

'82 Elections Hurt Reagan's Cuts

While last week's election results may not have been the landslide victory for higher education that some had hoped for, college lobbyists in Washington agree they'll be in a better position to resist the next round of education cuts President Reagan is expected to propose next February.

"For higher education, the results are mixed," explains Bob Aaron, spokesman for the American Council on Education. "The American public did not give a ringing endorsement of Reaganomics and the president's cutbacks, but on the other hand they didn't condemn them."

Overall, Aaron and other observers say, higher education made some significant gains in terms of support and funding in the New Congress.

A more liberal House of Representatives, fewer "Reagan Robots" in Congress, and the fact that education became an issue in many of the election races, will mean more political support for and less opposition to higher education, they say.

Still, higher education did not become the issue some supporters had hoped it

would be, and several key races were lost despite an overall gain in liberal support.

"This election was totally predicated on domestic policy, namely jobs and the economy and social security," Aaron says.

"The economy was the major issue," agrees Joel Packerd, assistant director for government relations at the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. The president's cutbacks, he points out, became secondary to inflation and unemployment.

Even the student political action committees, which lobbied and campaigned to make education a major issue, concede their cause took a back seat to more widespread concerns over the economy and jobs.

The National Student Political Action Committee, an arm of the U.S. Student Association, was counting on more support from unemployed and liberal groups to help bring out the pro-education vote, says director Joe Sweeney.

Instead, he says, education was eclipsed by voter concern over money and jobs.

But even as a secondary issue, higher education was a

visible factor in this year's elections, sources say, and politicians will think again before they support additional cutbacks and reductions.

"Overall, things look positive," Packerd says. "In the House, where there was a pick-up of 26 Democratic seats, it will definitely help us out. That will make it very difficult, if not impossible, for the president to make any more cuts in student financial aid and other education funding."

But one of higher education's strategic victories was in the Senate, where New Mexico Republican Harrison Schmitt was ousted from his seat and from his position as head of the Senate subcommittee which controls appropriations for education.

Schmitt has repeatedly supported cuts in federal student aid, Packerd says, "and we're not overly sorry to see him go."

"That was one of the more favorable results," concurs Aaron of Schmitt's defeat. "I have to say that not many people will miss him."

Schmitt fought for President Reagan's massive cuts in student aid last year, and argued for cuts in programs

such as State Student Incentive Grants and Pell Grants. At one point, Schmitt remarked that the money students would lose from Pell Grants would hardly amount to a pack of cigarettes a day.

But Schmitt's replacement on the appropriations subcommittee is still in doubt, and education supporters are reluctant to call his defeat a full-fledged victory, lest a stronger opponent should take the chair.

"Schmitt's defeat means a new appointment to the subcommittee that deals with financial aid," explains Dallas Martin, executive director of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. "All the other committee members are already serving on subcommittees," so it's hard to predict Schmitt's replacement, Martin says.

"For the most part," he continues, "the changes in the Senate shouldn't make that much difference. The real changes occurred in the House."

"The House is definitely more liberal," says Aaron,

which should put education supporters in a much more favorable position than they've had the last two years.

Trustees Announce Art Fund

By AL PERKINSON

During the past couple of weeks many of us have noticed maintenance hard at work, sprucing up campus. Hedges trimmed, grass being cut and hundreds of flowers springing up all over. We all know what this means, the trustees were just on campus. Well, during the trustee's visit, flowers were not the only thing springing up. A new art collection for St. Andrews was also budding.

The collection will be called the trustee collection and will be handled by the Art department and the Art Guild. Each year, one thousand dollars will be available by the college to purchase art which has been exhibited on campus during that year.

This new addition to our visual arts world is the second in many years. Last year the President's collection was established as three works of art to be bought each year from the annual student art show.

Acquisitions such as these are beneficial to St. Andrews in that they increase the quality of art students and exhibitions we are able to attract. These collections will also be nice to look at as they grow and are sprinkled about our campus.

Union Starts Clothing Drive

In an effort to reach-out to the needy of the Laurinburg Community, the students' clubs and organizations are uniting to sponsor a "Thanksgiving Clothing Drive". It is the hope of this union that the entire St. Andrews College Community will participate -- students, faculty, and staff.

The "clothing drive" will start on Friday, November 12th and last until Friday, November 19th. Any clothing articles that one can donate will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at a designated area in the Faculty Lounge in the LA Building or just inside the Student Government Offices in the Belk Center.

Thank-you for your attention to this worthwhile cause!



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