

Presidential Election Closest Ever Recorded

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Voters low margin of 29,214 votes in the 1884 election. However, when computed as a percentage of the record-smashing 67,855,637 votes cast for the two major party candidates, the margin was: Kennedy—30.146 per cent. Nixon—49.854 per cent. The difference between them was only 0.292 per cent. The lowest percentage margin in history was 0.300 per cent. That was the margin by which Democrat Grover Cleveland topped Republican James G. Blaine in popular votes in the record-setting election of 1884—the first in which as many as 10 million ballots were cast.

Not until all the votes are officially tabulated next month will it be known whether Kennedy's percentage margin actually was the smallest in history. With reports in from all but 120 of the nation's 166,264 precincts and only a small number of late-counted absentee ballots still to be tabulated, the United Press International's count today gave: Kennedy—34,026,623. Nixon—33,829,014. Others—448,338. Kennedy's numerical margin over Nixon was 197,609. Although that was the smallest since 1888, it didn't come close to the record.

NATO Head Proposes Atom Pool

PARIS (UPI) — Gen. Lauris E. Norstad, supreme commander of NATO forces in Europe, proposed today that a pool of nuclear weapons be set up for the alliance with each of the 15 member countries having an equal voice in control of their use. Only the United States and Britain could supply nuclear weapons to such a pool. U.S. law would have to be amended to carry out the Norstad plan. His proposal was made at the afternoon session of the first day of the sixth annual conference of NATO Parliamentarians after Vice President-elect Lyndon Johnson assumed the 200 delegates of the "new leaders" of the United States would continue all-out support of the Atlantic alliance.

From 14 of the 15 member nations, Turkey was not represented apparently because of still-developing internal political problems. French Air Unity In other developments, the parliamentarians: —Heard an address of welcome by French Premier Michel Debre in which he called for greater unity and "military solidarity" in the alliance to meet the "permanent menace of communism, which is taking advantage of the emergence of underdeveloped countries." Debre also said that France is "a strong partisan of increased cooperation with all its Atlantic partners. —Were told by Norwegian Foreign Minister Halvard Lange that success or failure of NATO in the future would depend upon how it regulated its relations with underdeveloped countries. —Sen. Johnson's remarks followed Debre's welcome address.

GI Trial Postponed

FRANKFURT, Germany (UPI) — The trial of two teen-aged California soldiers accused of killing a 10-year-old German girl by running over her in an armored personnel carrier was postponed indefinitely today. Proceedings had hardly begun before the presiding officer, Col. William O. Beets, ruled that the two accused soldiers had not been specifically instructed as to their legal rights. A new date will be set for the trial shortly. Beets said, Third Armored Division sources said it will probably be held early in December. The killing has brought demands by city officials in Hanau, 20 miles east of here, that all American troops currently stationed there be withdrawn. It also has stirred up a furor in federal government circles in Bonn over the number of "GI bars" operating in towns where large numbers of Americans are stationed. The trial may result in stiffer legislation against barkeepers who sell cheap liquors to Americans. Charged with unpremeditated murder were Pfc. Floyd A. Kennedy, Rosemead, and Pfc. William D. Jones, Richmond, both 18. Kennedy and Jones, the prosecution alleged, stole an armored vehicle from a motor pool after a morning drinking in a German bar and drove it through the streets of Hanau at top speed. The girl was killed as she rode her bicycle home from school.

4-H NEWS

OLENE DAIRY CLUB The first meeting of the Olene Dairy Club was held at the home of Rex High, the club leader. Officers elected were Steve Reiling, president; Donald Born, vice president; Sally Wenz, secretary-treasurer; Diane Reiling, song leader; and Eric Wakkuri, news reporter. Albert Grant will call all the members a day or so before each meeting to remind them to come. Steve Reiling, Donald Born and David Born are on the committee to outline a program of work for this year. Our next meeting will be held at the home of Albert, Robert and Kenneth Grant. Refreshments were served after the meeting by Mrs. Rex High. Eric Wakkuri, News Reporter.

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Oldest Book Contest Held

MERRILL — The idea of Mrs. Dale West, Merrill elementary teacher, to hold an "Oldest Book Contest" in the elementary grades during National Book Week brought unexpected enthusiasm from the children and their parents. Over 75 books and textbooks were brought by the children for the contest running from Nov. 14-18. A 50 cent prize will be given to the child bringing the oldest book, and the oldest textbook.

The oldest book, a book assumed to have been printed during the Fremont Exposition, was entered for display only by Mrs. Joe Lee. The book was printed in 1830 and has the inscription on the inside cover, "Captain M. Chevalier from Col. Abert." The oldest book entered in the contest is a Bible printed in 1844 and the proud exhibitor is David Reed. The oldest textbook was entered by Ann Long. It is a chemistry book printed in 1862. Other textbooks are a reader printed in 1864, an 1865 history book, and an 1868 spelling book. An 1860 hymn book printed in Germany was given for display by Mrs. Watts. This collection of books has created a great deal of interest among the children and adults visiting the school, and is believed to be quite a contribution for emphasizing National Book Week.

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TWO FARMERS IMPRISONED BERLIN (UPI) — An East German court in Chemnitz has sentenced two farmers to prison terms for arson and sabotage on collective farms, the Communist newspaper Volksstimme said.

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Economist Suggests Ease On Railroad Regulations

PORTLAND (AP) — An economist today proposed that the federal government ease its regulatory controls on railroads. Those controls "remain far too restrictive and are much too unevenly applied," Burton N. Behling of Washington, D.C., the chief economist for the Association of American Railroads, told the Inland Empire Waterways Association. Behling's remarks came as a panel discussion on problems of transportation opened the IEWA's 27th annual convention here. "While rates on all freight movements by rail are subject to close regulatory control, only one-third of intercity truck ton-miles and only about one-tenth of inland waterway traffic is subject to regulation," Behling said in his prepared remarks. Behling said railroads should be given the right to diversify. He said, too, that there is government discrimination in favor of other forms of transportation. "To date, government expenditures for domestic transportation purposes—for highways, waterways, airways, airports and air-mail subsidy—have totaled \$182 billion."

Artifact Display In Drug Window

A display of Indian artifacts will be in the front window of Western Thrift Drug Company, 635 Main Street, starting Monday, Nov. 21, and continuing for 10 days. Those in charge of collecting items were Jim Thomas, Sam Merriman and Doug Ernst, president of the Artifacts Club. Those interested in Indian artifacts may see one of the finest arrowhead collections in the Klamath Basin, given to the Winema Hotel by Frank and Roris Payne, onetime residents of Klamath Falls, now living in central California. Artifacts will meet tonight in the Klamath County Library lecture room.

Merrill Student Wins Contest

MERRILL — Patti Burleigh of Merrill High School won the recent district Soil Conservation Speech Contest held at Blv. Contestants from Lakeview, Fort Rock, Klamath Union High School and Merrill participated. The contest is sponsored by the Klamath Soil Conservation Districts. Patti won the first place trophy and \$25 bond offered by the group for the contest. Others entering from Merrill were JoAnn Thomas and Ruth Andrieu. Patti is now in The Dalles where she is entered in state competition.

Gold In Ft. Knox Vaults No Longer Material For Jokes

Editor's Note: The government will announce this week that its supply of gold has dropped below \$18 billion for the first time since 1940. Some of the reasons are discussed in this second of a series of articles by Frank Cormier, Treasury Department reporter for The Associated Press.

By FRANK CORMIER WASHINGTON (AP) — A few years ago, every comic in the land was getting laughs by poking fun at Uncle Sam's seemingly unlimited supply. Americans chuckled automatically at every mention of the bullion vaults at Ft. Knox, Ky. Today, gold no longer is a laughing matter.

In the past 3½ months, other nations have been buying U.S. gold at the rate of more than \$4 billion a year. The total American supply—\$18 billion—is at a 20-year low.

Foreigners are able to buy heavily because, in their dealings with the United States, they are receiving more dollars than they can handily spend. Some of the buying is normal. Some is abnormal and ominous. The free world's economic machine operates primarily on two brands of gasoline: gold and U.S. dollars. Gold and dollars finance world trade and are the "reserves" that stand behind the paper money of most non-Communist countries.

Pact Provides National Alert

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's Conelrad alert system is being advanced to the middle stage today with a signed agreement providing for a nationwide alert in less than 10 minutes. Signatories to the agreement here are the Air Force, the Federal Communications Commission, The Associated Press and United Press International. The entire facilities of the two major wire services will be in use as an alert system in event of a national emergency.

Under the new system of Conelrad, virtually every radio station in the nation could be notified in three to eight minutes after it was determined by the Air Force that an enemy attack was likely or under way. A single man in the U.S. Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo., can trigger an alert to the two wire service news centers. Thousands of wire service machines would immediately alert radio broadcast stations throughout the nation to go on a Conelrad alert using special wave lengths. Up to now, the alert system using telephonic communications took up to one hour. The wire services would carry defense bulletins of national importance during the emergency.

Because there isn't enough gold in the world to back up all the money, the dollar has become an acceptable substitute. This is possible because the dollar, literally, is "as good as gold."

Uncle Sam stands ready at any time to sell gold to other nations in exchange for dollars. One is as good as the other, so long as the price of gold remains unchanged at \$35 an ounce.

Will the dollar always be as good as gold? A few years ago, when Ft. Knox was a joke, the question wouldn't have been asked. The United States then was an island of prosperity in the postwar sea of ruin.

Today, however, a prospering Europe can afford U.S. gold and is buying heavily. Some of the buying seems to stem from uncertainty about the future of the dollar. Officials here won't concede there has been any serious uncertainty in the foreign quarters that count most: governments and their central banks. Governments and central banks are the only ones — except jewelry makers — who are permitted to buy U.S. gold. Traditionally, they buy gold with some of the dollars they receive. However, in recent months they have been using a higher proportion of their dollars to buy gold.

This appears to be a sign of uncertainty—the sort of uncertainty that feeds upon itself. It doubtless was one reason why President Eisenhower last week ordered emergency measures to attack the problem—instead of waiting nine weeks for the inaugu-

ration of President-elect John F. Kennedy. Eisenhower's moves were designed to reduce the deficit in the U. S. balance of international payments. The balance of payments represents the difference between the amount of money coming into the country and the amount going out.

In 10 of the past 11 years, the United States and its citizens have paid out to foreigners more than they've received. These deficits have increased sharply in the past three years, reaching \$3.8 billion in 1954.

Foreign governments and central banks normally wind up with more than half of the dollars which move overseas because of the payments deficit. And since they always use some of their dollars to buy gold, big deficits mean big sales of gold.

In the first half of 1960, the U.S. payments deficit was shrinking. It dropped to an annual rate of \$2.7 billion on the strength of increased exports. Gold sales slowed to a trickle—less than \$200 million for six months. Then came a slackening in the American economy while Europe boomed. Interest rates were lowered in an effort to stimulate business. European rates were increased in a move to fight inflation.

The result: Many Americans, and Europeans with investments here, decided to shift their money to Europe in order to earn better interest. This meant more dollars moving overseas. At almost overnight, the payments picture changed dramatically. In July, August and September, the

payments deficit increased to a rate of \$4.3 billion a year. The trickle of gold became a flood.

Interest rates here and abroad are coming closer together now. Officials will be watching to see whether this lessens the gold drain.

In any case, interest rates are only part of the problem. So long as the United States pays out abroad more than it receives, gold will continue to move into foreign hands.

The question is whether income and output can be brought into reasonable balance before the

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