

Close Vote Indicates Cool Voters

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WASHINGTON (AP)—A hatful of explanations are mixed up in Sen. John F. Kennedy's victory over Vice President Richard M. Nixon in Tuesday's presidential election.

They range from the personal and political to television and tactics. At least the results seemed to explode the myth that a Roman Catholic — couldn't be elected president.

1. The close vote showed what had been apparent throughout the campaign. There was no overwhelming enthusiasm for either man. The choice was between two men rather than between two parties.

But that the voters could and did choose sharply between parties was demonstrated by the results in the congressional races.

For the 13th time in the 15 elections since 1932 for House and Senate the Democrats were given control of Congress.

2. The congressional results indicate that if Kennedy had been a Republican he might have been whipped. For this reason: He probably benefited from voters who saw little to choose between him and Nixon but cast a straight Democratic ballot.

3. Something in Nixon's make-up hurt him. In an almost mystical way some voters said they were picking Kennedy because "I don't like Nixon" although when asked why they couldn't say.

4. Nixon undoubtedly got some benefit from being associated with President Eisenhower and his administration but it also handicapped him.

Because he had been part of it he couldn't be critical of it, even if he had wanted to. He defended the administration, and couldn't go much beyond its performance and programs in offering ideas of his own.

He was handcuffed in another way too. While Kennedy could offer unhindered and apparently popular liberal programs and promises, Nixon had to worry about pleasing both the liberal and conservative wings of his party.

This left him in the middle. 5. This middle position—which meant restraint in promises — allowed Kennedy to appear more farseeing, more earnest about the future, more on the move. Kennedy jibed at him for his middle ground role.

6. TV played an enormous part in the campaign since it gave the voters a chance to see the two candidates side by side, to examine their minds at work, and to form close-up impressions of both.

ADD CLOSE 130 3 P 6 B. 7. Nixon pulled a political boner in appearing with Kennedy on TV and debating him. Nixon, because of his seven years with the Eisenhower administration, was known in every home.

Kennedy, outside his own Massachusetts, was a comparative unknown. But in the very first debate he not only landed side by side with Nixon in 70 million homes but, many thought, had much the better of it.

He became known across the land overnight.

8. Kennedy—with his more liberal programs of medical care for the aged, federal help with teachers' pay, a higher minimum wage—was able to appeal to groups whom the more restrained Nixon couldn't reach.

9. The business slump was perhaps a factor. Last April, long before the campaign, Nixon let it be known that if there was an economic downturn by election day he didn't think the Republicans could win. It did turn down.

10. Nixon, long billed as a great debater, turned out to be more of an arguer. It worked to his disadvantage. In his incessant attempts to tear Kennedy down he helped build him up.

11. Kennedy, by preserving an even tone and temper, presented an image of himself as a man both serious and reliable. Nixon, self-consciously, played up to the listeners.

In his efforts to sound homey he frequently reduced his statements to the teen-age level, an effort which Nixon seemed to forget might offend many intelligent people. But, as he said, he didn't think most people paid attention to details.

STUDENT EATS EVIDENCE

LONDON (UPI)—Student Ivan Green decided if he couldn't have his cake, he might as well eat it, a court was told Wednesday. The proprietor of a shop said that when Green was cornered stealing some buns, he calmly started to eat them. Then, according to the proprietor, the trapped student said, "if they arrest me, I'll have some milk, too." The proprietor gave him some because, "I so admired his cheek (nerve)." —

