

Political Observers Analyze Democrats' Upsurge In Western States Vote Race

Editor's Note—This is another in a series of summing-up stories by the Associated Press reporters who are analyzing the campaign in various sections of the country.

By MORRIE LANDSBERG
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The big political question in Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada today is whether an apparent Democratic upsurge will win for the party significant gains at the polls next Tuesday.

Spokane Plans 'Nixon Day'

SPOKANE (AP)—Mayor Arthur Meehan has refused to withdraw his proclamation of Saturday as "Nixon Day" in Spokane but he says the Democrats can have a "day" of their own when one of their national leaders visits the city.

That was Meehan's answer Thursday to Mrs. E. Dawson Whittaker, the Democratic county chairman, when she appeared before the City Council for the second time to protest the proclamation, issued in honor of Vice President Richard Nixon who will be here Saturday.

Mrs. Whittaker termed the Nixon visit "a purely political trip," and said the Meehan proclamation was "an insult to 50,000 Spokane Democrats."

Meehan said his job is non-partisan and added the proclamation was his own idea and the City Council had nothing to do with it.

The mayor said the "Nixon Day" proclamation was a courtesy and the Democrats could expect a similar "day" when a party leader comes to the city.

"But that will be too late, with a major election next week," said Mrs. Whittaker.

BRUSH OFF
SEOUL (AP)—A South Korean foreign ministry spokesman Friday brushed off as "fraud diplomacy" a suggestion by North Korea's Gen. Nam Il that representatives of the divided peninsula meet to discuss unification.

How deep does the seeming Democratic trend go? Does it carry enough momentum to crack through Eisenhower's admitted personal popularity?

Election of 3 U.S. senators and 42 representatives, as well as state officers in three of the states, hinges, closely on the answer. Washington, with no race for the Senate or Governor, will choose 7 representatives, California, 30-Oregon, 4, and Nevada, 1.

The GOP, making a stand on the Eisenhower line, hopes to retain the three Republican senators, one of them now a temporary appointee, and maybe better its 30-12 share of the House members from the four states.

Republicans declare they expect to throw back serious challenges against Sen. Guy Cordon (R-Ore) and Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.) who succeeded vice president Nixon in the Senate.

In Nevada, though, prospects appear to favor former State Atty. Gen. Alan Bible to defeat Republican Sen. Ernest S. Brown, named by the Republican governor to serve until next January. The two Reno lawyers plunged into an abbreviated campaign after the State Supreme Court ruled there must be an election for the two-year unexpired term of Democratic Sen. Pat McCarran, who died Sept. 28.

The critical test will come in California. Most election experts are picking Kuchel to win over Rep. Samuel W. Yorty of Los Angeles and Republican Gov. Goodwin J. Knight to take Richard Graves in the slambang battle for the governorship.

Independent polls indicate, however, that both Democratic candidates are moving up steadily.

There is sharp contention as well in California's 30 congressional districts, now represented by 19 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder of Los Angeles, state Democratic chairman, predicts her party will gain five House members. Nixon has said he looks for the GOP to increase its delegation by one.

What's behind the Democratic threat?

The record of both the Eisenhower administration and of the 83rd Congress runs through the

campaigns like a meandering western river—a theme of broad importance in some areas, of thinning significance elsewhere.

The course of debate shoots off into bread-and-butter issues affecting the West's pocketbook. Public vs. private power in the Pacific Northwest. Farm prices and jobs in California. Tariff protection for mining in Nevada.

Democratic candidates are hitting away at what they term a power "giveaway" program, falling farm subsidies and continued high prices for consumer goods. They contend the people are disenchanted with the GOP record and show more than the normal off-year reaction against the party in power.

The GOP message, as exemplified by Secretary of the Interior McKay's political tour, is that the power partnership plan will help build new hydroelectric works; that the agricultural market is stable; that administration policies are good for the West.

Other points of conflict, confined to state matters, are far from being overlooked. In California, for instance, proposed state liquor control and demands to "do something" about the smog plaguing Los Angeles are major issues. A gambling expose has created a political furor in Nevada.

Here's a quick rundown on the political scene in the four states.

Washington—With no races for governor or the Senate, interest centers on the seven House posts—six held by Republicans.

General opinion questions whether Republican Al Canwell of Spokane can overcome the sizable vote getting power displayed by Democratic Rep.-at-large Don Magnuson of Seattle in the primaries. Magnuson polled twice as many votes in his party contest as did Canwell in his, and more than all four GOP candidates.

In the 1st District, including Seattle, the battle between Republican Rep. Thomas M. Pelly and former Democratic Rep. Hugh B. Mitchell is rated very close. Republicans ran comfortably ahead in vote totals in the five other con-

gressional primaries.

Oregon—The Republican registration and tradition side with Sen. Covdon, whose campaign has picked up after a sluggish start. Richard L. Neuberger, a Portland state senator and professional writer, is considered the strongest Democratic candidate in 40 years.

Mrs. Edith Green of Portland, opposing radio commentator Tom McCall in the 3rd District, and Albert C. Ullman of Baker, running against Rep. Sam Coon in eastern Oregon's 2nd District, are given an outside chance among the four Democratic candidates for Congress. Republican Reps. Walter Norblad, 1st District, and Harris Ellsworth, 4th appear to be assured of re-election.

Republican Paul L. Patterson, who succeeded Secretary McKay as governor, is believed to be out in front of Democrat Joseph K. Carson Jr., former Portland mayor in an unexciting gubernatorial campaign.

California—Republicans, accustomed to winning both nominations in the run-on-both-tickets primary, got a jolt when all the Democratic candidates for state-

wide office and Congress captured their own nominations for the first time in the state's history. This resulted chiefly from a ballot innovation of listing the candidates' parties—and the impact of the heavier Democratic registration.

Republicans are comforted only by the fact that they outdrew their opponents on the two-party vote. Kuchel received 55.18 per cent of the combined tally for the Senate, as against 32.63 for Yorty. Knight's two-party lead over Graves was 94,826, not far from Graves' 93,735 total on both Democratic and Republican tickets.

Even so, Republicans are worried, especially those lesser state officials who have never had to campaign before. The huge Democratic registration is disturbing to them; so is the gain in Democratic voters since the primary.

And this is the first general election since 1938 that former Gov. Earl Warren's name is not on the ballot, to help attract Democratic support.

James Roosevelt, by all indications, will succeed Yorty as Democratic representative from the 20th District of Los Angeles. Nor will it be a great surprise if Democratic Rep. Robert L. Condon of Walnut Creek weathers "security risk" backfire on former Gov. Vail Pittman, 71, in his race against Republican Gov. Charles Russell.

Nevada—Bible packs an advantage as the Democratic candidate for the Senate for these reasons: a protege of the late Sen.

McCarran, he has the support of the McCarran organization; he is better known than the GOP's Sen. Brown; and Nevada's registration is 3 to 2 Democratic.

The gubernatorial campaign is beclouded by a state probe into alleged gambling irregularities reaching into the office of Democratic Lt. Gov. Cliff Jones. Jones is not a candidate, but other Democrats fear the investigation will backfire on former Gov. Vail Pittman, 71, in his race against Republican Gov. Charles Russell.

Nevada's lone representative, Republican Clifton Young, is campaigning as an Eisenhower supporter, while his Democratic oppo-

nent, Rep. Walter Baring, is critical of some of the administration policies, especially on mining.

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H. Loh, Oregon Salmon Conservation League, Frank L. Moore, Chairman, P. O. Box 369, Seaside, Oregon

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