

Price camp turned events of House race to its advantage in turning out the voters

By MATT BIVENS
Staff Writer

Democrat David Price carried four of the five counties in the 4th Congressional District in Tuesday's elections, and Republican incumbent Bill Cobey carried one.

Price carried Franklin, Orange, Chatham and Wake counties and received 70 percent of the vote in Orange County, where Chapel Hill is located, according to the counties' board of elections. Cobey received 70 percent of the vote in Randolph County, where he expected to receive the broadest base of support.

Voter turnout was higher than expected in most of the counties, although not a record high. In Orange, Chatham and Randolph counties, 54 percent of the registered voters turned out to vote. In Franklin County, 62 percent of the voters

cast ballots. Turnout estimates were not available from Wake County, which is still tallying.

Questions facing Republicans and Democrats are why Price won and what his victory means for future politics.

Ed Turlington, executive director of the Democratic Party Headquarters in Raleigh, said Price won by running a "textbook campaign." This involved a large voter mobilization drive, television coverage and debates with his opponent to unify the Democratic party behind him after a close four-way primary.

Especially effective were the ads in which Price listed Cobey's votes on certain issues, and then stated how his vote would have differed, Turlington said. The commercials were not negative campaigning, as

Cobey supporters have said, but pointed out the congressman's vote as a matter of public record.

He said Cobey's "Dear Christian" letter to constituents was a deciding factor in the campaign. The letter, designed to appeal to religious voters, became controversial and ended with Cobey apologizing to Price for questioning his religious values.

The letter probably turned off many of the voters who are wary of mixing religion and politics, Turlington said.

The Cobey campaign also considered Price's television ads a turning point in the campaign. David Murray, Cobey's press secretary, said the ads distorted Cobey's votes, especially in the areas of Social Security and farming.

Another factor in Price's victory

was that Price began to outspend Cobey two to one in the final week of the campaign, and Price received more money from labor unions than expected.

Murray said the effects of the "Dear Christian" letter were not major. A consultant wrote the letter because the campaign received a large and confusing amount of mail. Republicans feel that the election results were not a mandate for the Democrats and that Price is not in a position to truly endanger future Republican bids for office, he said.

Merle Black, UNC political science professor, said Price was well-organized in his campaigning, and Cobey was "out of step" with the district, in which the voters are generally somewhat wary of right-wing politics.

Arms control talks reach stalemate

From Associated Press reports

VIENNA, Austria — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze failed Thursday to make headway toward curbing nuclear weapons and left the future of arms control and superpower summits in doubt.

Shultz told reporters after his five hours of talks with Shevardnadze

over two days: "I can't say that the meetings have moved arms control matters along in any significant way, and I regret this."

Shevardnadze said he was returning to Moscow "with a bitter taste" after being confronted with "a mixed bag of old mothballed views and approaches."

Summing up the meetings that took place while Shevardnadze and

Shultz were in Vienna for a conference on human rights and East-West relations, one senior U.S. official said: "It was a bust."

Another senior U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said there would be no further high-level sessions until the Soviets indicate a willingness to negotiate constructively.

Shevardnadze said another superpower summit would "all depend on further contacts. The dialogue will be continued." Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed last November to a meeting with President Reagan in Washington this year.

Shultz said the subject "never came up in my talks with Shevardnadze."

Election results throw curve in projected party lineups for '88

By SHARON KEBSCHULL
Staff Writer

The Republican Party may be down, but it is far from out, according to North Carolina party leaders.

While the defeats in Tuesday's elections were a setback, Republicans are encouraged by some narrow victory margins for Democratic winners, and both parties are looking ahead to 1988.

"Overall, for an off-year election, the Republican Party did not do too badly, although, of course, we were disappointed," said Andy Frazier, executive director of the Republican

Party headquarters in Raleigh.

"We pretty much held our own strengths in the General Assembly, and we made great strides in many local elections," he said, citing Republican victories in sheriff and city council races.

"If Democrats had failed to win a U.S. Senate seat or a Congressional seat, then the Democratic Party in the state would have totally collapsed. While that didn't happen, we did not lose by that much," Frazier said.

Democrats have been forced to concede that they no longer have a

great stronghold on North Carolina politics. Even with the strong showing by Democrats in the South, Republicans have a foot in the door with many governorship victories.

"We still have hard work to do," said Jim Van Hecke, state Democratic Party chairman, adding that Democrats did not win all the seats they had hoped to.

In the 1988 race for governor, Republican Gov. Jim Martin would be the favorite if he decides to run for re-election, but "the Democrats would certainly have a chance," said UNC political science professor

Merle Black.

The current front-runner for the Democratic nomination is Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan. He could easily win the nomination by default, Black said, simply because other potential candidates would not want to take on an incumbent.

A poll conducted for The (Raleigh) News and Observer and The Charlotte Observer in September reported that 67.1 percent of a statewide sample approved of Martin, 10 percent disapproved and 22.9 percent had no opinion or were unsure.

U.S. cuts deal with Iranians to secure hostages' release

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The United States won the release of three hostages held in Lebanon by helping to arrange the shipment by Israel to Iran of spare parts needed to keep the Iranian war machine running, a source close to the negotiations said Thursday.

"There was a correlation between the shipments and the release of the hostages," said the source, who asked not to be quoted by name.

President Reagan, meanwhile, tried to quiet reports of the deal, saying that disclosures of the contacts between Tehran and Washington "are making it more difficult for us" to win the release of the three Americans still held captive.

Pilot killed in collision

TAMPA, Fla. — A twin-engine aircraft slammed head-on into a Pan Am jet on a fog-shrouded airport taxiway Thursday and burst into flames, killing the lone occupant of the small plane, officials said.

The pilot of the small plane, an Eastern Airlines captain who was returning to duty, screamed "Oh my God! Oh my God!" as he spotted and then tried to evade the jetliner, according to an airport worker. The small plane skidded beneath the jet before

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exploding.

Reagan signs immigration law

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, signing into law the most sweeping immigration reform in more than 30 years, expressed hope Thursday that the measure will preserve "one of the most sacred possessions of our people

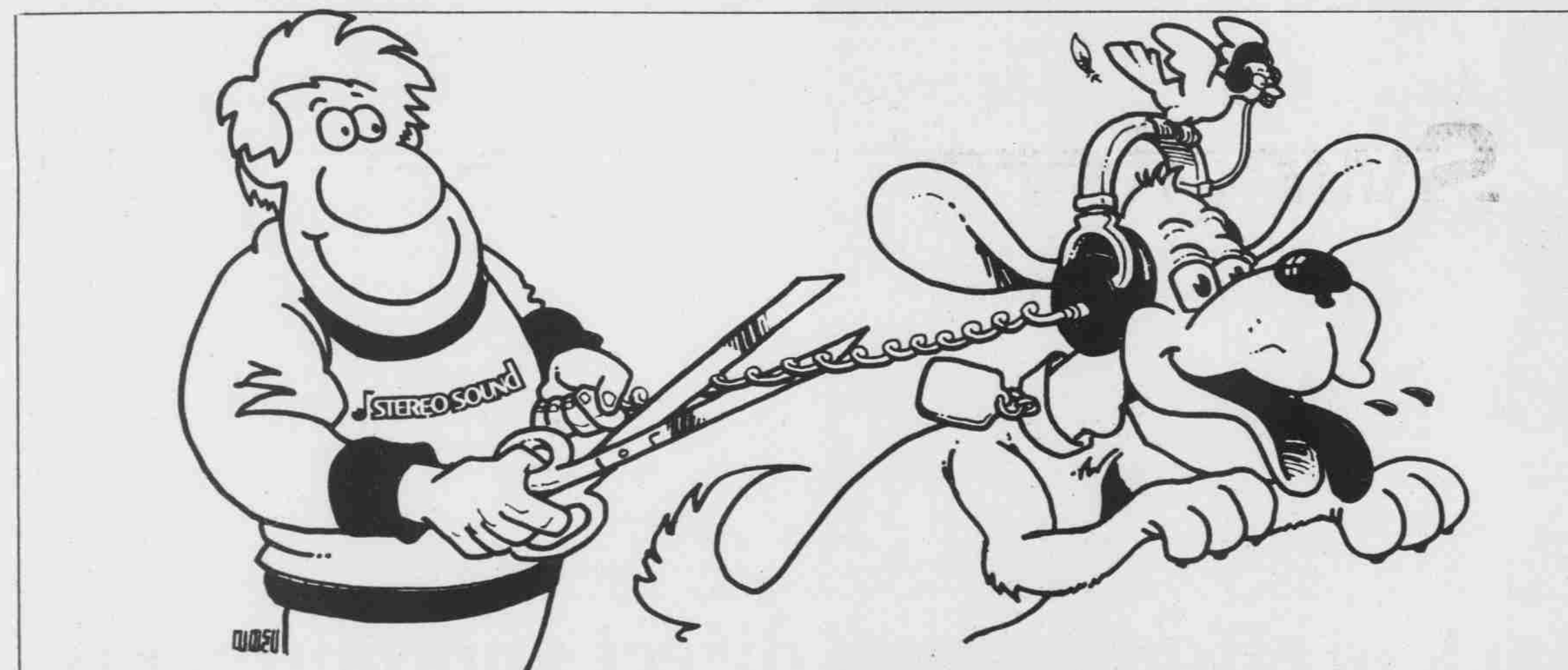
American citizenship." Millions of illegal aliens may become eligible to remain in the United States legally under the act, approved in the waning days of the 99th Congress after years of political wrangling.

Reagan, before signing the measure, noted that illegal immigration "should not . . . be seen as a problem between the United States and its neighbors."

Rock group to disband

LONDON — Roger Waters, leader of the rock group Pink Floyd, said Thursday he has begun legal proceedings to dissolve the band because it is "a spent force creatively."

A statement issued by the 42-year-old songwriter and bass guitarist said proceedings began in the High Court in London last Friday to dissolve the group.



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