

How the GOP and Demo Winners Explain Victory

Santa Barbara

Republican Robert J. Lagomarsino of California said yesterday his election to Congress was a personal triumph — not a victory for the GOP or President Nixon.

Democrat Thomas A. Luken of Ohio, the other winner in Tuesday's special elections, said his success showed that people were concerned about the administration.

The contests were the third and fourth special elections this year. Democrats won the two earlier seats, including the one formerly held by Vice President Gerald Ford.

Lagomarsino, 47, got 53

per cent of the total vote cast in California's 13th Congressional District and avoided a runoff with any of his seven Democratic opponents.

"We have not said this should be considered a victory for the party or the President," Lagomarsino commented. "It was a victory for me."

Lagomarsino takes the seat of the late Representative Charles M. Teague, a Republican who represented the area for 19 years.

The unofficial ballot counting gave Lagomarsino 53,078 votes. The nearest opponent, Ojai Mayor James Loebel, had 18,791. The rest of the Democratic field got 27,834 votes.

In Ohio's First District, where Mr. Nixon got 67 per cent of the vote in 1972, Luken, 48, scored an upset over Republican Willis D. Gradi-son Jr., becoming only the fourth Democratic representative from the district this century. He won with an unofficial count of 55,171 to 51,057.

Associated Press