

Helms would trim food stamp program

RALEIGH (AP)—Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said Wednesday he expected to become that panel's chairman and would make trimming the federal food stamp program one of his top priorities.

Helms said as much as 40 percent of the food stamp program goes to those who do not need it.

The North Carolina senator stands to take over the chairmanship of the committee now that Republicans control the Senate.

The agriculture panel handles the food stamp program, and Helms said it "has got to be changed so you won't have so many freeloaders on it."

"The future, as far as I'm concerned, is to reduce it to those who are truly needy," he said.

Carter

really won a hell of a lot of seats in Congress. We're all psyched," she said.

The ballroom rocked, and was so filled with Reagan supporters watching the returns and partying that the District of Columbia fire marshal was forced to restrict access, citing the ballroom as a fire hazard. No one seemed to notice. A "Youth for Reagan" booth sold buttons and literature, and in four suites above the main ballrooms, all-night parties were getting underway.

Republican National Committee Chairman Bill Brock was tired. He had been shuttled

Helms made the comments to reporters as he appeared with John East, the Republican who upset Democratic Sen. Robert Morgan. East ran with the heavy endorsement of Helms and the senator's wealthy political organization.

Helms said the only thing that could prevent him from taking the agriculture post would be if Illinois Sen. Charles Percy, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, chooses not to accept that chairmanship and leaves Helms its ranking GOP member.

"It would be a real dilemma," he said.

Helms said he believed the government was currently "dishing out these food stamps to people who don't deserve them."

Helms said his goal would be to "continue to help the truly needy but limit it to the truly needy."

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News In Brief

National voter turnout continues to drop

WASHINGTON (AP)—Only 52.3 percent of eligible voters cast ballots Tuesday, the lowest voter turnout for a presidential election in 32 years, continuing a trend toward growing disinterest in the electoral process.

Republican Ronald Reagan, the victor, and President Jimmy Carter attracted only 48 percent of the total potential vote, after subtracting votes for independents and minor party candidates, according to one analysis.

Nearly complete figures showed 84 million Americans cast votes, out of a voting-age population estimated by the Census Bureau at 160.5 million.

While the total vote was a record, the percentage turnout was down from the 54.4 percent who voted in 1976. A total of 81.6 million Americans voted in 1976 when the potential was 150.2 million.

Reagan victory to affect hostages?

The spiritual adviser to the militants holding the 52 American hostages in Iran said Wednesday the crisis may be prolonged as a result of Republican Ronald Reagan's victory in the U.S. presidential elections, Tehran radio reported.

"Because (President) Carter was already in office, we would have reached a solution faster if he were re-elected," the radio quoted deputy Parliament speaker Hojatoleslam Moosavi Khoeniha as saying in an interview with Greek television. "With Reagan's victory this will need a long time."

Khoeniha said the hostages would be put on trial if America did not act on Iran's conditions for the captives' release, the radio announcer reported, reading what he said was a transcript of the interview.

Khoeniha was the chairman of the committee which drafted the conditions approved Sunday by Parliament.

Prosecution makes surprise move in trial

GREENSBORO (AP)—In an unexpected move, a prosecutor in the Ku Klux Klan-Nazi murder trial Wednesday told the jury the state now contends David Wayne Matthews killed four of five Communist Workers Party members fatally wounded at a rally last Nov. 3.

"He said he shot three of them," Rick Greeson, an assistant district attorney, told the jury. "He shot and killed four of them, we contend to you."

Matthews is one of six Ku Klux Klan-Nazi members on trial for their lives in the shootings last fall when CWP members and Klansmen clashed during the early staging of a CWP-sponsored "Death to the Klan" rally.

Republicans win Senate in conservative sweep

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Ronald Reagan's conservative tide has assured Republicans of control of the Senate in 1981, while sweeping many of the chamber's prominent Democrats into retirement and stripping the survivors of their long-held perquisites of power.

The new Senate will count at least 52 and probably 53 Republicans as the GOP assumes command for the first time in 26 years. Thus the Democrats, who now enjoy a 59-41 edge, will witness Robert C. Byrd Jr. of West Virginia yield his title as majority leader to Howard Baker Jr. of Tennessee.

And they will forfeit, at the same time, all the committee chairmanships so crucial to legislative craftwork.

Among the deposed Democratic liberals were George McGovern of South Dakota, Frank Church of Idaho, Birch Bayh of Indiana and John Culver of Iowa, all targets of a heavily financed conservative lobby. Two others, Alan Cranston of California and Thomas Eagleton of Missouri, survived the onslaught.

Other prominent Democratic losers were Warren Magnuson of Washington and Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. And

an aging liberal Republican, Jacob Javits of New York, also will be absent from the next Senate.

There remained some doubt Wednesday about two apparent GOP victories, but Republican Mack Mattingly finally edged Sen. Herman Talmadge in Georgia and Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., clung to a slim lead over Democrat Bill Schulz. Goldwater had trailed early in the count and then rallied with a strong showing via absentee ballots.

Still, several thousand votes remained to be counted in Arizona—especially since the polls were reopened in Tucson Wednesday because of an alleged ballot shortage a day earlier.

Talmadge, 67, who was denounced by the Senate for financial misconduct this year, trailed by almost 21,000 votes with almost complete returns. He was the ninth Democratic incumbent to be retired by the GOP landslide.

In Vermont, liberal Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy edged financial consultant Stewart Ledbetter, who declined to concede until Wednesday afternoon. A recount was possible.

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Anderson

Anderson also dropped a broad hint that his jaunt toward the White House had not ended Tuesday night. "I will not be the next president of the United States," he said, then paused. "That decision is deferred."

Chants of "J-B-A" and "'84" suggested that at least several thousand 1980 Americans backers would be happy to stay on the congressman's side, at least until the Brie ran out.

In the Anderson family's 10th-floor suite, Keke Anderson poked her husband in the ribs as he stared at returns showing Republican Ronald Reagan ahead of Carter by several percentage points. "Smile, Carter's not elected," she said.

For many Anderson workers, the independent candidate's campaign was their first political effort. Several said they planned to stay in Washington and find jobs on Capitol Hill.

Ed Doran Jr., a Pennsylvania optometrist, said he had become a member of Anderson's finance committee in the final days of the campaign.

"I was born Republican, I went to school on a Republican scholarship and I want to die

a Republican," he said. "But in this case, my country comes first."

Doran said he had been rewarded for his first contribution to Anderson, \$1,000, which he got by selling some of his optometrist's equipment, when he won a gas station in a federal drawing two days later.

Little sympathy was voiced for Carter at the Anderson party, though no one seemed thrilled about having Reagan in the Oval Office. Tufts University freshman Wayne Mayer, though, had a look of horror on his face as he sat in a corner by himself during Carter's concession speech.

"The country's committed suicide," he said. "This is horrible. The general atmosphere around Tufts lately has been, 'If Reagan's elected, don't expect to graduate.'"

Anderson capped his speech with praise for his supporters that echoed many of the rallying cries the congressman used during his chaotic and often-troubled campaign.

"The renaissance of my whole life is to realize that there are people like you—thousands across the country—who are willing to do the things you have done for me."

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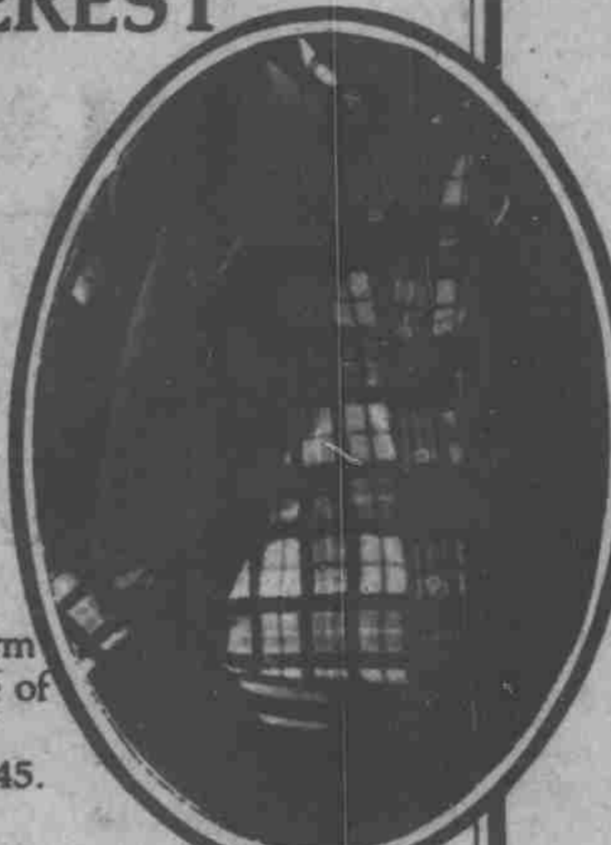
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