

# Oregon Voters Apathetic Despite Intense Campaign

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP) — Promising cheap power by federal development of the Columbia Basin and assuring the farmer of bigger federal price supports, the Democrats have high hopes of electing congressmen in Eastern Oregon's 2nd District and in the 3rd District (Multnomah County).

If they do, they will make the first dent in Oregon's solidly GOP delegation to Congress since 1942, when the late Walter M. Pierce was defeated in his re-election bid in Eastern Oregon.

In both districts, the Democrats still have a lead in voter registration, as they have had for several years. The Democrats have outgained the Republicans in the past two years, but the gain is so small that no marked trend is apparent.

After talking with political leaders and editors in all parts of Eastern Oregon, I came home with the conclusion that the people aren't very excited about the hottest campaign the area has had in many years.

Al Ullman, 46-year-old Baker real estate man, is a strong campaigner against his fellow townsman, Congressman Sam Coon, a rancher.

But over in that country, party lines are so mixed up that the situation is very confusing.

In Baker, I found a lot of Democrats who are supporting Coon, these Democrats being of the conservative variety. In Malheur County, there are old-line Republicans supporting Ullman, because they oppose the Idaho Power Co.

And in Umatilla County, I found Republican farmers who are supporting the Democrats. These farmers are sore about reduced price supports and lower acreage allotments.

Leaders in both parties complain that they can't get voters to come out to hear the candidates. This voter apathy is a source of complaint in the rest of the state, too.

Ullman, joining in the Democratic charge that the Republicans are giving away the natural resources, wants a high federal dam at Hells

Canyon, and demands that the government build the big dams on the Columbia. He says the partnership plan of the Eisenhower administration is a "giveaway," and he takes the GOP to task for cutting price supports.

Coon, who first was elected two years ago, says it's ridiculous to think that the government can do the whole power dam construction job by itself. He believes the only way that the Northwest can get the dams it needs is to let everybody build them, including the federal government, private power companies and local power agencies.

Coon says he has worked hard in Congress for The Dalles, McNary and Chief Joseph dams. He doesn't say what he thinks of Hells Canyon, asserting that's a question for the Federal Power Commission to decide.

Both men are campaigning hard in this vast district, making several talks a day.

Coon has two advantages, how-

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ever, that Ullman might find hard to overcome. First, Coon won two years ago by a large margin, 57,155 to 40,550, over John G. Jones, La Grande. Jones was considered a strong candidate, too, and the power issue was the same.

Secondly, Eastern Oregon always has sent a rancher or farmer to Congress. That fact might work again in Coon's favor.

In Multnomah County's 3rd district, the Democrats also have a strong candidate in Mrs. Edith Green, Portland housewife who is well known for her work in Parent-Teacher organizations and the Oregon Education Assn. She came pretty close to defeating Earl T. Newberry for secretary of state two years ago.

Her opponent is Tom Lawson McCall, a liberal Republican, former radio commentator, who was secretary to Douglas McKay when the latter was governor.

In the primary, McCall won the nomination over the veteran Rep. Homer D. Angell. The party stalwarts, mostly conservative, backed Angell. One Portland political writer said he believes McCall has "gone conservative" since the primary in order to win the backing of the conservatives.

McCall, noting that the Democrats have a registration lead of 144,100 to 126,489, calls the campaign the hardest the district has ever had. But this district has been Democratic for many years, and

Angell never found that to be a handicap.

McCall supports the partnership power program, while Mrs. Green favors federal development.

The district hasn't voted for a Democrat since 1936, two years before Angell first was sent to Congress. Angell's big advantage was widespread backing by labor and pension groups. McCall doesn't have this backing, which makes this race look as close as the one between Coon and Ullman.

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