

Americans deny apathy through huge voter turnout

By United Press International
Americans, as if determined to deny forecasts of political apathy, turned out to vote in surprising numbers from coast to coast yesterday.

Pollworkers in student precincts reported very heavy voter turnout, following the nationwide trend this election.

In East 4 — 1,127 of about 1,310 voters turned out; in East 2 — 760 of 928 turned out; in East Central 1 — 716 of 900 turned out; in East 1 — 883 of 1,050 turned out; in South 1 — 1,100 of 1,300 turned out; and in West Central — 1,065 of 1,250 turned out.

Generally good weather, although sometimes chilly, greeted voters as they lined up at polling places in early voting.

In little Litchfield, N.H., the turnout was so unexpectedly heavy that election officials had to put up four extra voting booths.

Among the major states:
— Larger counties in California showed early voting was higher than expected in some districts. San Francisco officials said voting was "hectic" in the first hours.
— Election officials forecast a 75 per cent turnout of 2 million registered voters in New York City, and early

turnouts were moderate to heavy in suburbs and upstate.

— Michigan, President Ford's home state, expected a record turnout of 3.7 million voters, 72 per cent of those registered.

— In Jimmy Carter's home state, Georgia, lines were so long in early voting at some Atlanta precincts that would-be voters gave up in disgust after waits of up to 90 minutes and said they would come back later.

Voting through the entire southland, both in Democratic and Republican areas, was heavy; weather was good.

Alfred Hostede, campaign manager

for Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, said voting in Minnesota was "fantastically high," considered a good sign for the state's other senator, Walter Mondale, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate.

Kansas, home state of GOP vice presidential candidate Sen Robert Dole, estimated 80 per cent of the voters would turn out.

Ohio had a very heavy early turnout from the industrial cities to the farm communities. A massive voter drive by organized labor apparently helped.

The chairman of Illinois' state Board of Elections, Franklin Lunding,

projected 73.5 per cent of the state's 6,252,228 registered voters would cast their ballots. Waiting time at polls was up to 90 minutes.

Republican officials said they had a bank of 10,000 telephones used to get out the vote for President Ford. The AFL-CIO, strongly backing Jimmy Carter, extended an all-out effort to get union members to the polls.

"I've been on the phone a lot today," Carter said in Plains, Ga., adding that he had been informed that "in every part of our country the voter turnout is tremendous. And as you know when this has happened in the primaries... we

always came in on top and I think there's as good chance of coming in on top tonight."

Other Democratic leaders agreed. "I think the better the turnout, the better it is for us," said Gary Smith, the Carter campaign chairman in Louisiana.

"The Democrats are turning out," said Paul Sullivan, Carter's Illinois campaign director. "That means apathy is dead."

On the other hand, former Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie, Ford's Illinois campaign manager, said, "I think the high turnout is an excellent sign for this state."

FPC tentatively cuts gas price hikes

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Federal Power Commission yesterday tentatively shaved pennies off the natural gas price hike it granted producers earlier this year, a move that could ultimately save consumers hundreds of millions of dollars.

A spokesman for the FPC said a commission majority approved the rates "in principle" and will issue the detailed order Friday.

The rates appear to be

nearly the same as those the commission announced July 27, which almost tripled the price which producers can get on gas from new wells that is sold across state lines, but the full nationwide effect of the cutback will be large.

The commission estimated the average gas-using household will have its bill increased only about \$10-15 a year, because the production price of gas is only a fraction of the retail bill.

It reconsidered its July 27 order after several interest groups protested the rates as too high and unjustified.

The exact new rates and their scope will not be known until the order is officially effective Friday, but it appears they will be these:

Gas from wells dedicated to interstate sales before 1973 cannot sell for more than 29 cents per thousand cubic feet except for expiring contracts which can

sell at 52 cents when renegotiated. That "old gas" can also draw a penny a year additional.

The commission indicated its intent to allow gas dedicated in 1973 and 1974 to sell at approximately 96 cents, plus a penny yearly "escalator."

Gas put into interstate sales Jan. 1, 1975 and thereafter could get \$1.42 plus a yearly four-cent increase.

Democratic governor for W. Va.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Democrat Jay Rockefeller wrested the West Virginia state house from the Republicans yesterday but in Illinois Republican James Thompson was elected to replace a Democrat.

And Republicans took back the Vermont state house when Richard Snelling defeated State Treasurer Stella Hackel, who hoped to succeed fellow Democrat Thomas Salmon as governor. Salmon is seeking a senate seat.

A Republican congressman defeated a Democratic governor in Delaware, while Democrats reclaimed the governor's office in North Carolina.

Democrats also won reelection in Arkansas and retained the state house in Rhode Island, while an incumbent Republican governor swept to an easy

victory in Indiana.

The switches came as Democrats and Republicans fought to a near-standoff in 14 gubernatorial elections that seemed little affected by the race between President Ford and Jimmy Carter.

In the Illinois contest, Thompson, a former U.S. attorney, defeated Secretary of State Michael Howlett, who was Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's hand-picked candidate. Howlett had defeated Gov. Dan Walker in the primary.

In traditionally Democratic Rhode Island, Democratic Lt. Gov. Joseph Garrahy defeated Republican James Taft to win a seat being vacated by Democratic Gov. Phillip Noel.

North Carolina's statehouse returned to Democratic hands as Lt. Gov. James Hunt won over Republican David

Flaherty. The incumbent, Republican James Holshouser, was barred from seeking re-election.

In Delaware, Republican Rep. Pierre du Pont won big over incumbent Democratic Gov. Sherman Tribbitt.

A Republican incumbent, Otis Bowen, swept to an early victory in Indiana by soundly defeating Democratic Secretary of State Larry Conrad, but Bowen's win was

expected and failed to dampen Democratic hopes elsewhere.

In Arkansas Democratic Gov. David Pryor won reelection beating Leon Griffith.

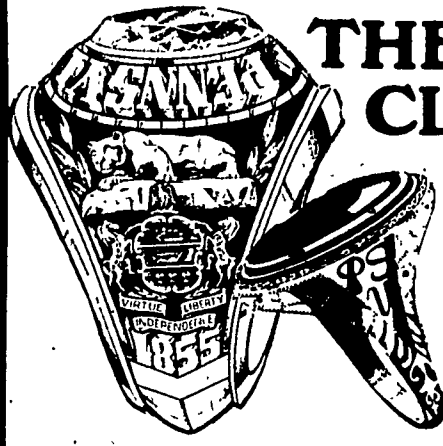
Democrats also hoped to replace retiring Republican Gov. Daniel Evans in Washington with Dixy Lee Ray, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Mass. rejects gun ban

BOSTON (UPI) — Massachusetts voters yesterday rejected the first statewide ban on handguns proposed in the United States.

Partial returns showed the proposal going down to defeat by a 3 to 2 margin.


The proposed ban would have outlawed private possession of weapons with barrels of less than 16 inches. Police patrolman's associations opposed the measure, while liberal police chiefs such as Boston's Robert diGrazia endorsed it.



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(luncheon salad)

THURSDAY — SPAGHETTI LIMITED 1.49
(luncheon salad)

DEPARTURES DAILY 11:00 — 2:30

THE TRAIN STATION



foto by Barry W. yshinski

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