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Robert Cummings

**UNDER THE
CAPITOL DOME**



OLYMPIA — This year's primary vote is one of the most difficult in years to analyze, but some conclusions can be drawn without fear of error. The sizeable majorities of four incumbent state officeholders who were running unopposed proved quite conclusively that there won't be any sweep either direction in this state's election.

State Treasurer Robert S. O'Brien, Auditor Robert V. Graham and Land Commissioner Bert Cole, all Democrats, each polled a heavier vote than the total compiled by his Republican opponents. This is a pretty clear indication that the pre-primary predictions of a Republican sweep, made by some of the more optimistic G.O.P. leaders, was little more than wishful thinking. On the other hand, Republican Secy. of State Lud Kramer, who received more votes than any other candidate on the ballot in outpolling the total of three Democrats seeking his office clearly demonstrated that there won't be a Democratic landslide, either.

Best available poll
Primary votes never are conclusive in this state, and frequent-

ly are misleading, but they still represent the best possible poll that can be taken, providing allowances are made for certain factors, some of them incalculable. One of the incalculable factors is the size of the "cross-over" vote which invariably occurs under Washington's unique blanket primary law. A calculable factor is the fact that the Republican turnout in the primaries, persentagewise, always is better than the Democrat in the primaries. A heavy turnout of "hard-core" Republicans is demonstrated by the comparatively large vote received by Anne Baird Sherman, a politically unknown, who was unopposed for the Republican nomination for state auditor. An unusually heavy cross-over is indicated by the fact that the total Democratic vote for governor exceeded that polled by the Republican, while the Republicans outpolled the Democrats in the lieutenant governor's race. This also indicated a goodly turnout of independent voters, and once more demonstrated the inclination of many to vote in the party where there was a spirited contest, regardless of which party it was.

Off and running
Considering all factors, only eight incumbent candidates, four at the national and four at the state level, came out of the primaries with lopsided advantages.

The tremendous vote he accumulated in retaining the Democratic nomination indicates smooth sailing for U.S. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, of course, if he doesn't get caught napping as he has done years ago, when he resigned in the face of his political unpopularity. Also apparently headed for re-election in Congress are Rep. Tom Pelly in the First

The paradox of this primary was that everybody profited. The strong Democratic showing will make it easier for Atty. Gen. John J. O'Connell, the Democratic nominee, to bolster his campaign fund. By showing Evans is far from being a shoo-in, it will cure the Evans campaign workers of their apathy; something that has been of major concern to the leadership in the Evans campaign ever since the campaign began. The strong showing Sen. Martin Durkan made as runner-up to O'Connell, meanwhile puts him in strategic position to try again in 1972; if O'Connell misses the governorship this time being a "holdover," Durkan remains a power in the State Senate.

G.O.P. on target
Though far from conclusive, the primary results do find the Republicans with their four prime state targets clearly in their gun-sights.

For four years the Republican objective has been to retain the governorship and the secretary of state's office and capture, also, the lieutenant governorship and the attorney general's office. The strong showing Art Fletcher made in winning the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor was much greater than even his ardent admirers had expected, and has sent Republican hopes of capturing this office soaring. Nobody can tell where the votes gained by Bill Muncey, his closest rival, will go in the finals, however, and the race remains a tossup. The attorney general's race is virtually impossible to analyze, because of five strong Democratic candidates on the ballot. It developed into somewhat of a personal popularity contest, and nobody can hazard a

guess where many of these votes will go in the general election. The heavy vote polled by Slade Gorton who had only token opposition for the Republican nomination, however, put him in a strong position. There also is a suspicion that there was a considerable Republican "Cross-over" vote for John G. McCutcheon, the Democratic nominee.

Partisanship out
Partisanship won't play a very important role in the race for insurance commissioner between Gerald (Jerry) Sullivan, the Republican nominee, and State Sen. Karl Herrman, Democrat. Sullivan rolled up a heavy vote in the primary, while Herrman had a close race with the Democratic all. Sullivan is former chief deputy insurance commissioner. Herrmann led a crusade in the Legislature for insurance reforms. The insurance industry, with agents in every corner in the state, usually plays a major role in this race. He won't get this support, but labor's backing, and this will attract more than usual.

Within range
The primary results indicate Republicans within range of capturing both houses of the Legislature this time, though congressional primary votes often prove leading.

On the basis of preliminary returns, they appear to have a net gain in the Senate, which would need for a 25-26-23 and have a chance of

In the House, they could win a better than ever chance

Surviving Battle
A close battle between a Negro while Democratic incumbent has a slim contest for lieutenant governor nomination of the Washington State

lopsided advantages.

The tremendous vote he accumulated in retaining the Democratic nomination indicates smooth sailing for U.S. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, assuming, of course, he doesn't get caught napping as he did six years ago, when he received the scare of his political career. Also apparently headed for another term in Congress are Republicans Tom Pelly in the First and Catherine May in the Fourth District, and Democrat Brock Adams in the Seventh. In others, the Republicans have a fair chance of taking two seats away from the Democrats, and an outside chance of winning two more.

State officials who appear headed for reelection include Secy. of State Lud Kramer, Republican, and State Treasurer Robert S. O'Brien, Auditor Robert V. Graham and Land Commissioner Bert Cole. O'Brien, however, who campaigned more diligently than any of the other incumbents without primary opposition, came out of the primaries with a narrower margin than the others, indicating possibility of a close race in the finals. His opponent will be Edwin J. Alexander, whom he defeated in the anti-Goldwater landslide of 1964.

No shoo-in

Despite the comparative size of the Democratic and Republican votes for Governor, most objective observers view Governor Evans as the leader in the finals, even though his primary vote was less than these same objective observers expected him to get.

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Within range

The primary results leave the Republicans within range of capturing both houses of the Legislature this time, though comparative primary votes often prove misleading.

On the basis of preliminary returns, they appear to have an edge for making a net gain of five seats in the Senate, which is what they would need for a 25-24 majority, and have a chance of making it 26-23.

In the House, they could lose two of the seats they now hold, but have a better than ever chance of cap-

turing four others for a net gain of two, which would give them a 57-42 margin.

In projecting returns from primary votes, however, the heavy

turnout of the "Hard core" Republican vote must be borne in mind; also the unfathomable "stay-at-home" vote.

A heavy turnout in the general

election of voters who stayed away from the polls in the primaries frequently has reversed the primary projection in many a close contest.

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0.65	266.08	up	4.0
9.89	130.24	up	0.0
1.16	334.32	up	4.0
76.62	76.71	up	0.0
64.32	64.32	off	0.0
76.81	77.08	up	0.0
1.23	81.40	up	0.0
3.67	84.06	up	0.0

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