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## Robert Cummings

# Under the Capitol Dome



Olympia. . . While Gov. Dan Evans has envisioned a Republican "team-effort" in this campaign, he may change his mind and campaign on his own--as he did four years ago--after he analyzes the primary election returns.

Evans, polling but 42.6 per cent of the total vote cast for governor, has his own work cut out for him. Meanwhile, Art Fletcher, the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, polled but 28 per cent of the vote cast for that office, and Slade Gorton, another Republican nominee, polled only 22.4 per cent of the vote cast for attorney general.

Only member of the statewide "Team effort" who did well in the primaries was Secy. of State Lud Kramer, who received 62.2 per cent of the total vote cast for his office.

Not only did Kramer lead the ticket, but he polled more votes than any candidate on the ballot in either

means the department was nearly \$13 million short of having enough to carry it through the current biennium.

Projecting that into the next biennium, it could mean the department could need some \$30 million more for the 1969-71 biennium than was appropriated for this program by the 1967 Legislature.

Considering how much more will be needed for education and for institutions, there won't be much left of that surplus, even though it does run into nine figures.

### Cities Have Hands Out

Meanwhile, the state's cities and towns, which received a \$22 million outright grant from the Legislature two years ago and wound up with nearly \$24 million, will be back for another sizeable chunk of cash.

Many of them, in preparing their budgets for next year, balanced them by anticipating cash grants from the state.

any candidate on the ballot in either political party, even outpolling U.S. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson.

Edwin J. Alexander, Republican nominee for treasurer, got 32 per cent of the votes cast for that office, and Gerald (Jerry) Sullivan, the Republican nominee, received 30.6 per cent of the votes cast for insurance commissioner.

### Legislators Do Well

In virtually all districts which the Republicans are expected to win, Republican legislative nominees ran ahead of Evans.

This is expected to result in most of these campaigning on their own, and it could spell trouble for Evans from within his own party in the next Legislature, if he is reelected.

### Where's The Tax Issue?)

The tax issue could be pretty well buried in the gubernatorial campaign, with Atty. Gen. John J. O'Connell as the Democratic standard bearer.

O'Connell favors a graduated net income tax. Evans' tax package calls for a three per cent single rate income tax.

This doesn't leave those who oppose any form of income tax much of any place to go, but of the two they'd probably prefer the Evans plan. The real supporters of a state income tax will go with O'Connell.

Inasmuch as it is unlikely that either plan can get the two-thirds majority needed in each house to put it on the ballot, the tax issue is a dead end.

### Surplus Shrinking

Another question which was prominent a year ago but which has died on the vine is whether the sales tax increase demanded by Evans of the last Legislature was necessary. That talk has subsided.

state.

While appropriated only \$22 million, they wound up with a windfall of nearly \$1.8 million because of "strings" the Legislature imposed on \$2 million allocated to counties. Only four counties qualified and the balance reverted to the cities.

The counties don't plan to seek an outright cash grant this time. They probably will seek permission to levy an additional one per cent tax on real estate sales, to be collected for current expense.

They now levy one per cent for school districts, which would be left intact. The county money would come by increasing the tax to two per cent.

### Initiative Circulating

Overshadowed by primary campaigns and signature drives of initiatives to the people, an initiative to the 1969 Legislature filed last March 20 is still being circulated for signatures.

This is Initiative 34, which would extend the personal property tax exemption to cover all personal property except that held for business use or for sale.

As it is an initiative to the Legislature, sponsors have until December 31 to get the signatures necessary to qualify it, but they have set a deadline for Dec. 1.

The measure was prompted by the 1967 law which requires property owners to list all of their taxable property with the county assessor.

It originated in Clark county, where Mrs. L.H. Alder, Vancouver, chairman of the sponsoring committee, says the county assessor is enforcing the new law rigidly.

Numerous other counties are requiring only that boats and campers be listed, but none of the counties has yet taken any action.

will go with O'Connell.  
Inasmuch as it is unlikely that either plan can get the two-thirds majority needed in each house to put it on the ballot, the tax issue is as good as dead.

#### Surplus Shrinking

Another question which was prominent a year ago but which has died on the vine is whether the sales tax increase demanded by Evans of the last Legislature was necessary.

One reason that talk has subsided is that the general fund surplus could look pretty small by the time the biennium ends next June 30.

For one thing, almost as soon as the 1969 Legislature convenes here next January, it will face the choice of either making a \$4.7 million deficiency appropriation to the department of public assistance or forcing ratable reductions in welfare grants.

When added to the \$8.1 million allotted to the department earlier out of the governor's contingency fund, this

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Numerous other counties are requiring only that boats and campers be listed, but supporters of the initiative fear that rigid enforcement eventually will be statewide.

The sponsors got off to a slow start but now have petitions in all 39 counties, and campaign chairmen in Pierce and King as well as Clark and Cowlitz counties.

#### Scanning the Record

A detailed analysis of the recent primary indicates the race for governor will be close again this year, just as it has been, with three exceptions, in every election since 1936.

The fact, however, that three Democratic candidates polled 52 per cent of the vote cast against 48 per cent for five Republican candidates can be misleading, as a glance at past records will show.

Former Gov. Arthur B. Langlie, the only person ever to win three terms in this state, always ran behind the Democrats in the primaries. The last time he ran, in 1952, the Democrats polled 421,203 of the votes cast for governor in the primaries, against 257,994 for the Republicans. Yet in the finals, Langlie received the biggest majority he ever had.

When Albert D. Rosellini was re-elected in 1960, the Republican vote for governor in the primaries was 408,337, against 297,580 for the Democrats.