

Election '86



Thanking his "winning team," Broyhill holds off from conceding election

DTH/Janet Jarman

Senate

Democrat David Price concluded his victory speech, Sanford made a statement in the Hilton ballroom. Despite a 3 percent lead with 62 percent of the precincts reporting, Sanford refused to claim victory but instead spoke of the health of the Democratic Party.

"Whatever else it is, it's great to be a Democrat," he told an audience of about 500 supporters. "The Democratic Party was in disarray. The Democratic Party was disheartened. And now the Democratic Party has never been in better shape. And when the Democratic Party is on the move, North Carolina is on the move."

Sanford said he took "a great deal of comfort in the predictions of all three (major television) networks," who projected a Sanford victory.

Sanford opened the floor for questions saying, "I'm the candidate of the open press conference."

He advocated good old-fashioned campaigning, saying that going out to "shake hands and talk to the people still pays off."

He spent most of the evening in

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a 5th floor room watching the results on television while Democratic supporters congregated in the first floor conference rooms. Aides remained optimistic as the voting returns came in.

"It looks great," said campaign manager Sam Poole. "We're really pleased with the support we've gotten. We've had a lot of response from the young people. We've seen lots of enthusiasm."

Press aide Tom Lawton said Sanford has strong support in Wake, Cumberland, Durham and Orange Counties.

"We're watching the west warily," he said.

Broyhill carried Mecklenburg County, where Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, is located. The area has been traditionally Republican but Poole said Sanford has

fairly strong support in the area. Poole said Sanford had tried to get Guilford County polls to stay open late. He said Guilford County strongly supported Sanford.

"There are a lot of working people who are very responsive to what we've been talking about," Poole said. "There are people who have jobs to go to and they can't get to the polls."

Several prominent Democrats including Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, former N.C. Attorney General Rufus Edmisten and Kirsten Nyrop, awaited election results in a fifth floor suite.

Nyrop, who ran against David Price in the Democratic primaries, said she planned to help the Democratic campaigns despite her loss in the primary.

"It was good timing," she said.

"The Sanford campaign, when we caught up with each other, was ready to launch its fall offensive."

In an interview before Sanford's 8:30 p.m. arrival at the hotel, Edmisten said it was too early to predict victory but said he had confidence in Sanford.

"I'd be willing to stake my whole political future that he is a winner," he said.

Edmisten said a he felt a Democratic sweep would mean the "vindication of the Democratic Party."

"From the very beginning we were helping Governor Sanford," he said. "Our hard work has finally paid off."

UNC Young Democrat president Jim Townsend said he was "ecstatic" with the early results of the election. He said a Democratic victory would "make people forget about '84," when Republicans swept Senate elections.

James Freeman, Young Democrat vice president and co-chairman of Students for Sanford, said he was "optimistic but apprehensive" about the early results.

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Bill Cobey hugs his wife and best friend, Nancy, after his defeat

DTH/Larry Childress

Congress

a factor," he said. "He distorted and misrepresented my record."

Price ran twice as much advertising in the last two weeks of the campaign as he had earlier, Cobey said. "That's not sour grapes," he said. "We saw our numbers slip as Price attacked my record on farm credit and Ethiopian famine votes."

Dave McSweeney, a Cobey campaign worker, agreed. The last two and a half weeks of campaigning determined the outcome of the elections, he said. Besides running negative advertising during that time, Price received \$175,000 from out-of-state labor unions, McSweeney said.

Cobey had hoped to get more support from Randolph County, McSweeney said.

Price campaign workers attributed his victory to high voter turnout in the counties where the candidate had a strong base of support.

Eric Fullager, a Price campaign worker, said earlier that Price could carry Wake County only if he won the districts of North Raleigh and Cary.

"It depends on the turnout," he said. "So far the turnout has been good."

Cobey said Democrats did a better job getting voters to show up at the polls. Before the election, both candidates said high voter turnouts would help them win.

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"Almost two years ago we set two goals: to recapture politics from negativism and name-calling (and to restore it) as a way to put our best ideas to work. . . . I think we've given the people the kind of campaign they desire. I certainly hope this will encourage cleaner political campaigns in the future."

— David Price

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Conceding his defeat, Cobey said, "This is a little bit of a dip. We have to face that, but we're going to come back strong. I still believe that Jim Broyhill is going to win this thing tonight."

Earlier, when the election results continued to favor Price, Cobey said he did not believe in conceding until all the votes were counted. "Nobody could have a better group of friends and supporters than I do and I thank you very much."

A Broyhill staff member who wished to be unidentified said Cobey's staff had been warned about possible defeat three weeks ago: "We

House delegation adds a Democrat

By NICKI WEISENSEE
Staff Writer

Seven of North Carolina's 11 congressional districts have Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives as a result of Tuesday's elections, a change from six Democrats and five Republicans.

Democratic incumbent Charlie Rose of the 7th District got off to a bad start when his name was left off the ballot, but he won by a large majority. With all of the precincts reporting, Rose had 22,870 votes and Republican Tommy Harrelson had 12,952.

"I think we did pretty good with my name not being on the ballot. . . . I still feel that the North Carolina Board of Elections should look at how something like this could take place," Rose said.

In the 1st District, incumbent Rep. Walter Jones defeated his Democratic opponent Howard Moyer. With 85 percent of the precincts reporting, Jones had 70 percent of the vote; Moyer, 30 percent.

Controversy surfaced in the 2nd District congressional race between Democratic incumbent Tim Valentine and Republican Bud McElhane. The race began badly for Valentine because his name did not appear on the ballot in one county. "It's tough to run if your name isn't on the ballot," he said.

Nevertheless, Valentine won by a comfortable margin, receiving 56,279 votes to McElhane's 19,031 when 60 percent of the precincts had reported. He plans to file a formal complaint against his opponent for distorting his record.

"He accused me of being in favor of AIDS. That's like saying you're in favor of cancer," he said. "I am sick and tired of people running campaigns (and using God), when they're really run by the devil."

In the 3rd District, there was no incumbent as Republican incumbent Charles Whitley retired. With 95 percent of the precincts reporting, Democrat Martin Lancaster was leading with 65 percent of the vote over Republican challenger Gerald Hurst.

Democratic incumbent Steve Neal ran a second time against Republican Stuart Epperson and won, holding 53 percent of the vote with 83 percent of the precincts reporting.

The 6th District race between incumbent Republican Howard Coble and Democrat Robin Britt was tight. With 84 percent of the

precincts reporting, Coble had a narrow lead of 51 percent to Britt's 49 percent.

No real surprises came in the 8th District, where Democratic incumbent Bill Hefner won his seventh term against Republican Billy Hamby. Hefner received 58 percent of the vote, with 85 percent reporting.

For the second time, Democrat David Martin challenged Republican Alex McMillan and for the second time he lost. Martin won by a narrow vote of 51 percent to 49 percent, with 93 percent of the precincts reporting.

In the 10th District, Republican Cass Ballenger and Democrat Les Roark sought to fill the spot vacated by Sen. Jim Broyhill after 24 years. With 87 percent of the precincts reporting, Ballenger had 58 percent of the vote.

In the 11th District, Republican incumbent Bill Hendon took an early lead over Democrat James Clarke. Later, they tied and Clarke took over, having 52 percent of the vote with 84 percent of the precincts reporting.

Hendon won the House seat in the Reagan landslide of 1980, then lost to Clarke two years later. In 1984, Hendon unseated Clarke when Reagan got re-elected.

All three amendments to the North Carolina Constitution were also voted in by a fairly large majority.

The first amendment, which will allow private colleges and universities to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance capital improvements on their campuses, passed with 54 percent of the vote.

The second amendment, which received 67 percent of the vote, will make a difference in absentee ballots. With the former provision, a vacancy that occurs in an office up to 30 days before an election must be put on the Nov. 4 ballot. However, absentee ballots are sent out up to 60 days before an election, meaning that these voters may not be able to vote for all candidates.

The amendment even up the differences, requiring that a vacancy that occurs up to 60 days before the election must be put on the ballot.

The third amendment is designed to permit owners of airports and seaports — whether local governments or airport or seaport authorities — to issue tax-exempt bonds for construction of new or expanded facilities.

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Franklin counties — were ready for a change, Price said.

Before giving his acceptance speech, Price thanked his campaign staff of thousands of volunteers and all the people of the 4th District.

Mary Hooper, a member of UNC Students for David Price, said Price's campaign workers had done a "phenomenal" job.

"The high voter turnout and the enthusiasm of the students has a lot to do with good organization," she said. Student voters helped Price win, she said. "There was a lot of support from some very loyal people."

After his acceptance speech, Price told reporters that when he got to Washington, he needed to think about committee assignments and the issues he wanted to face.

"I've had lots of experience in dealing with these issues," he said. "I'm confident that I can hit the ground right."

When asked to be specific about the issues, Price named education as a chief concern. "Certainly the people in this district expect a candidate to commit himself to education," he said. "I expect to work very hard (in that area)."

Price said the night was a great one for Democrats, and for Terry Sanford. "It's more than a victory for our party, it's a new beginning for all people — Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike," he said. "Let's be grateful for what we've accomplished together, take heart for the future, and let's celebrate."

Election returns signal end of Republican control of U.S. Senate

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Democrats, picking off GOP seats around the nation on Tuesday, broke the Republicans' six-year hold on the Senate and served notice on President Reagan that his last two years in office will require "the art of government by compromise."

Democrats harvested Republican seats in Maryland and Florida and were threatening vulnerable GOP freshmen from Dixie to the Farm Belt. The networks, relying on poll results and projections, said not a single Democratic incumbent would

fall to the Republicans. Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas conceded at midnight that the Democrats would win control of the Senate.

"Oh yeah, it's a question of whether it will be 53 or 55 Democrats," Dole said.

Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said he had first thought his party would win a 52-48 majority but as the returns came in, he confidently predicted, "I think it's going to be better than that."

The Democrats needed a shift of

only four seats in their favor to gain the majority party's right to appoint committee chairmen and set the Senate's legislative agenda. Their targets were vulnerable GOP freshmen who narrowly won office on the strength of Reagan's landslide election in 1980.

The GOP was faring better in the day's 36 gubernatorial elections and the Republican national chairman seized on the victories to call Election Day 1986 a "mixed bag."

Democrats also bid to pad their 73-seat majority in the House.

But the main event of a nasty, expensive mid-term campaign was the battle for supremacy in the Senate.

"If there was a Reagan revolution, it's over," claimed House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill as he headed into voluntary retirement. O'Neill's House seat was won by Joseph Kennedy II.

Asked why the Republicans lost some seats, White House spokesman Larry Speakes cited "various state issues." He said the president's ambitious campaigning turned many of the races — involving Republicans

who won on his coattails in 1980 — into close contests.

Vice President George Bush told ABC the loss of GOP control would "complicate staying on the offensive in the last two years of the Reagan presidency."

Republican National Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf remained optimistic about President Reagan's chances of getting his policies passed by a Democrat-controlled Congress.

"There's no question that the president is going to have a much more difficult time getting his programs through," Fahrenkopf

said. "But the president is a master of building coalitions . . . and he always has that ability to carry his message directly to the American people."

The Republican national headquarters had planned a "Victory '86" celebration, but as election returns poured in indicating a Democratic takeover of the Senate, the mood turned glum and the party became a wake.

"Why do you want to take a picture of us? We're going down," one young GOP worker told a television cameraman.