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Olympia Look

with
Robert
Cummings



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% 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% of the vote cast for that office, and Slade Gorton, another Republican nominee, polled only 22.4% 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% 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 political party, even outpolling U. S. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson.

Edwin J. Alexander, Republican nominee for treasurer, got 32% of the votes cast for that office, and Gerald (Jerry) Sullivan, the Republican nominee, received 20% of the votes cast for insurance

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nuson.

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

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 re-elected.

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 3 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 as good as dead.

Another question which was prominent a year ago has died on the vine.

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

Project that into the next biennium.

It could mean the department could need some \$30 million more for the 1969-71 biennium that 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.

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 asking for state grants from the state.

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

While appropriated only \$22 million, they wound up with a windfall of nearly \$1.8 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 1% tax on real estate sales.

They now levy 1% for school districts, which would be left intact. The county money would come by increasing the tax to 2%.

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.

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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 Dec. 31 to get the signatures necessary to qualify it, but they have set a deadline for December 1.

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

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