

## Fellow Democrats not helped by Exon Senate win

Analysis by L. Kent Wolgamott

Although he was swept into office by a two to one majority, Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon did not seem to have any coat-tails on which fellow Democrats could ride.

Exon's easy victory against Republican Don Shasteen in the race for the U.S. Senate and Rep. John Cavanaugh's reelection in the Omaha dominated 2nd Congressional District were the only glimmers of hope for Democrats in a night which may have marked the re-emergence of the Republican party as the dominant force in Nebraska politics.

Surprisingly comfortable GOP victories were won by Rep. Charles Thone for the governorship and by Douglas Bereuter in the 1st Congressional District, to lead the Republican effort.

Thone defeated his Democratic opponent Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan by more than 58,000 votes, carrying 81 of the state's 93 counties.

### Omaha showing

He also had a very strong showing in heavily Democratic Omaha, losing to Whelan by a smaller than expected margin.

Although the Thone showing in Omaha may have surprised the Democrats, it did not shock Thone's running mate, Lt. Gov. Roland Luedtke.

"I felt it (momentum) moving during the last weekend of campaigning," Luedtke said. "I felt it moving our way. I was talking to people for two hours at the UNO game and at a parade in North Omaha."

The strong Thone showing in Omaha probably aided Cavanaugh's Republican opponent, Hal Daub, who ran much closer to the incumbent than most had expected, losing by less than 7,000 votes.

However, most observers feel Cavanaugh has solidified his hold on the seat for future elections.

### Aided Bereuter

Thone's strong showing in the 1st District, which he has represented for eight years in Congress, also aided Bereuter in his win over Democrat Hess Dyas.

Bereuter defeated Dyas by more than 27,000 votes, 58 percent of the votes cast. He carried 25 of the 27 counties in the district.

Dyas, who has now sought and lost national office three times, Wednesday had no announcement about his future political plans.

Bereuter credited his victory to outstanding organization and volunteer effort.

A Bereuter campaign aide said Tuesday night that efforts by the National Rifle Association to assist Bereuter also had a large positive effect on the Bereuter victory, especially in the rural counties in the district.

In the vast 3rd Congressional District, incumbent Virginia Smith won the night's biggest victory over her Democratic

challenger, Marilyn Fowler, receiving 80 percent of the vote, winning by more than 94,000 votes.

### GOP control

Republicans also were returned to the major constitutional offices in the Statehouse as Attorney General Paul Douglas, Secretary of State Allen Beermann, State Treasurer Frank Marsh and State Auditor Ray A.C. Johnson won easily over their Democratic opponents, giving the GOP complete control of the major state offices.

Nebraskans also rejected all three initiative measures offered on the ballot Tuesday, defeating increased state aid to education, the bottle bill and the five percent limit on local government spending. Large campaigns caused the demise of two of the measures.

The aid to education proposal was placed on the back burner earlier this year when supporters of the measure to place the limit on local spending gathered enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

This forced state education associations

to devote most of their resources to fighting the limit rather than supporting state aid.

However, the strategy proved to be wise, as the limit favored in many pre-election polls, lost by 45 to 55 percent.

### Anti-lid campaign

The anti-lid campaign was primarily carried out on a local level and did not depend on statewide advertising.

However, the campaign against the bottle bill, which was also heavily favored in pre-election polls, operated in the opposite manner, as a high budgeted statewide ad campaign urged Nebraskans to vote against the proposal, which they did, almost two to one.

Proponents claimed the campaign was misleading and filed charges with the state Sunshine Commission which has a year to reach a decision on the matter.

The Nebraska results seem to fit a pattern of GOP strength in the Midwest.

Republicans captured both Senate seats in longtime Democratic stronghold Minne-

sota and also captured the governorship, striking a decimating blow to the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party of the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey.

### Democrat's upset

Republicans also upset Democratic incumbent Senators Dick Clark in Iowa and Floyd Haskell in Colorado.

They also filled three seats being vacated by retiring senators with the victories of Larry Pressler in South Dakota, Nancy Landon Kassebaum in Kansas and Al Simpson in Wyoming.

The GOP also picked up the statehouse in South Dakota.

Overall, Republicans gained three seats in the Senate and 12 seats in the House of Representatives, according to the Associated Press.

They also appeared to gain seven governorships nationwide, according to A.P.

However, Democrats will still maintain their overwhelming majorities in both the Senate and the House.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Listen guys. You either play by my rules or you don't play at all.

## Ruptured power line leaves both campuses in the dark

By Kris Hansen

Ruptured insulation lines caused a 20 minute power outage on both UNL campuses Wednesday.

Frank Grant of the Lincoln Electric System said insulation blew up at the substation at 8th and J streets, which in turn shorted out four other stations and the feeder line to the university.

The outage, from 10:55 to 11:15 a.m., affected the area from Holdrege to South streets and 2nd to 16th streets, Grant said. This included both campuses, as well as downtown Lincoln.

"We don't know why it went," Grant said. "It could be weathering, age—it's some problem in the insulation which caused it to short."

The sub-transmission station carried

34,500 volts of electricity, Grant said.

### Trapped in elevator

Three students were trapped in residence hall elevators during the outage. Two, trapped in the Harper elevator, were rescued almost immediately, according to Harper Maintenance Manager Fred Osten. The other, stuck on the Abel elevator, had to wait for the electricity to come back on to be released.

A fire alarm went off at the East Campus dairy store because of the short circuit. Production halted while employees evacuated, one worker said, but there were no major effects on production.

Computers were inactive for over an hour and a half because of the outage. Susan Frank of the computer center, said it took about an hour to charge the machines

up again after the power came back on.

While the programs already in the computers were not affected, Frank said, partially entered programs would have to be redone. She also noted the sudden power loss was hard on the machines since more time usually is taken to turn them off.

### No problems

The University Health Center reported no problems other than slight inconveniences from the power outage. The center has a back-up power source which handled all the necessary areas, one official said.

No problems with research were reported in the Life Sciences department, although there were some difficulties getting around in the building.

"It might be too early to tell," said Suzanne Prather, life science assistant

professor. "It's one of these things with after effects that you find out about later."

Prather also said that, since she was in the windowless interior of the building, she had to use a cigarette lighter to find her way around.

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