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REPORT

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JACK GARNER would have had one thing to be happy about--the election of Dolph Briscoe as governor, close though it may have been. But other brass-collar Democrats like Garner could list only Briscoe and Jesse James to cheer about. The Nixon-Agnew lead of 1,100,000 votes in Texas made the Eisenhower-Nixon victories of '52 and '56 look like photo-finishes. Hank Grover had his "hour of glory" Tuesday night when he was leading Briscoe on the basis of big-city returns. But when the black and rural precincts came in, they wiped Grover out. Ramsey Muniz of La Raza Unida almost made the difference, polling more than 200,000, and it is safe to think that he took most of them from those who otherwise would have found Briscoe their best choice. Unofficial Election Bureau totals Saturday were 1,616,347 for Briscoe, 1,518,169 for Grover, 209,466 for Muniz and 23,404 for Socialist Worker Debby Leonard. Republicans were kicking themselves for not realizing Grover's potential. But, after all, they had Nixon and Sen. Tower to worry about, and both came through easily. Tower bested Barefoot Sanders, 1,834,089 to 1,495,188, while the Raza got 64,556 and the SW Party 11,009. Some Republicans feel they are really moving into two-party stateship, but the same voters on Tuesday may have fuzzed that up a bit. Four-year terms for State executive officers mean that governors and attorneys general won't be running in presidential years any more.

FOUR-year terms will cut both ways. It will free governors and other State officers to work in presidential races, if they choose. But it will also remove their incentive to work for a party vote when they are not on the ballot. The amendment will take effect for the '74 election. The straight-party vote this year can be guesstimated as those for Jim Segrest, the GOP candidate against Railroad Cmn Chmn Tunnell, 1,063,682. This compares with about 850,000 in '68 for such unheard-of Republican nominees. The straight Democratic vote must have been Jesse James', 1,617,183 to Rep. Angly's 1,479,269, although there might have been some bankers who voted for Nixon and James. So it is clear that Republicans have pulled much closer to the Democrats in straight-ticket voting. The question will be, in State elections in off years, which can get out its legions who vote in presidential years. The Texas turnout of a little over 3,477,576 would be a 64% turnout, if 5,400,000 were registered, a bit above the national average of 54%, which was the lowest since the week before AUSTIN REPORT was started, 24 years ago this week. But only 43% of the Texas voting-age population of 7,800,000 voted, down from the 48.7% of the '68 presidential election.

ANOTHER of those things created in part by redistricting is that the Texas delegation in the U.S. House will be a bit more liberal, on the whole. Defeat of US Reps Cabell and Purcell by Alan Steelman and US Rep. Price; election of Dale Milford in the new 24th Dist and Sen. Jordan in the new 18th, and replacement of US Rep. Dowdy by Sen. Wilson means the departure of three conservatives and their replacement by two conservatives (Steelman and Milford) and two liberals. Dallas gets Steelman, who got environmentalist votes by opposing the Trinity canal, but it shares Milford, who favors it. The party line-up changes from 20-3 Democratic to 20-4, with US Reps Price, Collins and Archer holding their seats and getting Steelman as a colleague.

SEN. Schwartz did win over his GOP opponent, so all 16 Senate incumbents in the General Election are reelected. The only real upset was Mrs Betty Andujar's defeat of Rep. Moncrief, the Democrat in Dist. 12. That put three Republicans in the Senate--Sen. Harris, Mrs Andujar and Rep. Mengden who clobbered former Houston City Councilman Lee McLemore. Michael McKinnon, filling Sen. Bridges' shoes, and Bill Meier of Euless are about the only fresh "freshmen" outside of Mrs Andujar, because most of the new members have served in the House--Reps Adams, Gammage, Ogg, Braecklein, Traeger, Grant Jones, Wolff, Longoria and Santiesteban, as well as Peyton McKnight of Tyler. Ron Clower of Garland has not been a lawmaker, but used to be an aide to former US Sen. Yarborough...The "new" Senate is going to be a conservative Senate (Sen. Moore says, "I'm going to be active again next session"), and Lt Gov.-Elect Hobby, who is expected to be more liberal than 22 of the members, will have quite a task getting his pollution-control and consumer-protection programs in gear.

SEVENTY-TWO of the House incumbents survived for sure. Rep. Christian lost to Rep. Cates, Rep. Boyle lost to a Republican, Bob Davis of Irving, and Rep. Floyd lost his battle with Joseph F. Sage of San Antonio. The outcome means there will be 17 Republicans in the House--Davis; Al Koriath, Robert Maloney, Frank Gaston, Ray Hutchison and Rep. Agnich, all of Dallas; Richard F. Reynolds, Richardson; former Rep. Jim Nowlin, San Antonio; Rep. Craddick; Larry A. Vick, Kay Bailey, Milton Fox, Don Henderson and Reps Blythe and Bowers, Houston, and Ray Barnhart, Pasadena. Eight blacks will be in the House--all Democrats, including Anthony Hall, Mickey Leland, Craig Washington and Mrs Senfronia Thompson, of Houston; G. J. Sutton, San Antonio, and Mrs Eddie Bernice Johnson, Paul Ragsdale and Samuel Hudson, all of Dallas. Add Mrs Sarah Weddington of Austin and Mrs Chris Miller of Fort Worth to Miss Bailey, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Thompson, and you'll find five women in the crowd during freshmen orientation Monday through Wednesday. The number of Mexican-Americans did not increase, but some of those with Spanish surnames are new members--Greg Montoya, Elsa; Frank Madla, Joe Hernandez and Matt Garcia, San Antonio; Terry Canales, Premont, and Ben Reyes, Houston.

THE House freshman majority will include five former members making comebacks--Former Reps Skip Scoggins, Doyle Willis, Bill Hollowell, Jim

Nowlin and Felix McDonald. In addition to those noted already, the really-new folks include Doyce R. Lee, Naples; Roy Blake, Nacogdoches; Herman Adams Jr, Silsbee; Arthur Temple, Diboll; Wayne Peveto, Orange; George Preston, Paris; Emmett Whitehead, Rusk; Ed Watson, Deer Park; Jimmie C. Edwards III, Conroe; Andrew Z. Baker, Galveston; Ben Munson, Denison; Bill Sullivant, Gainesville; Forrest Green, Corsicana; Latham Boone III, Navasota; John Wilson, LaGrange; Charles Evans, Hurst; Tom Schieffer, Fort Worth; C. C. (Kit) Cooke III, Cleburne; Jerry Russell, Garland; Richard S. Geiger and Jim Mattox, Dallas; T. H. McDonald, Mesquite; Jim Vecchio, Grand Prairie; Jerry Donaldson, Gatesville; Lyndon Olson Jr, Waco; Larry Bales, Austin; Bennie Bock II, New Braunfels; Bill Coody, Weatherford; Camm Lary Jr, Burnet; Billy Hall, Laredo; Frank Madla and Ronald Bird, San Antonio; Tom Massey, San Angelo; Elmer Martin, Colorado City; Ronald Coleman and Luther Jones, El Paso; John Hoestenback, Odessa; Pete Laney, Hale Center; Ron Waters, Joe Pentony, Woody Denson, John Whitmire, Hawkins Menefee, R. E. Green and Gene Jones, all Houston. Pike Powers was being talked about as "new," but of course, he succeeded the late Rep. Will Smith for two special sessions.

HANK GROVER announced "unofficially" as a candidate for governor again in '74, but isn't conceding yet until he checks out reports called to his staff of voting irregularities. Grover felt that if he had \$50,000 more for newspaper ads the last week he could have won. He is one who thinks the two-party state has arrived, and he believes Republicans can do better in non-presidential years because of organizational superiority...Dolph Briscoe, who had a chill thrown on the first hour or so of his victory party at Uvalde, hasn't yet begun to announce staff or other plans. But State Democratic Chmn Calvin Guest says that he will plan a money-raiser for the State party in connection with the inaugural and that he, as chairman, will be working only with getting the organization developed in this year's campaign made permanent...The Houston Chronicle's analysis indicates that Briscoe's 91.6% of the black vote there, and 56% of the Mexican-American shows who stayed hitched and who didn't. The Chronicle thinks that only 37.5% of white labor (although it just totaled 6,769 voters in that category, voted for Briscoe, but still well above the 24% of middle income whites in his camp. Of course, the Harris County "rural" of only 38.7% for Briscoe isn't really typical rural voting or country. **Just** a sample; the first 42 counties on the list alphabetically all went for Briscoe. You have to go to Collin to get the first Grover county...McGovern carried just 10 counties, all small and most in South Texas, with Cottle the only West Texas win for him... In the Tower-Sanders race, where Tower won the title of the "most expensive senator the Nation ever had," spending probably in the \$2,800,000 range, it was different from the Briscoe-Grover. Tower carried most of the rural counties, too, and made Ed Clark look real smart, since Clark was predicting at least a 250,000 lead for Tower...Democrats have started talking about "where we go from here," with Sen. Bentsen urging that the national Demo chairman, Jean Westwood, resign. She says she won't, but a push is being made to elect Bob Strauss of Dallas. Secy of State Bull-

ock sent a telegram to US Sen. Kennedy Friday, urging him to do all he can to keep Strauss from being national chairman, which would, he said, turn the Democratic party over to "Republican John Connally."

ONE of the liveliest "lame ducks" of all, House Appropriations Chmn Finck, appointed these committees, with chairmen indicated, to make recommendations to the incoming Legislature: State funds not subject to appropriations, Rep. Agnich; Financing Technical-Vocational Education, Rep. Kaster; Physical facilities for health care and correctional institutions, Rep. Murray; Rules, staff and facilities for finance committees, Rep. Doran, and higher education facilities other than for classroom instruction, Rep. G. Jones...L. E. Clarke Jr of Dallas is the new Highway Dept right-of-way engineer now that Archie Christian's retired after 40 years' service...The Board of Control hired an auctioneer to conduct the State surplus sale in Austin City Coliseum, Nov. 18...UT regents named Dr Wendell Nedderman acting president of UT/Arlington...Noting a report that corporal punishment had been inflicted on Houston ISD students 8,279 times over two months, a district discipline committee is trying to find a way to correct the correction system...The 7th Annual Gov.'s Conference on Tourist Development meets Wednesday in the Shamrock Hilton, Houston...The Coordinating Board goes all the way to El Paso Dec. 1 to meet...Gov. Smith designated Charles Simons of Dallas chairman of the Highway Cmn...The Governor went to see EPA Administrator Ruckelshaus in Washington, to find out what the State has to do to comply with the new Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and to collect back welfare money.

THE Atty Gen. ruled that the Permian Basin RPC's hiring of an accounting firm to which an Ector County commissioner belongs did not represent "conflict of interest;" the Real Estate Cmn may require licensees to use a specific contract...Jim J. Hatcher, Gainesville attorney, is new 235th district attorney...Board of Pardons and Paroles Chmn Whiteside said the Governor is routinely approving the 63 commutations recommended to him since the US Supreme Court changed the death penalty...The DPS is distributing the new edition of the Handbook for Texas Law Enforcement Officers through its regional offices.

TO & FRO: Briscoe will find a Senate near to his image, and a House more liberal than he, but probably ready to adopt the liberal planks he put into his platform...Voters turned down legislative pay raises and salaries for the Lt Gov. and Speaker, but had enough faith in their new choices to let them revise the constitution. Only other amendment turned down was the useless No. 9, which was duplicated and broadened in No. 12, to allow state employees to serve on city councils and school boards, if they aren't paid...Cities and counties will now be under heat to give older folks those extra homestead exemptions, which carried 3-1...Rep. John Allen pleaded guilty to misdemeanor nepotism charges, paid a \$1,000 fine, and agreed to repay the \$13,631 his children got on Sen. Ratliff's payroll...La Raza Unida will have a State-financed primary unless the law is changed. It got more than 200,000 votes.