

Congressional races go to the wire...

Senate

News analysis
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A Democrat will win the Senate seat this year only if Virginia voters cast aside party loyalties, and both major candidates know it. President Nixon's supporters project that he will sweep the state with 74 per cent. Four years ago Nixon beat Hubert H. Humphries and George Wallace in Virginia by winning 43.6 per cent of the vote. Even McGovern Headquarters in Richmond admit that they are in for a "very tight race."

During the campaign, Democratic incumbent William Spong has refused to endorse Senator McGovern probably in the hope that Nixon supporters will cross party lines and vote for him. Republican William Scott, on the other hand, has never missed a chance to grab coattails and tie his candidacy to the national election. Just last week he released a strong letter of endorsement from President Nixon.

But a Virginia Polytechnical Institute (VPI) mock election held last week indicates that Scott's tactics may not yield a victory. VPI students from all over the state voted for Nixon by a 68 per cent majority but gave Spong 57 per cent of their vote. Out of state students were not allowed to vote in the Senate race. Virginia's history of independent voting will probably net similar results on November 7.

The Independent candidacy of Horace "Hunk" Henderson should not affect the outcome. The two or three percent that the former Republican may amass will draw votes from both major candidates - liberals from Spong and old-time Republicans from Scott.

Scott's last minute media blitz may lose him as many votes as it gains. News papers highly publicized the fact that \$150,000 for prime time television spots came from one major contributor. Spong called the loan "compromising."

Most area newspapers have endorsed Spong. The Washington Post, for example, accused Scott of having a "shallow understanding of what the (Senate) job was all about."

Scott's strength lies in Northern Virginia where he served six years as Eighth District Congressman and in the traditionally conservative center of the state where gun control could hurt Spong. Scott's votes against Metro funds, revenue sharing, and the Black Lung benefits bill will, however, cost him votes even in his strongest areas.

Spong's strongest support comes from the Tidewater area and the Ninth District in the western-most part of the state. Voters are generally impressed by his record during the last six years.

Unless Virginians change a well established pattern of ticket-splitting, Sen. William B. Spong should remain in office for six more years.

Eighth District

Two independents in this year's Eighth District Congressional race have made things "tough and confusing for the parties," a Republican stand-in told Independent Bob Harris at a recent candidates night.

They have also made things confusing for political analysts because a candidate pattering 35 percent of the vote will probably win the election.

Park plan to be heard

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Thursday, November 9 at the Fort Hunt High School

Road and Belle View Boulevard will be presented. The master plan is on view at Park Authority headquarters, 4030 Hum-

In a two man race, Democrat Robert Horan would be likely to defeat Republican Stanford Parris. Horan's tough stand on crime and stress on economic reform fits the mold of Eighth District voters. He has name identification which would overcome any large Republican coattail effects.

Polls taken before the primaries by Parris show that the Republican would have a more difficult race against Horan than against the other Democratic primary candidates.

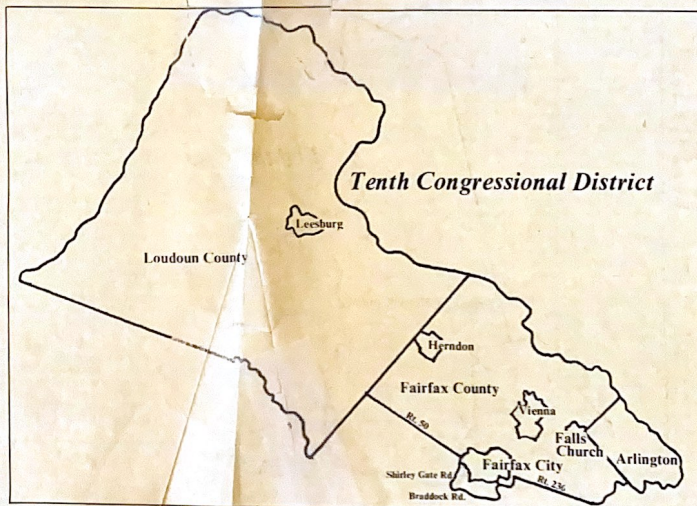
But Independent William Durland has cut deeply into Horan's support. Durland says he is the only Liberal in the race and hopes that with three "conservatives" running against him, he can pick up most of the 44 percent vote Henry Howell registered in the 1971 Lieutenant Governor's election. Durland is closely associated with Howell.

Durland will probably not pull votes from Parris, but Republican-turned Independent Robert Harris may well. Some Republicans have expressed disappointment with Parris and Harris offers them a choice other than crossing party lines.

Harris holds tough line on defense issues and hucks most of Nixon's economic plans but is to Horan's left on what Harris calls "people related issues."

Harris' candidacy has picked up steam in recent weeks and some party officials now fear he will collect up to 10 percent of the vote. This week Harris will mail 85,000 blue brochures to constituents.

Current information indicates that neither independent will win the Congressional seat. If Harris pulls votes from Horan as well as from Parris, and if Nixon carries the new Eighth District by substantially more than the 45.7 per cent he recorded in the old Eighth in 1968, than Stanford Parris is likely to win. Horan will win if Durland does poorly and if Harris draws a large block of Parris' vote.



election, the largest county total ever recorded. Alexandria city councilmen have guaranteed Horan that he would carry the city, and Northern Stafford County also leans in Horan's direction.

Parris' strength lies in conservative areas of Fairfax County and in Prince William's County. Durland is strongest in Alexandria while Harris' power lies around Annandale.

Tenth District

Ten toy elephants in

Rep. Joel T. Broyhill's office represent his victories in Tenth Congressional District elections since 1952. The seventh elephant will be hard to collect.

Broyhill defeated Democratic opponent Hatold Miller by less than 55 percent in 1970 which put his election chances this year in the Republican National Committee's "marginal" category.

But Broyhill says he is not worried. "My vote generally fluctuates between 53 and 58 percent depending upon the Presidential race," Broyhill told the Sentinel in an interview several weeks ago. This year's strong na-

tional Republican ticket, he feels, will help his election chances.

During the last twenty years, Broyhill has made many friends by doing Congressional favors for constituents, but he has also made many enemies. His record and charges of conflicts of interest by opponent Miller are a major campaign issue.

On the surface, Broyhill's campaign seems lackluster. He attends several well planned voter receptions aided by his "Broyhill girls," and has refused to debate Miller or even publicly recognize his candidacy.

But Broyhill has stepped up his congressional activity during the last six months with dramatic telegrams to the President, visits to Metro sites, and action on bills affecting Northern Virginia.

Three weeks ago he engineered the passage of a bill which will grant federal funds for the public takeover of four area buslines.

Broyhill's increased activity probably comes in response to indications that Miller has a fair chance of beating him this year. Last week Miller told the press he "sensed victory," but victory for Miller would still be considered an upset.

Miller has in effect been campaigning for two and a half years. His headquarters

never really closed after his defeat in 1970.

Miller works hard, greeting area commuters as they step off the bus on K Street in Washington. He once estimated that he shakes more than 1000 hands each day.

The youth vote may provide the critical margin for Miller's victory. More than 80,000 people in the Tenth District registered for the first time this year, and Miller's polls show him running ahead in this group six to four. Broyhill won in 1970 by 11,000 votes.

Miller's student vote is well organized. Election officials have had 20,000 requests for absentee ballots, most from students. Late in September, Miller spent a day at the University of Virginia and with the help of an efficient campus organization he visited 500 dorm rooms. He expects to win the student vote by at least two to one.

Redistricting has not hurt Miller. The combined 1970 Democratic Congressional vote in areas that now make up the new Tenth District was 44.6 percent, just shy of Miller's 45.6 percent in that election.

Traditionally conservative Loudoun County may even prove to be a benefit to Miller. He has been endorsed there by State Senator Charles Waddell and the Loudoun County Times. Copies of the endorsements are now being mailed to 15,000 homes in the area.

The election may be determined by the size of an assumed Nixon victory in the Tenth District. Although Virginians traditionally split tickets, the many transients in the Tenth may vote straight party for lack of interest in local affairs.

If Nixon takes the District by substantially more than his 47.7 percent in 1968, Broyhill may be re-elected.

Either way, the candidates are likely to be within five percentage points of each other, on November 8.