

ELECTIONS

Wed, Nov, 9 - '66.

Political repercussions from ~~the~~^{an} astounding Republican comeback ~~of yesterday~~^{is} still reverberating across the land. Not the least of which - a head-start today on the Republican presidential sweepstakes of Nineteen Sixty-Eight.

Governor ~~Na~~ Romney's big win in Michigan - signal for a flood of "Romney for President" bumper stickers. Romney himself -- refusing comment on his alleged Presidential aspirations - but acting for all the world like a bona-fide candidate.

16/2
The Governor disclosing that he had contacted ~~sever~~ several other big winners in the Republican party - in a plea for "national Republican unity!". At the same time, taking a swipe at Richard Nixon - a potential Presidential challenger. Romney declaring that Nixon is not - as he is often described -- "a national spokesman" for the Republican party.

More of the same political maneuvering - on the West Coast, ~~where~~ Governor-elect Ronald Reagan of California - a landslide winner - conceded that under certain circumstances - he just might be a "favorite son" candidate for President in Nineteen Sixty Eight. "Especially" - said he "if there is a divisiveness in the party."

Meanwhile, Nixon calling the Republican success -- the biggest mid-term repudiation suffered by any President in a generation. A result that should be read - said he - as a warning to Hanoi and Peking. A warning - he went on - of "a growing desire by Americans to increase our military, diplomatic and economic pressure on the Communists - so as to end the war in Viet Nam -- soon."

Toward that same end - Nixon further urging the President to call a meeting of the leaders of both parties - as soon as his health permits; to review the

conduct - of Vietnamese policy. The President appears to be "confused" said he - on matters of ~~the~~ war and peace.

RANCH FOLLOW ELECTIONS

By contrast - the President strangely silent today - back at the L B J Ranch. Delegating election comment to a presidential aide - who said that the administration still holds "a pretty good majority" in Congress.

Be that as it may - the Republican gain of nearly fifty house seats ^{is} seen by most political observers as a factor the President cannot ignore. As one pundit put it - it means "that President Johnson might as well forget about making further big advances - in the great society?"

VIET NAM

From Viet Nam - news today of ~~a~~ still another
~~major~~ major American victory; in that clean sweep of a
one-time Communist ^{Viet Cong} stronghold near the Cambodian border.

A force of U S infantrymen - scouring the
countryside for Communist stragglers when they were
suddenly hit hard - by a ~~vax~~ Viet Cong sneak attack. Then
another - from the opposite direction. And finally, a third
"human wave" assault - intent on over-running the American
position.

No such luck. The Americans fighting back with
everything they had - including close support from planes
and artillery. Until the enemy broke - and fled in terror.

After three hours of fighting - the battlefield
littered with the bodies of nearly three hundred Viet Cong.
~~lost~~. A later search of the area - disclosing an additional
ninety-five bodies -- stacked in caves, - American losses -
called - light.

BONN

Overseas - at Bonn - a complete surrender today - by West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard. Denounced by the opposition - renounced by his own party - Erhard bowing to the inevitable. Giving up his fight - to remain in office; agreeing to stay on as caretaker head of the German government -- only until the selection of his successor.

The choice - expected to come from among four of Erhard's chief lieutenants - in the Christian Democratic Party. None expected to break sharply - from Erhard's past policies. But all of them known to favor greater independence -- from the United States -- a la Charles DeGaulle.

DUBLIN

Another changing of the guard today - in Dublin, Ireland. Finance Minister Jack Lynch elected overwhelmingly -- as new leader of the ruling Finanna Fail Party and so the nation's new premier - ~~xxxx~~ succeeding retiring Sean Le Mass.

Lynch - a former football star - who holds six all-Ireland medals for sports. Only forty-nine -- he's considered a moderate in Irish politics. His acceptance ~~xxx~~ speech -- brief and concise. "I am conscious I am the second successor to Eamon De Valera" - said he - "and no greater honor can befall any man."

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - another twenty-four hour delay today - in the scheduled launch of Gemini-Twelve. The problem today -- as it was yesterday -- in the back-up guidance system of the spacecraft's Titan booster rocket, forcing postponement of the start of the planned four-day mission - at least until Friday.

The original twenty-four-hour delay - caused by a short circuit in the rocket's autopilot. To A device for guiding the rocket - if its main system should fail.

A new autopilot installed overnight - only to turn up defective this morning in final tests. So for astronauts Jim Lovell and Buzz Aldrin -- another day of hopeful waiting for a final "go".

ALASKA ELECTION

I wonder what significance there is in the following election item? As ~~perhaps~~ you ^{probably} ~~probably~~ know, it is rather unusual for a President of the United States to visit Alaska. Seldom has it happened. And, as we all know, President Johnson stopped off there just a few days ago on his way back from Viet Nam, The Manila Conference, Australia and so on. He spoke in Anchorage, and the report was that his visit there might have a most important and decisive effect on the election in our Forty-Ninth State, where the results are often extremely close.

On the basis of the returns in from Alaska so far the President's eleventh hour visit had little or no effect. In that State which has often been referred to as Democratic territory, the ^{Republicans appear} ~~Democrats appear~~ to be making a clean sweep, winning both the Senate and the House. ~~In fact,~~ In the Senate, electing fourteen out of the twenty senators.

As for the race for Governor, the returns have been see-sawing. At first the word was that the incumbent, ^{W.M.} Egan, was leading. But ~~today~~, late this afternoon, the word was that the Republican, Wally Hickel, is now far enough in the lead to win. But, the "bush" precincts are still ~~to be~~ ^{to be} heard from, ~~and~~ ^{also} the absentee vote. We hear from Alaska that whichever way it turns out for Governor, a recount is almost sure to be demanded.

For those who have been watching the ~~pk~~ political career of a young man whose initials are L T, the latest is that he was elected to the State Senate by an overwhelming vote, lead^{ing} the ticket.

2 1/2 - In Hawaii - ~~still~~ ^{Burns reelected?} But still uncertain for governor. Maybe a recount there, Warren.

LONDON

In London - they're calling it - the end of an era. The era - of the Beatles.

Nothing official - as yet. And "the boys" - as they are known - ^{are} still committed to make another movie, together. Britons ^{are} convinced, however - that the Beatles are breaking up. ~~So~~ Each apparently intent on pursuing his own individual career - ^{going it alone.} ~~individually~~

One of them, Paul McCartney perhaps best summing up the new attitude of the Beatles - ^{saying: Warren!} ~~when he said:~~ "I can see myself as a silver-haired songwriter - but not as a silver-haired old Beatle."