

Rocky Mountain States Getting Unusual Attention in Political Race

Capitol Memo

Hatfield's Prestige At Stake in Oregon Election Nov. 8

Salem—Although Gov. Mark Hatfield is not running for anything this year, some of his prestige goes on the line Nov. 8 as two of his major appointees face the voters.

They are Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. and State Treasurer Douglas Gripp.

Howard C. Belton, Republican candidate for the posts they now hold, Appling was appointed Jan. 12, 1959, to succeed Hatfield as he became governor.

Most Lawn Grasses Thrive on Long Cut

Urbana, Ill.—Had trouble with your lawn this summer? It may be because you cut the grass too short.

C. E. Ackerman, turf management specialist at the University of Illinois, says most home lawn grasses—blue-grasses, upright fescues and up right bent—do best when cut to a two-inch height every 7 to 10 days from June 10 to Sept. 10.

This height and frequency of cutting will help maintain a good relation between top growth and root growth, he said.

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McKay's Support Of Nixon Makes Demo Job Tough

By DAN DOHERTY

Democrats and Republicans alike are wooing the sparsely populated Rocky Mountain states as never before in this election year.

In all, the Mountain States have but 21 electoral votes—just one more for the combined states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming and Montana than for the single state of Michigan.

But this year's election promises to be a close one and as Robert Kennedy, manager of his brother's campaign put it, "No state is expendable." Republican spokesmen would no doubt agree with him.

In the past two presidential elections the 21 electoral votes have been delivered in a block to President Eisenhower. Neither Vice President Richard M. Nixon nor Sen. John F. Kennedy, his Democratic opponent, appear likely to fare so well this time, however. The question, then, is how the votes will split.

McKay Endorses Nixon

Republicans got a big lift when Nixon, following Kennedy into the area, drew a somewhat larger crowd in Denver—largest city of the region—and a powerful endorsement in Salt Lake City. There he was named the personal choice of David O. McKay, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon).

McKay's statement was his own, not the church's, but it was sure to carry weight with Mormons in Utah and elsewhere. Bob Kennedy said frankly that "it makes our job tougher." Utah is Republican anyway, though Democrats outpolled the GOP in this year's primary.

There was talk the Democrats were ready to "write Colorado off," but the candidate's brother denied this vehemently during a round of late campaign organizational meetings in Denver three weeks before the election.

On the contrary, he said, reports of voter registration showed a growing Democratic advantage. Republicans questioned this, since registration books, still open in Colorado at the time, showed many

more voters were registering as independents than as members of either party. This, Republicans said, meant a silent vote for Nixon.

Colorado is the pivotal state of the region, according to Kennedy. It has six electoral college votes, more than any of the others. It is probably the most doubtful state, although Wyoming, too, is a mystery and so is New Mexico to a lesser extent.

Montana, a vast state with mining in the west and agriculture in the east, is strongly influenced by labor and the National Farmers Union, both of which lean to the Democratic party.

Although Montana went for President Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956, unemployment in the west and an agricultural recession in the east favor the Democrats. Employment is down in mining and smelting. Layoffs have been heavy in lumber and logging, and the Democrats are making political hay of this by blaming GOP tight money policies for slowing down the pace of home building.

Predict Close Race

Democratic leaders predict a Kennedy victory but they say privately they expect his margin to be only about 7,000 votes. A red-hot, bitter gubernatorial battle between Lt. Gov. Paul Cannon, a Democrat, and Donald G. Nutter, a Republican, should get most of the estimated 322,993 registered voters to the polls, though.

State campaigns will be a factor elsewhere, too. In Colorado the big one is the Senate race between Republican incumbent Gordon L. Allott and Lt. Gov. Robert L. Knous. In New Mexico the big race is for governor, with incumbent Democrat John Burroughs facing Edwin L. Mechem, a three-time chief executive who lost narrowly to Burroughs in 1958. William A. Barlocker, a Democrat, is challenging Utah's Republican chief executive, George D. Clyde, in that state's feature race, while in Wyoming the main event is the Senate race between Rep. Keith Thomson, a Republican, and Raymond B. Whitaker, a Democrat.

Polls Favor Nixon

Some pollsters have given Nixon a slight edge in New Mexico, but voter registrations give the Democrats a margin of about seven to three and the one Senate and two House seats to be decided are rated safe for incumbent Democrats. A rumbling of anti-Roman Catholic feeling

isn't expected to prevent Kennedy from gaining four electoral votes in the state.

Anti-Catholic feelings have

cropped up elsewhere in the region, though generally they have not been widely publicized. But a Democratic office

holder said in private recently that "Kennedy would clobber Nixon" in Colorado, if it weren't for the religious is-

sue. As it is, Colorado rates a tossup.

So does Wyoming, generally a conservative state, which has but three electoral votes. The race there is a one-way put it, "tight as a cowboy's jeans."

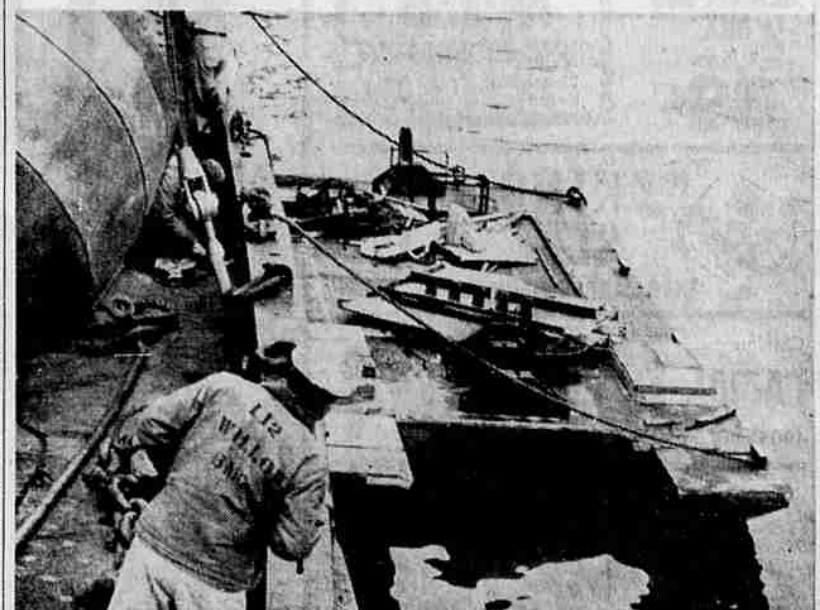
GOP candidates are being given an almost unqualified edge in the Senate and House races in Wyoming. But the character of some of the northern counties, the Republican strongholds, is changing. There has been a growing industrialization and consequent labor organization which are hard to gauge.

Most Republicans even feel that Laramie county, the state's largest and a bellwether in presidential races for decades, is leaning toward Kennedy. This is rebutted by

a Republican newspaper's poll. Robert Kennedy rates Wyoming as a winner for the Democrats, since the state went Democratic two years ago, when only Thomson survived among Republican office holders.

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'LEAKY TIKI' DEBRIS—A Coast Guardsman looks at pontoons and debris of the craft "Leaky Tiki" which were found off San Francisco by fishermen and towed in by the Coast Guard Tender Willow. A search for the three missing crewmen is continuing. (UPI Telephoto)

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