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White wins; Democrats sweep state

United Press International
Texas Democrats used apparent voter dissatisfaction with the state's ailing economy Tuesday to oust one-term Republican Gov. William Clements and regain the stranglehold they had held on state politics for the past 100 years.

"I think that certainly there was some resentment to the unsuccessful policies we've seen in Washington over the past year," said Democratic attorney General Mark White, 42, who beat Clements by a 54 to 46 percent margin.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, 62,

turned back an ideological attack by arch conservative Rep. Jim Collins, R-Texas, to easily win re-election to a third term in the Senate.

White, who won despite being outspent \$11.8 million to \$6.3 million by multi-millionaire oilman Clements, led a statewide sweep by Democratic candidates.

"I think it was a straightforward vote for the nominees of the Democratic Party," said GOP state Sen. Bill Meier of Euless, who was beaten in his race for attorney general. "The people have had their say."

The united Democrats turned out

the votes — something they failed to do when Clements, 65, won four years ago — to offset the millions of dollars the Republicans spent.

With White's mildly surprising victory, the Democrats appeared to regain the ground they lost in 1978 with Clements' election and the resounding win by President Reagan in 1980.

Political analysts predicted earlier that Clements' defeat could portend trouble for Reagan if he seeks re-election in 1984.

With 84 percent of the vote counted, White had 1,379,212 votes or 54 percent to 1,379,212 or 46 per-

cent for Clements.

Bentsen tallied 1,473,631 votes or 59 percent to 1,023,516 votes or 41 percent for Collins.

Clements apparently suffered from a downturn of the Texas economy over the last three months. But he sought to buffer the state's record 8.2 percent unemployment by comparing it with other states with worse statistics.

Vice President George Bush, campaigning on election eve in Dallas and Houston, hailed Clements as the architect of the strongest state economy in the nation. But apparently

voters didn't buy it.

White said he won because "we dealt with the issues, we talked about the problems that faced the people of Texas and had solutions for those problems."

Bentsen said in Austin that he won because voters were concerned about economic and social problems. He called on Republicans and Democrats to join hands in addressing the nation's problems.

Collins, 66, had centered his campaign around attacks on Bentsen as an ultra-liberal. His defeat ended a 14-year career in Congress.

"Victory still isn't the most important thing in the world," he said. "We have a plan for the future and we still have it."

Democrats also swept the races for lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, comptroller, agriculture commissioner, railroad commissioner, land commissioner.

The GOP held on to the five congressional seats it held in the last Congress.

Texas voters also elected two new appeals court judges, a new Legislature and added six new amendments to the state Constitution.



staff photo by Jorge Casari

Hog-wild about bonfire

Junior redpot Craig Barker, a range science major from Corpus Christi, proudly displays Sergebutt, the bonfire mascot. Sergebutt, alias Cheesebreath, arrived Monday and replaced the temporary mascot, an armadillo.

Austin headquarters: some glad; some sad

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff

AUSTIN — Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1982, was a day that will not be soon forgotten. For some, it will be remembered as a day of dreams coming true. Others will remember only defeat and regret.

Perhaps the people with the fondest memories of Tuesday will be those who attended Governor-elect Mark White's election night reception. It was a wild one.

As the night wore on, and the returns came in, the hotel hosting what became White's victory celebration became packed with people — campaign workers, party loyalists, reporters, photographers and the idly curious.

As it became more and more obvious that White had ousted Texas' first Republican governor in more than a century — and with a comfortable margin at that — the atmosphere

grew giddy and excitement ran rampant.

Hundreds of people crowded around the platform at which White was to give his victory speech. They were impatient for their hero to appear.

They shouted, cheered, chanted — with no results. Were they discouraged? No. They just shouted, cheered and chanted some more.

Finally, at midnight — with more than 75 percent of the votes counted — White, along with his wife and three children, mounted the platform and claimed victory.

He also reaffirmed his promise to lower electric bills in Texas.

"I will maintain my pledge and my commitment I made throughout the campaign and that is to make sure we have a Public Utility Commission that is not a lap dog but will be a watchdog. The crowd at Gov. William Clements' reception wasn't quite as joyful.

Shortly after the returns began to come in, it was clear Clements was fighting a losing battle. With only 10 percent of the votes counted, White already was leading by about 30,000 votes. The margin fluctuated, but Clements never pulled ahead.

Clements, who won the 1978 gubernatorial race by less than one percent of the vote, wasn't going to concede the election prematurely, though.

But by 2 a.m. the results were inevitable.

Two hours after White claimed victory, Clements, with his wife at his side, admitted defeat.

"If the returns continue as they are, we will indeed have a new governor in Texas," he said. "And Rita and I wish Mark White success for all Texans. There is nothing else to say. That's the way it is."

Democrats carry county; turn-out tops 50 percent

From staff and wire reports
Brazos County voters elected Democratic candidates to nearly every local office Tuesday.

Despite heavy rains, more than 50 percent of the registered voters in the county turned out to vote — a higher than expected percentage.

County Clerk Frank Boriskie had predicted that about 18,500 voters would turn out to vote Tuesday. The final count was more than 19,800 ballots cast — a 52 percent voter turn-out for Brazos County.

Voting results in Brazos County are as follows:

Democrat Carolyn L. Ruffino was elected Judge, County Court at Law, over Republican Steve Smith. Ruffino received 59 percent to Smith's 40 percent. On campus, Smith took 74 percent of the votes to Ruffino's 25 percent.

Incumbent County Treasurer B.V. "Bill" Elkins, a Democrat, defeated

Republican John T. Leverette. Elkins took 62 percent of the votes to Leverette's 37 percent. On campus, Leverette was the winner with 74 percent to Elkin's 25 percent.

In the race for county commissioner, Precinct 4, Democrat Milton Turner handily beat Republican Betty Miller by 66 percent to 33 percent.

In the county's only GOP victory, Republican Hugh Lindsay won over Democrat E.W. Sawyers for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 7. Lindsay received 61 percent to Sawyers' 38 percent.

Incumbent Democrat Phil Gramm easily won his race against Libertarian Ron Hard for U.S. Representative from District 6. Gramm received 90 percent of the votes to Hard's 9 percent.

State Sen. Kent A. Caperton easily won re-election from District 5 over Don Stallman. Caperton received 88 percent of the vote to Stallman's 11

percent.

In statewide races, Brazos County voted as follows:

For governor, local voters chose Democrat Mark White over incumbent Gov. William Clements by 1 percentage point. Clements received 48 percent, 9,388 votes, to White's 49 percent, 9,641 votes. On campus in Precinct 20, Clements carried 77 percent of the vote to owhite's 19 percent.

Local voters favored the Democratic incumbent, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, over Republican George Strake. Hobby took 52 percent of the local vote to Strake's 42 percent. Strake won the on-campus vote in Precinct 20 with 71 percent to Hobby's 27 percent.

Incumbent U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, a Democrat, carried the county against Republican challenger Jim Collins. Bentsen took 55 percent of the votes to Collins' 42 percent. On campus, Collins beat Bentsen 68 percent to 29 percent.

Plane crash kills evangelist

Lester Roloff dies

United Press International
NORMANGEE — Evangelist Lester Roloff, who gained national recognition in his battle against state licensing of his homes for girls and boys, died Tuesday with four others in the crash of a plane in central Texas.

Leon County Justice of the Peace Rodell said Roloff and the four women were dead at the scene of a pasture 3 miles north of Normangee in Leon County, midway between Houston and Dallas.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman George Burlage said there were thunderstorms in the area when the FAA Houston flight control center lost Roloff's plane from its radar at 10:18 a.m.

"We've not established a cause for the crash," he said.

Leon County sheriff's department officials said there was no apparent fire, but the fuselage of the single-engine Cessna 210 landed upside down and wreckage was scattered over the field.

Irene Patterson, a secretary at Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises in Corpus Christi, said Roloff, 68, was being to Kansas City for a speaking

engagement. She did not know where he was scheduled to speak.

Also killed in the crash were Susan Lynn Smith, 28, a resident of Roloff's Jubilee Home; Elaine Wingert, 30, a staff member at the Jubilee Home; Cheryl Palmer, early 20s, a Jubilee resident; and Enola Slade, early 20s, a Jubilee resident.

The women were to sing at the Kansas City engagement, Patterson said.

All the bodies were taken to Green Funeral Home in Centerville.

Patterson, who has been Roloff's secretary for one year, described the man as "a very, very wise man."

She added: "I can't think anything in my mind at the moment. This is terrible and very traumatic."

The plane was registered to Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises. Patterson said Roloff was an experienced pilot.

Gov. Bill Clements, busy with last minute campaigning in major urban areas in the state on the election day, said he was "shocked and grieved to learn of the untimely death of brother Lester Roloff."

"Brother Roloff was a singularly dedicated and committed individual whose ministry and devotion gave

productive new lives to thousands of wayward, neglected and underprivileged youngsters who had been literally written off by society," he said. "He was a great Texan doing God's work."

Roloff, a fundamentalist preacher, drew national attention during an eight-year fight against state licensing of his three South Texas homes for delinquent children.

Roloff resisted, and sometimes defied, state-ordered licensing. He was twice jailed for contempt for refusing the court order, and his Rebekah and Lighthouse homes were shut down in 1979. They later reopened as part of his People's Church of Corpus Christi.

Of his continuing fight against the licensing procedures, Roloff said, "We're living in a welfare, socialistic sort of government and they're taking over. When they step over and replace God they're out of place."

In April 1981, a state district judge in Austin ruled that as part of the church, the homes were exempt from licensing or inspection by state welfare officials.



staff photo by Ronnie Emerson

Man on the street

Maggie Dromgoole, a graduate student studying radio-TV news writing, asks John Dungan, junior marketing major from Fairfax, Va., about the election. Dromgoole was doing a project for a journalism class.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: High in the mid-60s. Low in the low 50s. Partly cloudy today with a 50 percent chance of rain today, increasing to a 70 percent chance of rain tonight.