



JOHN MITCHELL LEAVES COURT; H.R. HALDEMAN, DAUGHTER SUSAN & WIFE JO FACE MICROPHONES AFTER HIS CONVICTION

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The Power of Just One Vote

One lesson Americans learn as schoolchildren is that every vote is precious. It is a lesson Americans also easily forget. Despite the striking evidence of how much each vote does indeed count—John F. Kennedy won the presidency by a margin of .2% of the votes cast in 1960, and Richard Nixon by .7% in 1968—tens of millions of Americans still stay away from the polls. An estimated 38% of the eligible voters cast ballots in the election last November.

Running in that election for one of New Hampshire's seats in the U.S. Senate, Republican Congressman Louis C. Wyman at first appeared to have defeated Democrat John A. Durkin by 542 votes out of 236,140 cast. A re-count requested by Durkin pronounced him the winner by ten, and he jokingly began calling himself "Landslide." Then Wyman asked for a review and that put him on top by two, making the vote the closest for the Senate since the 17th Amendment in 1913 established the popular election of candidates.

The situation remains as fluid as ever. Durkin has petitioned the U.S. Senate to review the contested ballots. Wyman has requested that the state's courts call a new election. What is more, Republican Governor Meldrim Thomson Jr. has asked the legislature to schedule an election on Feb. 18.

All of this confusion could have been avoided if more New Hampshire citizens, on one side or the other, had realized the value of their votes. Only 49% of the state's eligible voters bothered to go to the polls on Nov. 5.

Offers He Couldn't Refuse

With money tight and auto sales plunging, George Nouhan, a partner in a Chevrolet dealership in Hamtramck, Mich., began advertising that he would consider anything, anything at all, as a trade-in on a new car or truck. From around the country, inspired offers have been pouring into Hamtramck, a factory town encircled by the city of Detroit.

Nouhan has made deals with customers proffering jewelry, TV sets and freezers. When one man showed up with a 1947 single-engine, canvas-covered aircraft, Nouhan sportingly went along for a test ride, then accepted the plane as a trade-in for \$1,300. After the flight, Nouhan learned to his horror that the pilot had no license. The auto dealer even gave a Michigan farmer \$1,000 in trade for a menagerie, sight unseen, of sheep, cows and chickens.

Without his trade-for-anything pitch, Nouhan figures that December's sales would have plunged even more than the 30% drop below normal. Recently he took a flyer of a different sort and allowed \$4,000 for two leases on oil wells being drilled near Traverse City, Mich. A gusher, he points out, would ease a lot of the pain and frustration of trying to sell autos in the middle of Detroit in the middle of a recession.

Helping Hand

In 1970 Gerald Ford, then the Republican leader in the House of Representatives, waged a brief but bitter campaign to impeach Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas. Ford, whose views clashed with the lib-

eral stands of Douglas, charged that the conduct of the Justice off the bench merited his dismissal. Last week, while vacationing in the Bahamas, Douglas, 76, suffered a stroke. The man who immediately arranged for a Government jet to fly Douglas' doctor to the Justice's side was the President. Later, Ford sent a plane to bring Douglas, his wife and the physician back to Washington. The President was kept closely informed about the condition of his old foe.

Without Foundation

When they created the Nixon Foundation in 1969, the trustees had grand plans for building a museum and library for the papers and mementos of the 37th President. The foundation's board included some of the most powerful figures in the country—men like John Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and an influential lawyer named Herbert Kalmbach—to say nothing of Billy Graham and several distinguished businessmen.

As the Watergate scandal grew, the Nixon Foundation slipped into disarray. Now a majority of the 25 trustees have voted to dissolve the whole enterprise. The plan is to turn over to Whittier College, Nixon's alma mater, the little material that has been collected. Said Trustee Justin Dart, chairman of Dart Industries: "I don't know what the hell this country should do about a Nixon library and museum. But I have done all I want to do."

From his isolation at San Clemente, Calif., Richard Nixon let it be known that he had no objection to the demise of the foundation that was set up to perpetuate his memory.