

Texas governor's race begins

Candidate predicts victory against White

By Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

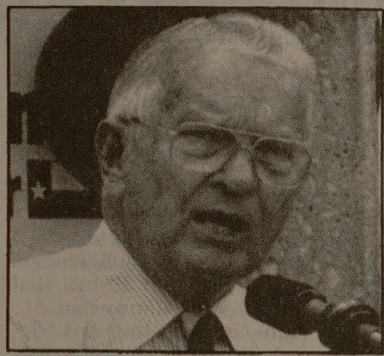
Republican gubernatorial nominee Bill Clements predicted Monday he will defeat incumbent Mark White in the November general election, but said he will need the largest Republican voter turnout ever to do so.

A crowd of about 40 supporters gathered at Easterwood Airport as Clements made his fifth campaign stop of the day. Earlier he visited Austin, San Antonio, Houston and Dallas.

Clements predicted 1.8 million Democratic voters will turn out for the election. To beat White, Clements said the Republican turnout will have to be 500,000 greater than ever before.

"I recognize that I'm the underdog, running against the incumbent," he said. "It's up to you (supporters) to turn our vote out."

Clements said his campaign is based on his record as governor versus White's record. He said White has broken many promises as governor, including a promise not to raise utilities or taxes.



Bill Clements

"I could go on and on about broken promises," Clements said. "But the bottom line has to do with credibility and integrity in office."

He said he will have the support of teachers who refuse to support White. In his four years in office, Clements said, Texas teachers received a 50 percent salary increase.

Clements also said he took the first step in education reform. Citing such reforms as core curriculum, teacher certification and

a stricter disciplinary system, Clements said, the teachers know how he stands.

To help the bleak Texas oil situation, Clements said he has conferred with President Reagan about implementing a historic depletion allowance and a drilling allowance.

However, Clements said that these reforms must be included in a tax bill to be initiated.

Clements said the record GOP primary voter turnout is an indication of the movement to the Republican side. The Democrats are disenchanted with White, and many of them will switch to the Republican ticket, Clements said.

He said Tom Loeffler and Kent Hance have loaned their support for his re-election bid. His former opponents in the Republican primary will join him in campaign trips later this week, Clements said.

"Loeffler and Hance said they would do what they could to join forces for a common goal," Clements said. "We'll do everything to do the job that needs to be done on Mark White in November."

Clements says he's 'underdog' in election race

AUSTIN (AP) — Smiling and calling himself an underdog, former Gov. Bill Clements launched his November election campaign Monday by saying Democratic Gov. Mark White must win to preserve his national political standing.

Clements said, "This incumbent has on the line his national political ambitions. He has a real burden to carry here, that if he's going to realize his political ambitions, he's going to have to win this election."

"He knows full well that those stars in his eyes will go out like a light switch if he doesn't win this election. It's going to be a hot summer."

Both White and Clements, who was ousted by White in 1982, won their party primaries Saturday without runoffs to set up their November rematch.

Mark McKinnon, White's campaign press secretary, referred to White's upset of Clements four years ago and said, "We're ready for Rocky II."

Clements, who earned about 58 percent of the GOP vote, said his campaign was starting immediately because he believes it to be an uphill battle.

Clements predicted that the Democrats will turn out 1.8 million voters in the fall, meaning a record number of Texans must vote Republican for him to regain the office White captured in 1982.

However, he insisted that the low Democratic primary turnout indicates Republicans and Democrats now face "for any practical purposes a heads-up situation" for general election votes.

"It was an all-time record (primary turnout) for us," he said. "We're moving in the right direction."

Clements also said he expected campaign help from President Reagan and Vice President George Bush, and possibly former president Gerald Ford.

A millionaire oilman, Clements said he had no plans to spend his personal funds on the race or to match the nearly \$13 million spent in 1982.

The former governor also said he was eager to debate White, who refused to debate any of his five Democratic primary rivals.

Former governor's organization wins out over opponents' money

AUSTIN (AP) — Between them, Tom Loeffler and Kent Hance raised some \$7 million for their Republican gubernatorial campaigns. But Bill Clements had what it took to win.

The former governor's comeback bid earned him 58 percent of the vote and another shot at Democratic Gov. Mark White, who ousted Clements in 1982.

Clements had enough money, \$2.1 million. He had organization, including a phone bank that contacted 200,000 households. He had name identification, from four years of headlines as the first GOP governor in 100 years.

He had a high-powered staff, including President Reagan's pollster and experienced professionals handling advertising, campaign management and press relations.

He even had a new image, warmer and less cranky. Some attributed the change to a post-1982 election hip operation that eradicated the constant pain he suffered for years.

On the Democratic side, White overcame an anticipated protest vote from teachers and angry state employees.

He pulled better than 53 percent of the vote in a six-way race, escaping a runoff in part because his five opponents were underfinanced political newcomers.

Some teachers — unhappy with competency testing required by White's school reform bill — did cast protest votes, as shown by the ouster of several members of the Legislature. State workers, who say their raises weren't big enough, were unhappy, too.

Also hurting him was the plunge in oil prices and the pressure that has put on the Texas economy.

In the end, after spending more than \$1 million, White's strength showed. He pulled in over 565,000 votes, more than the entire GOP turnout.

The Republican primary got most of the attention because, at the outset, it appeared to be a horse race.

The players were all big-time.

Clements was governor for four years. Hance, a former Democratic congressman from Lubbock, had narrowly lost that party's U.S. Senate nomination in 1984 and promised to bring in lots of conservative Democrats. Loeffler, of Hunt, was third-ranking GOP member of the U.S. House and widely viewed as a rising party star.

But Loeffler had big problems with name ID. Although highly respected in Washington, where he had worked for years, he was little known outside his congressional district.

Hispanics' runoff success vital to Democrats

AUSTIN (AP) — The success of Texas Democrats — including gubernatorial candidate Mark White — in November may depend on the outcome of two statewide runoffs involving Hispanics, the chairman of Mexican American Democrats said Monday.

In complete returns, three Mexican-Americans — two Democrats and one Republican — led races in Saturday's primary elections.

Each candidate is seeking to become the first Mexican-American elected to statewide office in Texas.

State District Judge Roy Barrera Jr., San Antonio, was first in the GOP race for attorney general with 45.99 percent. On June 7, He will face Ed Walsh, a former Democratic district attorney in Williamson County, in the runoff, who received 34.72 percent of the vote.

In a Democratic race for the Texas Supreme Court, Raul Gonzalez, an appointee to the court, polled 41.14 percent of the vote. Former state Rep. Jay Gibson of Odessa was second with 28.63 percent of the vote.

The third Mexican-American to lead in the first primary was Dallas lawyer George "Jorge" Martinez in his race for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Martinez led Denton lawyer M.P. "Rusty" Duncan III with 29.08 to 27.46 percent of the vote.

Ruben Bonilla, chairman of the Mexican American Democrats — MAD — said, "The Republicans obviously are going to nominate Barrera. "And because of Barrera's extraordinary showing, it has become incumbent for Democrats to jump on the bandwagons for Gonzalez and Martinez today with unqualified endorsements and support."

"It becomes obvious that to win in November, Democrats must have a very strong following and mandate from Mexican Americans . . . and the high turnout necessary for Gov. Mark White's re-election depends largely on the visibility and electability of Mexican-Americans statewide."

"It would be unmitigated disaster for the governor and Democrats if Gonzalez and Martinez were re-

jected while Roy Barrera is embraced (by Republicans)."

Bonilla said Gonzalez, the first Mexican-American to sit on the Supreme Court — as an appointee of White's — "ran a magnificent campaign on a shoestring budget."

But now, he said, "It's time for the business community to step forward and lend support to Gonzalez, Mar-

tiniz and MAD to ensure that the Democratic leadership remains in office for another four years."

Bonilla described Saturday's primary as a "magnificent day" for Hispanics, but Gonzalez said, "I wouldn't go that far. I've been pounding the pavement seven days a week, and I'm ready to leave and get back to work and to my family."

Democratic Party officials praise LaRouche defeat

DALLAS (AP) — National Democratic Party officials said Monday that Texas Democratic leaders did a "solid job" of educating voters about Lyndon LaRouche in Saturday's Texas primary and predicted other states will follow suit in defeating LaRouche candidates.

State Democratic officials said they "feel good" about their success at defeating LaRouche candidates, except for the Democratic Party chairmanship in San Antonio.

Saturday's primary elections in Texas were the first since the Illinois primary, in which two LaRouche followers won nominations.

The nine LaRouche Democrats and one Republican seeking contested congressional seats lost, and the only LaRouche candidate for statewide office — Noel Cowling of Dublin — was trounced 4-to-1 by State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower in the Democratic primary.

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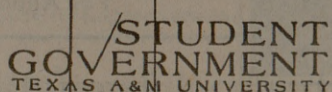
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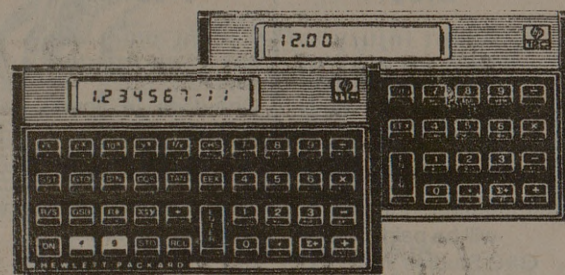
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