

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Election round-up

Senate control to Democrats; GOP increases governorships

Democrats moved to take control of the Senate from Republicans in Tuesday's midterm election, and built a new majority in the House as Americans chose a 100th Congress certain to complicate President Reagan's final two years in the White House.

Republicans settled for gains in the 36 statehouse races, capturing Democratic governorships in Texas, Florida, Nebraska and at least five other states.

Outgoing Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said as the polls were closing in the West that six years of Republican rule were at an end. "It's going to make it more difficult for the president," he said.

"It's a question of whether it will be 53 or 55" Democrats in the new lineup, Dole added. Republicans held a 53-47 majority in the old Senate.

Democrats won GOP Senate seats in Florida, North Carolina and Mary-

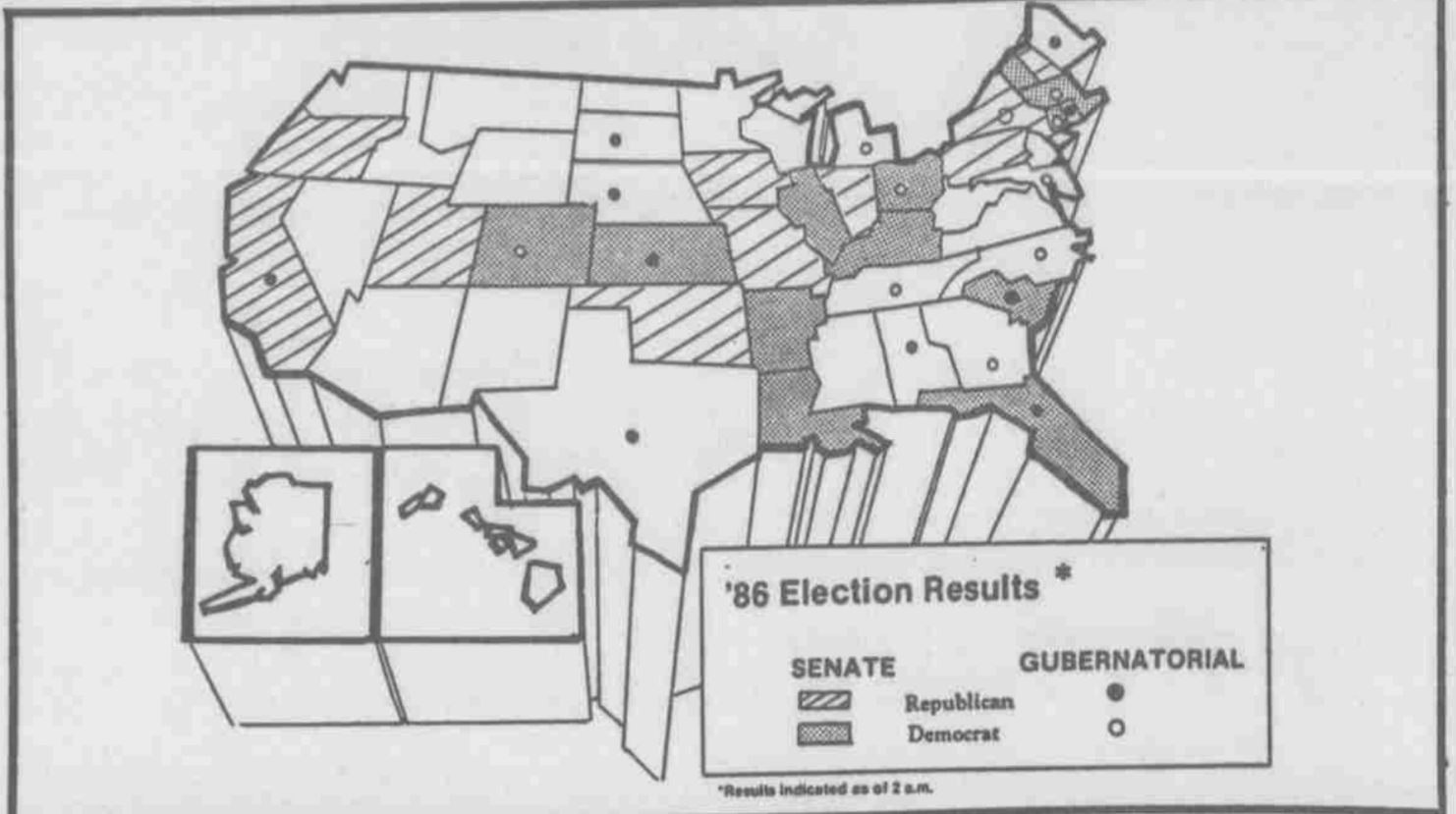
land, and threatened vulnerable Republican freshmen from Dixie to the Farm Belt. The networks, relying on poll results and projections, said not a single Democratic incumbent would fall to the Republicans.

Republicans also conceded Democrats would add to their majority in the House, if only marginally. Democrats held a 253-182 edge in the old House.

Vice President George Bush told ABC the loss of GOP control would "complicate staying on the offensive in the last two years of the Reagan presidency."

Guy Hunt became Alabama's first Republican governor since Reconstruction, while former Gov. William Clements defeated Gov. Mark White in a Texas rematch and Bob Martinez won in Florida.

But the main event of a nasty, expensive mid-term campaign was the battle for supremacy in the Senate.



"If there was a Reagan revolution, it's over," claimed House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill as he headed into voluntary retirement. O'Neill's House seat was won by Joseph Kennedy II.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes conceded that a Democratic Senate "could be tougher" for the president, "But it won't alter the agenda."

But there was no denying the difference it would make. The president's legislative achievements were first enacted by a GOP-controlled Senate, then pushed through the House against the wishes of bitterly opposed Democratic leaders.

One early winner among House Democrats was Rep. Jim Wright of Texas, in line to replace O'Neill Jr. as Speaker when the new Congress

convenes.

The national picture looked like this:

Democrats had won 15 Senate seats, including five held by Republicans. They led for another three, all held by Republicans.

Republicans won 10, one held by Democrats, and were leading for five others, including one held by Democrats.

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Plea for mercy

Captured American expects terrorist conviction

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Eugene Hasenfus expects to be convicted by the Nicaraguan People's Tribunal trying him for terrorism but hopes his plea for mercy will lighten the sentence, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Hasenfus will make a "mitigating statement" and "has thrown himself on the mercy of the court," said Griffin Bell, the former U.S. attorney-general who is assisting with the captured American mercenary's defense.

"We hope the statement will cause the Sandinistas, the Nicaraguan govern-

ment, to be more merciful," he told a news conference.

Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., was the only survivor of a C-123 cargo plane shot down Oct. 3 in southern Nicaragua while ferrying supplies to U.S.-backed rebels fighting the leftist government. The three other crewmen were killed in the crash, including the American pilot and co-pilot.

Hasenfus is also charged with conspiracy and violating public security. In an Oct. 18 interview conducted by

"60 Minutes" correspondent Mike Wallace, Hasenfus acknowledged being recruited as a cargo handler to help run supplies to the rebels.

He said he was not sure who ran the rebel supply operation based in El Salvador, but believed he was working for the CIA.

In an appearance earlier this week, Hasenfus told the tribunal any previous statements he made about CIA involvement in the operation were based on hearsay, not direct personal knowledge.

Negotiator: American hostages may be freed

Envoy waits for decision

WIESBADEN, West Germany — Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite said Tuesday, "reasonably strong suggestions" have emerged that two Americans will be the next hostages released in Lebanon. He said he expected a message from their captors within 24 hours.

Waite, the emissary of the Archbishop of Canterbury, was asked if there had been indications that Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, 39, and educator Thomas Sutherland, 55, would be the next American hostages freed. He replied, "Those have been strong. Yes, I would say reasonably strong suggestions."

He said he expected to hear within 24 hours from his contacts whether he will be going back to Beirut, the

capital of Lebanon, to negotiate the release of the Americans and other Western hostages.

Both Anderson and Sutherland are being held by the Islamic Jihad organization, made up of pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem extremists. Waite emphasized that he was waiting for a message from the group.

It was Islamic Jihad that held freed American hostage David Jacobsen for more than 17 months. Jacobsen, 55, a hospital administrator from Huntington Beach, and Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at American University in Beirut, were kidnapped separately in Moslem West Beirut in 1985.

In Brief

Court delays execution in Nebraska

LINCOLN — The Dec. 15 execution of Nebraska State Penitentiary inmate John Edward Rust was postponed Tuesday by a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun granted a stay pending the filing of a petition by Rust's attorney, Mike Fabian of Omaha. Fabian said the petition will ask the Supreme Court to hear an appeal of Rust's death sentence.

Rust killed Michael Kellogg of Omaha while fleeing after a supermarket robbery in 1975.

Fabian said the petition will cite juror conduct during Rust's trial and the proportionality of the sentence compared with other sentences for first-degree murder. The petition must be filed by Nov. 17, Fabian said.

Another death row inmate, Wesley Peery, is scheduled to be executed Nov. 14. An appeal has been filed in U.S. District Court in Lincoln.

The last person to be executed in Nebraska was mass murderer Charles Starkweather in 1959.

Teacher of the year

OMAHA — Everett D. Lerew of Superior has been chosen 1987 Teacher of the Year for his 15 years of teaching first graders, State Education Commissioner Joe Lutjeharms said.

Lerew will be Nebraska's candidate for National Teacher of the Year and will receive a \$1,000 stipend from American Charter Federal Savings and Loan.

Lerew said he loves teaching young children because "they're real, they're genuine. They give you a lot of love."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Harrison Schultz, 474-7660.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 P St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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