

Elections '74

Voter disinterest large election foe

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Democratic Gov. Milton J. Shapp and Republican challenger Drew Lewis have been battling, sometimes bitterly, for months but their biggest gubernatorial election foe today really isn't each other — it's voter apathy.

Massive ballot box disinterest — a byproduct of Watergate and inflation — could make a shambles of polls and predictions which currently give Shapp a clear edge to become the first governor in 99 years to succeed himself.

Republican State Chairman Richard C. Frame acknowledged, "I'm scared to death of apathy. That's the biggest problem we have."

Besides a governor, lieutenant governor and U.S. senator, voters will also elect 25 congressmen, 25 state senators, and 203 state representatives.

A total of 5,539,973 men and women are registered to vote — and 2,884,754 of them are

Democrats who today enjoy a record 404,229 edge over their rival Republicans. The Constitutional Party, next in line, has only 6,765 registered.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close 13 hours later. Although state liquor stores will be closed all day, taprooms can reopen when balloting ends at 8 p.m.

If predictions are correct, less than half the eligible voters, or about 2.7 million (49 per cent), will visit the state's 9,618 polling places despite generally fair and warmer-than-usual weather — and this would be close to the lowest turnout in state election history. Normally the turnout is between 65 and 75 per cent, usually highest in presidential election years. In 1970, when Shapp first was elected, 3.7 million, or 68 per cent, voted.

The previous low percentage, 47 per cent, was in 1926 when only 1.5 million of the 3.2 million registered bothered to vote in a Republican landslide.

Shapp ends campaign, plans Rome trip

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Gov. Shapp ended his campaign for re-election here yesterday, saying he has uncovered "a really big ripoff" in the meat industry and disclosing he'll be leaving for Rome, Italy by the end of the week.

Shapp wound up his bid to defeat Republican challenger Drew Lewis with some downtown street campaigning and a rally at Temple University, where he spoke to a crowd of about 400 students.

He told the students that state and federal investigations into meat pricing were begun after an experiment showed that it is possible to produce hamburger at 29 cents a pound.

"We have found a big ripoff, here in Pennsylvania," he said. "The state attorney general at the present time is investigating this along with some federal agents."

"Our Department of Agriculture recently bought two cows at auction... and paid the price the cows went for. We went up to Penn State and slaughtered those cows, made the regular chops,

steaks, and also made hamburger out of it," he said.

"We found out that with the cost of the cow, the cost of processing and the cost of shipping, we had 29 cents a pound for hamburger, while the stores are selling it for \$1.10 a pound."

"Now there's a ripoff there," Shapp said.

Shapp was reluctant to discuss his Rome trip, saying he would announce all his post-election plans on Wednesday.

The governor has been a leading promoter of an international conference on world hunger already under way in Rome.

Pressed to reveal how soon he was leaving, he finally said, "I'll be around for about four days."

Troubled through much of the campaign by kidney stones, Shapp said he was feeling much better yesterday and was in a chipper mood, joking with several

individuals as he hunted for votes.

"Gov. Shapp, you're going to win and I'll make sure of that," a woman told him as he crossed a busy street.

"Okay, you vote twice," he told her.

As supporters dumped confetti on his entourage, Shapp yelled, "Pollution, pollution."

He spotted one lanky pedestrian, shook his hand and said, "If I can't get your

vote buddy, I can't win at all." Then he revealed the lanky voter was his new son-in-law, Dr. Peter Brill.

At Temple, he told students that smoking marijuana was the type of activity that should be up to the individual involved, not the concern of the government.

"There are laws on the books that shouldn't be there, that deal really with the victimless crimes," he said. "Marijuana is one of these."

Lewis closes out two-year bid

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Republican candidate Drew Lewis yesterday closed out his nearly two-year-long campaign for the governorship convinced that he would win traditional Democratic areas of the state and overall victory by about 100,000 votes.

At news conferences both here and in Lancaster, Lewis predicted that he would win in Erie, Luzerne, Lackawanna and Lehigh counties with majorities of up to 59 per cent.

He noted that voter apathy would be a key, but as yet unknown factor in the outcome.

"Philadelphia is the largest question mark, he indicated. "If I'm able to get a 60 per cent turnout of Republicans in Philadelphia, it will be very significant and I will cut down my losses in Philadelphia," he said.

With such a turnout, he expects to lose the state's largest city and Democratic enclave by about 100,000 votes.

However, he looks to the five suburban counties, where

Republicans outnumber Democrats, to counterbalance the city.

"I would like to come out of the five southeastern Pennsylvania counties breaking even," he said. "If we can do that, there'll be a change in Harrisburg — a Lewis and Kenneth Lee administration."

Lewis, along with his wife Marilyn and campaign aides, walked about three blocks through the downtown area, shaking hands and passing out brochures.

At one point Lewis passed within 15 feet of Gov. Shapp, who was in the midst of a rally. Shapp apparently was unaware of Lewis' presence.

While Lewis was making his last campaign appearances in Philadelphia, his campaign staff was in U.S. District Court here asking that federal marshals be put on standby to protect Lewis poll watchers in the city.

U.S. District Judge Raymond Broderick issued an order that called for "an adequate number" of federal marshals to be available for election duty. However, court sources indicated that groups of the 50 marshals in Philadelphia are routinely used for election day duty.

Lewis has stationed poll watchers in the city's 1,700 divisions to prevent so-called ghost votes from being counted in the results.

As many as 50,000 registrations in the city are fictitious, Lewis contended.

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