

ELECTION

So here we go again. Another momentous day in our national life. The day we have with us just once - every four years. And as a national spectacle it never becomes monotonous. Never loses - its excitement, color, drama.

We think of our Presidential elections as - part of our special way' of life. Which, of course - they are. Political scientists point out the virtue in periodically dropping everything else - to choose a man to live in the White House, a Chief Executive - to head our government. Yes, but the campaigns - are too long? Most of think so, but, no one, as far as I know - has ever advocated doing away with them. Not even Jim Farley, the old political maestro, who believes that the election is pretty well decided before the candidates begin appeal ing for votes.

And so, the campaign ends; the moment of truth arrives - on election day. The hoopla - is over. The parties and their leaders - can rest from their labors.

Tonite I'm coming to you from high atop Studio Forty-one --

from the spec. radio booth at the new CBS News election headquarters

in New York. Let's take a look at the popular vote counted so far.

President Johnson 680,000. Senator Goldwater 465,000. A narrow lead--

with only 2 percent of the vote in so far -- and a long night of counting

ahead.

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Nothing for them to do now - except wait for the verdict of the people.

As - they are waiting -- now.

And as - they have waited since the days of George Washington.

The method of choice - has changed since the first President took office

Moving from the decision of the Electoral College - to an ever broadening popular franchise. But - the democratic principle remains. Even Thomas Jefferson would understand - and doubtless approve - today's election.

No matter how you feel about the outcome we do have a remarkable tradition - when you come to think of it. Never interrupted - since the eighteenth century. No disaster, no war - not even the Civil War - could prevent Presidential elections from being held in their proper order. Every four years - like clockwork.

So we Americans are not merely settling a question of political power - in today's voting. We are participated in - the historical life of our country. Whoever may win or lose - this election day belongs to the people of the United States. It belongs to you - and to me.

BRITAIN

Now just a moment from our own election excitement - to see what's happening in Britain. Where the newly elected Labor Government today unveiled its plans.

And what a truly British spectacle. Her majesty addressing a glittering assembly of Lords and Ladies as well as members of the House of Commons - from a golden throne - making what I suppose you would describe as a socialist speech.

And what does the government have in store - for her Majesty's subjects? Nobles and commoners - alike? To begin with it intends to renationalize - Britain's steel industry, the fifth largest - in the world. It calls for rent controls, higher pensions - and more striking power for the unions. Who - is to pay for all this? There was a hint that higher taxes - are in the offing, including a new

IRREGULARITIES

To get back to our CBS election headquarters - one point on which this election already appears to be newsworthy - is the number of charges of "fraud". The accusations of voting irregularities coming in today.

Already there is the charge of "stolen ballots" - in Ohio. The charge of "unregistered voters" - in Kentucky. The Republicans of Florida protest - that they have been prevented from keeping an eye on the polling places. The Democrats of South Carolina protest - that some officials at some polling places are wearing Goldwater buttons.

The accusations of voting irregularities are so varied and so widespread - that it may be weeks before all the votes are officially counted. Probably not enough to change the picture - nationally. But conceivably the impounded ballots could make all the difference - to certain local candidates. Now Dick.

ELECTION REPORTS

We'll probably be all listening to radio and T. V. tonight - as the election results keep pouring in. And so will millions and millions of listeners - behind the Iron Curtain. In Russia - and her satellite countries. Tonight they will have first-hand news of our election results - from the Voice of America, Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Europe. And that will be - no small operation with one hundred and forty-nine transmitters being used - in Europe and Asia, to give round-the-clock coverage and a true report of the U.S. elections - to people in the Communist world - who would otherwise be depending on - censored newspapers and boradcasts.

And by the way we hear that this time there will be no jamming of these programs by the Soviet Union.