

Parents would not have kids again

Associated Press
NEW YORK — If you had it all to do over again, would you have children?

When advice columnist Ann Landers asked her readers this question, 10,000 of them responded, and 70 per cent said: "No."

"The most fascinating and disturbing mail I've received in a long time," Miss Landers said in a recent column.

"Granted the negatives have a stronger compulsion to write than the affirmatives," she said later in a telephone interview. "Even so, I was amazed by the number of people who wrote to say that having children isn't worth the trouble."

A number of psychiatrists, equally surprised by the letters, telephoned her to ask what she thought of them, Miss Landers said.

Dr. Harcharan Sehdev, director of the Children's Division of the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kan., said that the letters appear to reflect "the general changing trends and options of family systems and the place of children in society and the home."

But he said it has always been a myth that Americans love their children.

"We like to believe that we love children, adore children, value the world of the future... but in reality this is hardly the case," he said, citing a history of child abuse, child labor and underfunding of children's aid programs.

A Boston newspaper columnist, Diane White, reacted to the letters, saying: "We seldom or never hear any parents we know speak out against having children, which is perfectly understandable. People don't like to talk about their mistakes."

Miss Landers said her negative mail fell roughly into three categories: letters from older parents whose children ignore them, from younger people concerned about

overpopulation, and from people with young children who find parenthood restricts their life-styles.

Among those she ran in her column, Too Late for Tears, the mother of two children under 8 in Tampa.

Fla., wrote: "I was an attractive, fulfilling career woman before I had these kids. Now I'm an exhausted, nervous wreck... Our children took all the romance out of our marriage. I'm too tired for sex, conversation or anything else."

Area Office 9 Selective Service System

This Office HAS Closed

Permantly

Staff photo by Douglas Winship

No more draft

With the phasing out of the armed services draft, the local selective service board has closed "permantly". The board's

records were distributed to various federal agencies. The last of the material was moved from the office Feb. 19.

Ford-Reagan battle

Primary shows struggle ahead

By WALTER R. MEARS
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — President Ford's marginal victory over Ronald Reagan in New Hampshire's key Republican primary points to a long struggle for the Republican presidential nomination. It signals that a knock-out blow will be hard to land in the procession of elections to come.

Ford is a winner, and that helps. But the New Hampshire verdict also shows that when they get to the vote booth, Republicans are closely divided between the man who is president and the man who wants to

— Carter 22,591 or 30 per cent.
— Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona 18,146 or 24 per cent.
— Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana 12,276 or 16 per cent.
— Former Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma 8,628 or 11 per cent.
— Sargent Shriver 6,501 or 9 per cent.
— Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, on write-in votes, 4,180 or 6 per cent.

The New Hampshire vote was a preface, to be overtaken within days by the decisions of other voters, in bigger states. Reagan had an apt phrase for it: "One primary does not a summer make."

It will take 31 to do that, in almost weekly competition that won't end until June 8.

Reagan and his managers had tried hard to convince political opinion makers that running reasonably close to Ford was all that should be expected of them. But offstage, Reagan men clearly thought they had the lead and might win outright.

"I feel what's happened tonight is a victory," Reagan said after midnight, with the Republican verdict still in doubt.

"Hogwash," countered Rep. James Cleveland, the Ford campaign chairman. "A victory is a victory, particularly for an incumbent who is making tough decisions... against a guy who can come out of the west and make promises every day of the week."

There was another phase in the primary, and Ford was winning that

decisively. With the vote count nearing completion, delegates backing him for the nomination led for 19 of the 21 seats New Hampshire will have at the Republican National Convention.

Carter led for 13 of the 17 Democ-

atic delegates, Udall for four.

Howard H. Callaway, Ford's national campaign manager, said Reagan had been beaten in his strongest northern state. Reagan said he had done better than anyone should have expected.

News Analysis

Georgia's Jimmy Carter was the winner in the first of the presidential primaries, scoring a comfortable victory that makes him the frontrunner among Democratic candidates. There are nine all told.

Carter's new mantle is one that can have drawbacks. But it is a giant step forward for the former governor who came to New Hampshire as a nobody more than a year ago and left with first prize.

"I remember when we couldn't find a microphone," said Carter. "He'll find plenty now, for it is both the blessing and the curse of the frontrunning candidate that he faces intense scrutiny every step of the campaign."

With the ballots counted after an all-night Republican tally awarded Ford his victory, the political caravan breaks camp and moves southward, the Democrats to do battle in Massachusetts next Tuesday, Ford and Reagan to meet again in Florida on March 9.

Ford captured his first statewide political contest with 51 per cent of the vote, a margin of just over 1,300 ballots.

With 94 per cent of the vote counted, Ford had 54,051 to Reagan's 52,706.

Among the Democrats, the tally read this way:

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