



Photo by Ted Kirk

First District congressional incumbent Charles Thone confers with fellow Republicans Tuesday night, when he easily defeated challenger Pauline Anderson.

Challenger Cavanaugh joins House incumbents

By Mary Jo Fitzl

Incumbents in the First and Third congressional Districts recaptured their offices with convincing majorities, while in the Second District the challenger won with a victory margin larger than expected.

John Cavanaugh, Democratic congressman-elect from Omaha defeated Republican opponent Lee Terry, also of Omaha, in the Second District. Republican Charles Thone, First District incumbent from Lincoln, won his fourth bid for Congress over Democratic opponent Pauline Anderson, also of Lincoln. Third District victor was Republican Virginia Smith of Chappell, defeating James Hansen, Democratic candidate from Gering.

"We knew we were running very strong," Cavanaugh said late Tuesday night. He said he was not surprised at the lead he held over Terry, adding that the election went the way he and his workers expected the past few days. Pre-election forecasts anticipated a close race to the wire between the two candidates.

Cavanaugh attributed his victory to his "positive proposals in unemployment, inflation, energy, and reform of corruption

in government." These ideas were appealing to his constituents, he said, "contrary to the negative criticisms of my opponent."

With Cavanaugh's congressional victory, Democratic Senate-elect Edward Zorinsky and Democratic Gov. James Exon, Nebraska has a full Democratic administrative ticket. "We've changed the political picture (in Nebraska) dramatically," Cavanaugh said of the Democratic domination. "I think this will put us on the map as a strong, two-party national state," he said.

"UNL and Creighton (University) students and many young working couples were involved in the foot campaign," Cavanaugh said. More than 3,000 volunteers canvassed nearly 30,000 homes distributing literature in Cavanaugh's foot campaign, which he called the "backbone" of his Congressional bid.

Cavanaugh also cited the 18 years of service by his father, Jack, on the Douglas County Board as a contribution to his campaign. "His 18 years of service on the County Board were served with integrity," he said.

First District incumbent Charles Thone of Lincoln has been elected to his fourth term as a U.S. congressman. He said he felt his reelection was an "affirmation of the six years I've been in Washington."

People demand honest government, Thone said, and he works to be a "conscientious, effective representative" for First District constituents.

Thone said inflation is the number one domestic problem facing Congress. He said he will work for more efficiency and economy in government.

Thone expressed a high regard for opponent Pauline Anderson, and said he thought theirs were clean campaigns.

Anderson said congressional election results "were not unexpected" for the First District. "I expect Thone's fourth term will be a continuation of his other three terms," she said.

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Some polls report good turnouts

Election day voter turnout was heavier than expected, according to poll workers at five Lincoln precincts, four near campus.

At Sheridan Lutheran Church, 37th and Sheridan, 321 of 363 registered voters cast their ballots in what poll workers termed "a marvelous turnout."

Although the Capitol poll workers would not release the number of ballots cast by the 434 registered voters, there was a steady turnout throughout the day. A lot of young persons voted, which was "indicative of their interest in the country," a poll worker said.

At Pioneer House, 219 persons voted of

the 423 registered. This was 100 more voters than in previous presidential elections, a poll worker said.

Voter turnout at United Methodist Church, 640 N. 16th St., was 216 of the 595 registered. Most of those persons who cast ballots were students.

At St. Paul United Methodist Church, 114 M St., 160 of the 319 registered voters cast their ballots.

About 840,000 persons are registered voters in Nebraska. About 71 per cent, or 595,000 voters, were expected to exercise their vote, according to Secretary of State Allen Beermann.

On campus, 1,398 UNL students voted

with absentee ballots notarized by the 17 notary publics on campus. This included 514 notarized in the Student Legal Services office in the Nebraska Union.

In general, Lincoln voters came in steady flows to the polls, many arriving at 8 a.m. to beat the rush, others casting their ballot just before the 8 p.m. closing time. Although there was a steady flow to the polls, the late afternoon evening hours were popular at some polls, according to many poll workers.

At 7:58 p.m., poll workers said they were tired, glad to pack up, but were enthusiastic about going home to watch election returns on television.

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