

# New Jersey, Ohio may lower voting age

Washington —(CPS)— Hopes for lowering the voting age nationally may hinge upon the outcome of two hotly contested referendums Nov. 4 in Ohio and New Jersey.

The two states are the first to put the issue before the people, and the results are expected to give a strong indication as to how voters in other states will react. Says Youth Franchise Coalition Coordinator Ian McGowan. Thirteen states have approved public referendums on the issue so far.

The New Jersey campaign hopes to lower the voting age to 18, while the Ohio contest is over the 19-year old vote. "It looks very, very close," according to Stewart Rothskin, executive director of the New Jersey Voting Age Coalition. "We may be a tiny bit ahead, but only a few per centage points."

In Ohio, the campaign seems to be in a little better position, but it is expected to race to the wire, according to Pat Keeler, assistant executive director of Ohio Volunteers for Vote 19. Recent polls in Ohio show approximately 53 per cent of the voters favoring the younger vote with 55 per cent of the people in metropolitan Cleveland supporting it.

In both states student campaigners have waged heavy door-to-door canvassing campaigns. In Ohio the final two weekends before the vote have been planned as "Vote 19" weekends for canvassing of up to 80 per cent of the voting population.

The Ohio campaign is somewhat less vocal and dramatic than the New Jersey effort, due in part to "the more conservative nature" of Ohio voters, Rothskin maintains.

While in Ohio rallies have been used only to encourage volunteers to canvass, a massive public rally was organized — for Trenton — New Jersey's capital — to excite the state's voters. Several thousand 18-to 21-year olds were expected to participate in the peaceful rally Oct. 26.

Rothskin said the rally was planned to "prove that the people under 21-years old really want the vote." To appeal to the youth-fearing patriots across the state, the student marchers were to carry American flags. "A lot of people think students just burn flags; we've got to change that image," Rothskin said.

There is no organized opposition to the referendum, he said, just a "quiet problem with the image of youth."

Miss Keeler said the turning point in the Ohio campaign was Vietnam Moratorium Day, Oct. 15, which was "tremendously successful" in the state. "Had it been disruptive things might look a lot worse for us today."

Press coverage, both news and editorial support, has been favorable, particularly since the Moratorium, she said.

Both the Ohio and New Jersey referendums would

add amendments to the state constitutions that would go into effect in January.

Youth Franchise Coalition organizers feel a show of public interest in lowering the voting age at this time could result in an "early and favorable" consideration of a national Constitutional amendment.

Only two states, Kentucky and Georgia, presently grant the vote to persons under 21. Both have the 18-year old vote. But every state except Mississippi (and the federally dominated District of Columbia) has devoted study to the voting age issue since June, 1968. In the entire six years before only 27 states considered the issue.

Twenty states this year have defeated bills which

would have put the issue before statewide referendums. Three other state legislatures have killed bills without ever voting on them. In several other states, bills are still pending.

Of the state legislatures which have approved referendums to consider lowering the voting age, seven have set the minimum age at 19, five at 18, and one at 20.

In Pennsylvania, the two houses of the state legislature passed contradictory bills earlier this year. The House passed a bill to set the voting age at 18, while a Senate bill passed establishing the age at 19. A joint committee from both Houses was set up to resolve the difference.

# Meats team takes first

A University of Nebraska team placed first in the intercollegiate meats judging contest held Oct. 19 in conjunction with the American Royal Livestock Show.

The meats team, coached by Jimmy Wise of the NU Animal Science Department, scored a total of 3,894 of a possible 4,400 points.

Dave Tysler of Wilber was third high individual meats judge and Glen Selk of Cozad placed fifth. The Nebraska team was first in pork judging, third in lamb judging, fifth in beef judging and grading and ninth in lamb grading.

# Crowd likes Kuzma poetry

A Review by J. L. Schmidt

"You were the Canadian Nickel with many sides. I was the dumb machine rejecting you."

—Kuzma

A small crowd heard the many sides of New York-born-and-reared Greg Kuzma Tuesday as he read a variety of his poetry selections in the

first of a series of free expressive sessions to be held on Tuesday afternoons in the South Crib of the Student Union.

Kuzma, an instructor in the English department, read material ranging from fake couplets to excerpts from his manuscript which he has retitled some twenty times. Explanations of background and motivation helped the audi-

ence understand the poet as writer.

Kuzma offered several apologies for material which sounded alike to the amusement of the listeners. "Two Portraits" fit into the category of works having like structures.

One talked about a girl from Missouri with Missouri hips and Missouri ideals, etc.

The second portrait was somewhat lighter as it told the almost epic tale of one who was born in Alaska and lived in Florida where father picked oranges until one became sick of Florida and moved to a variety of states, involving marriages, visits to relatives, college education,

teaching, poetry writing and finally rejection, by the University of North Carolina Press.

Kuzma's final reading was of a work which was inspired by an old Leadbelly Song, "Let's not go down to the well no more, Hannah."

Kuzma admitted that this song could easily have been picked up by a protest group of some sort and the words of the poem would lend themselves to it.


Although the crowd was small, it was appreciative. More importantly, the performer seemed pleased with the whole thing which will definitely help in the continuation of the series.

## Committee to meet at UMHE

There will be a general meeting of the Moratorium Committee Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the UMHE Building. At 8 p.m. that same evening,

a general meeting of all people interested in canvassing Lincoln in support of the November Moratorium will be held in the Union Ballroom.

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**Union sets up rules for lounge**

Open public forums and films are recent additions to the programming uses of the main lounge of the Nebraska Union.

Forums presented in the Union will be limited to matters of current topical interest to the campus and community-at-large.

So as not to interfere with the function of the lounge as an area for relaxation during the school day, film presentations will be restricted to the south west corner of the lounge, and forums will be scheduled only after 3:30 p.m.

All forums and films presented in the lounge must be sponsored by recognized student organizations and scheduled in advance.

The present art gallery and all campus student election facility functions of the lounge will be maintained.

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