

Nixon's Popular Ballot Passes 34 Million Mark

WASHINGTON (AP) — Largely through a big pickup in absentee ballots from the state of Washington, Vice President Richard M. Nixon's total popular vote for president passed the 34-million mark today.

Sen. John F. Kennedy's national plurality was cut to 152,832, the lowest since postelection counting began.

With official returns complete for 36 states and only 160 precincts missing in the unofficial tabulations for the remaining 14 states, the popular vote now stands:

Kennedy	34,168,319
Nixon	34,015,467
Other	415,267

Red Airlift Reported Into Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — The first flight of the Soviet airlift to Laos landed in the Soviet satellite of North Vietnam Saturday with 16 extra pilots and navigators aboard but no Soviet aid.

The plane was a trail blazer to familiarize pilots with the route. The pilot said the airlift will start shortly with twin-engine Illyushin 14 transport planes.

The first plane was a week behind scheduled.

More than 2,000 other flights, stretching far into the future, will be needed to airlift the 5,000 tons of petroleum products the Russians have promised as a "goodwill gift" to the divided Laotian government. Later flights are expected to bring milk, flour and sugar to relieve acute shortages in areas under this government's control.

Saturday's plane flew in from neighboring North Viet Nam's capital, Hanoi, a two-hour flight.

An American-made flatbed tractor, part of the multimillion-dollar U.S. aid program in Laos, stood by to unload. American-made planes lined the runway and American-built cars filled the parking lot.

The promise of Soviet aid followed complaints from Laotian officials that America was dragging its feet on deliveries of military and economic aid. The United States maintains its aid program has been delayed and obstructed because of the civil war that has splintered this Southeast Asian kingdom since August.

Arrival of the Soviet plane caused hardly a stir here. A protocol officer from the Laotian Foreign Ministry and fewer than a dozen Laotian military officials comprised the welcoming committee.

Neutralist Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma, who originally appealed to the Soviet Union for assistance, remained in his palace.

Bigger Echo Coming Up

WALLOPS ISLAND, Va. (AP) — Echo I, the 100-foot-diameter balloon satellite — largest object ever placed into orbit — next year may yield to something considerably larger.

William J. O'Sullivan Jr., designer of Echo I, told newsmen Saturday his research development department is developing a stronger lightweight material that would make possible a considerably larger inflatable sphere. It would use the same principle of inflation after reaching orbital altitude employed in Echo I.

O'Sullivan is head of the space vehicle group at the Langley, Va., research center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

He told reporters touring this NASA rocket-launching center that Echo is still almost spherical in shape and has remained useful for the bouncing of radio signals much longer than anticipated when it was launched last Aug. 12.

The satellite, expected to remain in orbit about a year, has gradually lost some of its symmetrical shape and ability to reflect light and radio signals.

Seen in many parts of the world at night as one of the brightest stars in the sky, Echo ranges between the altitudes of 770 and 1,197 miles.

They'll Do It Every Time



JFK Lists Bible Plan

BOSTON (AP) — Sen. John Fitzgerald Kennedy plans to take his oath of office on an old family bible, the senator's uncle said Saturday night.

Thomas A. Fitzgerald of Dorchester, present owner of the bible, said Mrs. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, his sister and the senator's mother, had told him that her son wanted to use the book in next month's inaugural ceremonies.

Fitzgerald said the bible had been the property of his father, the late John F. (Honey Fitz) Fitzgerald, former mayor of Boston. He said he did not know the age of the book but noted that the births of his grandparents are recorded in it.

Fitzgerald said births, engagements, marriages and deaths of the Fitzgerald and Kennedy families have been regularly noted. The latest entry shows the birth of John Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr., the president-elect's first son.

The bible is the Douay version.

On The Record

KLAMATH FALLS BIRTHS
BOSE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bose Nov. 28 in Klamath Valley Hospital, a boy, weighing 7 lbs., 2 ozs., and a girl, weighing 3 lbs., 2 ozs.

BOYS
DRESSLER — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse F. Dressler Nov. 30 in Klamath Valley Hospital, a boy, weighing 9 lbs., 14 ozs.

COURT RECORDS
Klamath County District Court
John D. Rector, no PUC permit, \$15.
Eugene L. Gidney, no PUC permit, \$15.
Charles S. Douglas, combination overload, \$102.
Roy W. Thielten, combination overload, \$28.
Bryan Kent Backhurst, hunting migratory waterfowl during prohibited hours, \$20.
Gerald D. Dedman, forgery of endorsement, dismissed by district attorney. False representation of unemployment. Rosie Lee Vicklund, following too closely, not guilty, \$15 bail forfeited.

Church Raps Fidel Charge

HAVANA (AP) — Roman Catholic Church officials rejected Saturday Prime Minister Fidel Castro's accusation that priests in Cuba got bribes to preach counter-revolutionary sermons.

In a strongly worded open letter to the prime minister signed by Manuel Cardinal Arteaga and others of the hierarchy, the church repeated its preoccupation with the spread of communism in Cuba.

The letter was made public a day ahead of scheduled because of a report — quickly squelched after it began to circulate — that Archbishop Enriquez Perez Serantes of Santiago had been jailed at Camaguey en route home Friday night from a church conference in Havana.

The archbishop, 77, had safely in his official residence, said by telephone he was not molested during the return trip to his archdiocese in eastern Cuba.

The letter was drafted at the Havana meeting of nine bishops assailed the clergy last Sunday as "henchmen in cassocks," bringing church-state relations in Cuba to a critical point.

The plan was to deliver the letter to Castro Sunday and distribute it later to the public. But it was issued early as reports of Archbishop Perez Serantes' detention raced through Catholic circles here.

The bishops called Castro's accusation of bribery "unjustly harmful" to the prestige of the church.

"We do not know one single case where chaplains at sugar hill communities acted as agents of exploitation of the workers and, on the other hand, we know they have defended the rights of labor," the letter said.

This referred to Castro's charge in 1956.

Rags-Riches Hodges Tale

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Ten years ago Luther H. Hodges retired from a high post in the business world. Saturday he was named secretary of commerce in President-elect John F. Kennedy's cabinet.

The manner in which Hodges, 62, has spent his "retirement" is an indication of his character. Hodges is a soft-spoken, dynamic man who thrives on activity.

After retirement Hodges entered politics in his home state of North Carolina. He was elected lieutenant governor, then spent six years as the state's chief executive, the longest tenure in the state's history.

"I felt it was my duty to offer my services to my state and to my country," he often said. "I had lived a good life, I wanted to give some of it back."

His is a rags to riches story. Born on a tenant farm, Hodges rose to the top ranks in the textile industry. He stepped down in 1950 as vice president of Marshall Field & Co.

Shortly afterward he was appointed chief of the industry division of the Economic Cooperation Administration and was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany.

Hodges ran for lieutenant governor in 1952 and won. He stepped into the governorship in November, 1954, upon the death of Gov. William B. Umstead. He was elected to a full four-year term in 1956.

Teen-Ager Returns To Face Family Tragedy

BELLMORE, N. Y. (AP) — A teen-ager boy who ran away from home with money given him by his family tragically he had caused by accident came back Saturday.

John Maiorana, 17, who had dashed out of his home and driven away after fatally shooting his sister, made contact late in the day with his parents through a priest.

Police, who took the call at the boy's home here, rushed to a private home in North Bellmore and found the distraught youth with the unidentified Catholic priest.

Police said John confirmed in his own words that it was one of the shootings that they were an accident.

John was taken to a police station for further questioning, but his parents and a huge crowd of neighbors who clustered around in this Nassau County, Long Island community were sure he would be home soon.

As police reconstructed it, the tragedy happened this way: John returned from a fruitless rabbit and squirrel hunt Saturday. At his mother's insistence he took off his muddy boots in the kitchen.

In his stocking feet he went into the family television room and started to clean his shotgun — a gun his father didn't want him to have with which he had bought with money given him by his mother.

John's sister, Julianna, 13, was watching a TV program. The two were heard laughing and joking together.

Then there was a thunderous blast. Somehow the gun, which shouldn't have been loaded at such a time, was "My God, oh my God!" screamed the boy.

A moment later his mother saw him rushing from the house in panic, still clutching the shotgun. He was shoeless and without a jacket in the outdoor chill.

The boy flung the gun into shrubbery near the house, jumped into the family automobile and raced away into the early evening darkness.

In the TV room, the horrified mother found her daughter dead, struck in the face by the gun's discharge.

Scores of police and detectives fanned out over a wide expanse of Long Island but could find no trace of the boy or the car. His anguished parents broadcast a desperate plea.

"John, please come home," begged the father, a telephone company supervisor. "We understand. Don't blame yourself. We need you more than ever now. We love you and want you home."

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Daughter Tops Famous Father

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect John F. Kennedy took something of a back seat to his small daughter on the flight from Washington Friday.

Three-year-old Caroline stole the limelight from her famous father as they came down the ramp from his private two-engine plane, named for her.

The pretty youngster was wearing a pink coat and bonnet over a pink and white dress. She carried a nosegay of pink roses which she obviously treasured.

In Washington she boarded the plane with her nurse, Maude Shaw, about a half hour ahead of her father who took time to visit his wife and newborn son at the hospital.

"Where's daddy, where's daddy?" Caroline inquired.

She was assured he would be along shortly. When he did show up, Kennedy's first question was: "Where's Caroline?"

After the plane was airborne, Caroline retired to the rear compartment for a two-hour nap while her father read newspapers, had a light lunch and then worked on mail and documents with an aide, Kenneth O'Donnell.

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