

1 percent landslides

Every time an election comes around, people are reminded to get out and vote. Some candidates call you on the phone and ask if you've voted yet. Campaign workers may knock on your door and ask the same question.

Often, a person's response is, "The other guy's going to win anyway." Or, "Oh, one vote won't make any difference."

But Saturday's run-off elections illustrate that just one vote can make a dramatic difference.

In the race for the Democratic nomination for Texas senator, Lloyd Doggett came out ahead of Kent Hance by a mere 476 votes — something less than two votes per county.

Only 18 votes separated Max Hoyt and Joe Barton in the Republican run off for 6th Congressional District representative.

One vote can make a difference.

If either Doggett or Hoyt was your choice, you could have solidified their leads. Victories by a precarious 18 votes — such as Hoyt's — can be lost if the recount shows any discrepancies. Doggett's margin of fewer than two votes per county may decrease.

Likewise, if your candidate was Hance or Barton, you should feel guilty that you didn't get out and vote. All it takes is a few people out of a large congressional or senatorial district to make a difference in a race this close.

Never believe that your vote doesn't matter. Remember, if you think you don't really care who is elected, you are just as stuck with that candidate as anyone who voted for him or her.

Think about that when the November elections roll around.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

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Jackson resurrecting Ike's ploy

By DAVID S. BRODER

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

WASHINGTON — With some prompting from Gary Hart and the ghost of Dwight Eisenhower, Jesse Jackson has put his finger on the tactic that could create a national television drama this summer, destroy Democratic hopes for a calm convention, and conceivably frustrate Walter Mondale's plan for neatly nailing down the party presidential nomination.

Jackson tipped his hand when he commented that what he is contemplating is like "the Eisenhower-Taft challenge" at the 1952 Republican convention.

That Jackson, who was only 10 years old that summer, knew the almost-forgotten story of that convention fight should send shivers down the spines of unity-minded Democrats.

Robert Taft, the Ohio senator and hero of Republican regulars, came into Chicago that summer as far ahead of Eisenhower, Earl Warren and Harold Stassen as Mondale figures to be ahead of his two competitors going into San Francisco this summer. The New York Times put Taft just 74 votes short of nomination as the convention opened.

Out of desperation, the Eisenhower forces charged Taft with a "Southern steal" of delegates. Their complaint was that many of the Taft-controlled Dixie Republican parties had barred enthusiastic Democrats-for-Eisenhower from voting in their caucuses. The dispute centered on Texas, and pro-Eisenhower politicians and editorialists trumpeted "the shame of Mineral Wells," the town where the delegates were picked.

The national committee and the credentials committee both voted that the Taft delegates were legitimate, under the rules. But the Eisenhower forces kept up the cry that if the "tainted"

delegates were seated, "the nomination would be tarnished," as the Times put it. "The 'steal' therefore was reinforcement of the basic Eisenhower slogan, 'Taft can't win.'"

Hart launched the same tactic against Mondale several weeks ago by claiming that 587 Mondale delegates are "tainted" by the fact that they were chosen in states where union political-action committee (PAC) money was used to finance the Mondale delegate slates.

Mondale has promised to return the PAC contributions, but last week Jackson got into the act, arguing that "if the money is tainted, so are the delegates."

So far, Jackson is alone in threatening a credentials fight against the Mondale 587. But Hart's campaign manager, Oliver Henkel, has put Democratic National Committee officials on notice that if Hart did well enough in the final primaries to have a chance of stopping Mondale, he too may join in such a challenge.

Neutral party officials say the challenge to the delegates has little basis in party rules. In any case, they expect Mondale to control the convention committees where this will be decided. But Jackson's reference to the Eisenhower-Taft fight clearly shows that he understands that need not be the end of the story.

The ingenious device the Eisenhower forces used to break Taft's grip and force him to give up the delegates that might have made him the nominee was the beautifully named "fair play" amendment.

A group of pro-Eisenhower governors advanced the notion that, as a matter of "fair play," the challenged Taft delegates should not vote on their own — or other challenged delegates' —

seating. Taft resisted, as he was bound to do if he hoped to be nominated, and the first national television audience ever to see a nominating convention heard hours of oratory from the Eisenhower side on the theme, "Thou shalt not steal."

Pressured by this propaganda assault and public opinion it generated, the delegates narrowly approved the "fair play" rules amendment, and then forced Taft to yield most of the disputed delegates. Eisenhower's nomination came inevitable.

Clearly, in the current situation, if a new version of the "fair play" rule were invoked at Mondale's 587 "tainted" delegates were not allowed to vote on any credentials challenge, Mondale would lose control of the convention — probably the nomination.

But equally clearly, such a tactic is not likely to work in 1984. Neither Hart nor Jackson ever created Europe or attained the status of national hero that Eisenhower enjoyed. While the convention polls in 1952 showed Eisenhower likely winner, if nominated, the polls today show President Reagan beating any Democrat.

So the conditions that made the tactic work in 1952 are missing this year — or at least at the moment. But just because a tactic won't work does not guarantee it will not be attempted.

If Jackson is serious about pursuing his dated version of the Eisenhower strategy, and Hart decides to join him, the home screens of newspapers will be filled with emotional charges that Mondale is winning with "tainted delegates."

That kind of convention may not do much for Jackson's or Hart's chances. But it will certainly improve Reagan's prospects.

Trying to avoid the campaign jinxes

By HELEN THOMAS

Columnist for United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan says he is running "scared" in his re-election campaign, even though the polls and the polls are reassuring.

The president was asked once more to speculate on his re-election chances when he was interviewed by an Irish Television correspondent and he refrained on grounds that he is superstitious.

"I find it impossible to speculate or suggest that I am going to win," he said. "I think it jinxes me if I do that. So I'm always going to behave as if I'm one vote behind. I'll run scared."

In advance of the Republican National Convention, which is being called a coronation since the ticket is already set, the president is being selective about his appearances. He is going for the high visibility on platforms that will enhance his presidential and statesman image.

His trip to China caused a "blip" upward in the polls, says top aide Michael Deaver. And his 10-day journey to Ireland, France and England is giving him maximum exposure.

In Ireland, he returned to the homeland of his ancestors, which can't hurt him with the Irish-American voters although he insists that electing is not in his thoughts.

He also is identifying with the nation's war heroes as he goes to Normandy to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landing during World War II, which marked the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

And in London he is hob-nobbing with the the leaders of Western Europe and Japan for three days during the Economic Summit.

His aides portray him as man who will attend the summit as a victor whose recovery policies have worked, and the others will have to get on the bandwagon if they do not want their economies to be left behind.

He will walk with royalty at Buckingham Palace, and in some Irish nationalists his ancestry has been traced back to an 11th century monarch.

He has plenty of television on his trip abroad, making both the morning and the nightly news shows.

When he returns the next big stage will be the Olympics, which he will formally open at the end of July, playing to an audience of millions.

Add to the spectacular appearances his Oval Office picture taking and ceremonies in the Rose Garden, which can occur daily if he chooses.

The advantages of the incumbency have not escaped him and he certainly campaign from the White House even if it is not called that. The Secret Service would love it and it would ease the problems considerably but for the man who likes to run as if he is 25 points behind, it's not likely that Reagan will not hit the road.

But the full-scale campaigning is not expected to begin until after the traditional Labor Day kickoff.

On the other side of the coin, the Republicans are sitting on the sidelines enjoying the spectacle of the Democratic candidates beating themselves up.

White House money is still on Walter Mondale to win the nomination, and Reagan's strategy is predictable. He will continue to link the former vice president with President Jimmy Carter's administration — which, in foreign policy, at least, had many more successes than Reagan.

The president, who heads the federal government, will run against government and Washington again as though he had just taken over the reins.

His speeches are laced with jibes against government and how the private sector is the answer.

Still he wants to be head of the United States government for another four years and he does not want to rest on his laurels.

Insolvent financial institutions are bank robber's nightmare

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

It was the legendary Willie Sutton who, when asked why he robbed banks, said, "That's where the money is."

Willie's reason may no longer be valid. Recently a well-dressed robber walked into the Heritage Bank in Anaheim, Calif., and handed a note to the woman supervisor which read, "Give me all your money or I'll start shooting."

The supervisor indignantly informed the robber that Heritage had no money and had gone bankrupt in March. The man walked out in disgust.

What the newspaper story could not report was what happened when the robber got in his getaway car and drove off.

"So how much did you get?" his partner asked.

"Nothing," was the reply. "They have no money."

"What do you mean they have no money? All banks have money. The Heritage Bank is the largest one in Orange County."

"What are you yelling at me for? They're insolvent. The depositors have been paid off and the Feds are now liquidating the place."

"Why didn't you know that when you decided to pull the heist in the first place?"

"I cased the joint for three days. The reason I picked it was because there weren't any guards around. I thought they were just being careless. It turned out there was nothing to guard. I should have been suspicious when nobody bothered to lock the doors at night."

"But how can a bank go busted?"

"I guess they made a lot of bad loans and couldn't collect them. It's going on all over the country. If it's a big bank like Chicago Continental the Feds get nervous and put more money in, so there won't be a run on it. But in this case they

decided to let it go out of business. Don't drive so fast. Nobody is chasing us."

"Why should they chase us? We came away dry."

"Don't get sore at me. It isn't my fault the bank screwed up. I wasn't the only one in there that didn't know they were out of money. Three people were trying to get loans, and one lady wanted to know what happened to an electric blanket they promised her when she opened her account."

"Banks should put signs up when they run out of funds. We could have been killed or gotten 20 years for trying to stick up a place that went under because of a bad management."

"You just went through a red light."

"I always go through red lights after a bank robbery."

"But we didn't rob the bank. Technically we have nothing to fear. If they didn't have money it's their fault, not ours. I wouldn't be surprised if they failed to report it. The lady I gave the note to wasn't even frightened. She was just mad I hadn't read the papers."

"So what do we do now?"

"I don't know. I guess we're going to have to read the newspapers more closely and find out which banks are still in business and which ones are in liquidation."

"Do you still have the note you gave her?"

"Yeah, she handed it back to me and told me not to come in again. I assured her she had nothing to worry about on that score. I also told her I was going to pass the word to all my friends about robbing Heritage branches."

"What are you doing now?"

"I'm rewriting the note. I'm going to say, 'If by any chance you have any money in the bank, give it to me or I will start shooting. Otherwise, disregard this message.'"



FIRST THE PLAY FOLDED, THEN THE MOVIE BOMBED AND NOW DADDY'S BANK JUST WENT UNDER.

