numerical superiority of their party's registration.

"We could win by a bundle or lose by a bundle," said one high-ranking Kennedy strategist. "Right now we just don't know."

Many observers, after test-

ing the political pulse in the state, predict Nov. will be a cliff-hanger similar to the 1948 election.

In that year, when the Dewey-Warren ticket was a heavy favorite over Truman and Alben W. Barkley, Truman finally won by only 17,865 votes out of a total of 4,078,981 cast.

It could be that close again. Less than three weeks before the election, the tide does not seem to be running strongly in California for either Nixon or Kennedy.

New Suntan Pills May Be Challenge To Sun Bathers

Chicago—(Science Service)—Methoxsalen, the new suntan pill, is not a cosmetic but a potent drug to be under the direction of a physician, three dermatologists report in Archives of Dermatology published by the American Medical Association here.

Two other research groups reporting in the same issue say that Man-Tan, which is typical of the new suntan-producing lotions containing dihydroxyacetone (DHA), a three-carbon sugar, is apparently harmless. The DHA is able to tan the human skin without exposure to the sun.

Suntan pills enhance the dark color of the skin and increase tolerance to sunlight in those who burn easily.

No Effects
Drs. J. Donald Imbrie and Lester L. Bergeron, Portland, Ore., and Dr. Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, Harvard Medical School, Boston, reported that in a study of 40 men and women no unpleasant side effects or severe burning occurred because all followed a guide of gradual sun exposure. All were volunteers, mainly students and research personnel from the University of Oregon Medical School.

"We urge that methoxsalen be given only to patients who understand its indications and hazards," the investigators say, stressing that the pills be taken for medical and not cosmetic reasons.

The two groups of physicians who studied the effects of suntan lotion agreed that DHA appears harmless after trying it out on 35 and 15 persons, respectively. DHA is a triose sugar, which on combination with a water-soluble substance on or near the skin surface, discolors the horny layer varying shades of brown. Patients with vitiligo, a skin disease characterized by smooth, light-colored patches, showed varying response, with darkly pigmented Negroes finding DHA of little help.

Less Susceptible
Drs. Howard I. Malbach and Albert M. Kligman of Philadelphia, who collaborated on the DHA article, say that the face, as a rule, is less susceptible than the extremities and that older senile skin often acquires a mottled and irregular shade.

In a preliminary report Drs. Saul Blau, Norman B. Kanof and Louis Simonson of New York said DHA produced no inflammatory reaction after 30 days of use.

All the DHA researchers say the suntan lotion offers no protection from the ultraviolet, or tanning rays, of the sun.

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