

Democrats Seek an Upset

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SANTA BARBARA, Calif., March 3 — Telephones have been ringing in private homes along the coast and on farm-lands in California's 13th Congressional District, in shake-roofed ranch homes in wealthy Santa Barbara suburbs and sun-baked field huts on the edge of Ventura's avocado farms.

Everywhere the message relayed was the same: "Don't vote Republican and send Nixon another vote in Congress."

Those making the calls are staff workers for Democratic candidates in Tuesday's special election to fill the seat left vacant by the death earlier this year of Representative Charles M. Teague, a Republican.

They were calling thousands of registered Democrats in the

13th District who had helped Mr. Teague to stay in Congress for 19 years. These were the same conservative-moderate Democrats who 16 months ago voted for President Nixon, giving him a landslide vote in a district where registration is nearly equally divided between the two parties.

"The Democrats who had voted Republican are the angriest people in this campaign," said Mrs. Shirley Ghitlerman, acting chairwoman of the Ventura County Democratic Committee. "They are the ones who really feel betrayed by Watergate and every other fiasco associated with this Administration."

Though the vote here Tuesday could clearly endorse the Nixon Administration, neither of the national parties has done much in the way of helping the local candidates, either with

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in Congressional Election in California Tomorrow

money or workers, a hand's off attitude that is not without a dash of intrigue.

The chances are good that a clear-cut winner will not emerge from Tuesday's vote, and a run-off will be needed on April 2 to decide the contest. There is one Republican candidate, State Senator Robert J. Largomarsino, but a field of seven Democrats.

If Mr. Largomarsino, a strong legislative ally of Gov. Ronald Reagan's, fails to win a majority of the vote cast on Tuesday, it would thrust him into a run-off against the top vote-getting Democrat.

The other Democratic candidates are Tom Jolicoeur, a Camarillo insurance man; James Browning, an Oxnard lawyer; David Miller, a Santa Paul teacher; Roger Ikola, a Santa Maria doctor; F. Joe Deuchamp, a Carpinteria busi-

nessman, and Robert W. Handley, a Santa Maria teacher.

Republican strategists are apparently convinced that a down-playing of the election campaign might enable Mr. Largomarsino to win without a runoff.

The Democratic strategy is less clear, even to local Democrats.

A Primary in June

"I've had more calls from the national media on this election than from national Democratic headquarters," said Mrs. Ghita Ginberg, Democratic Central Committee chairwoman of Santa Barbara County.

"It'll kill us if Largomarsino walks off with this election when even the Republicans are upset about what's going on in Washington, but somehow our national headquarters doesn't seem to recognize the potential out here for electing a Demo-

crat no matter how many times we plead for assistance."

She said that state and national Democrats had taken the position that Tuesday's election was tantamount to a primary and therefore were reluctant to interfere at this stage.

But, she added, they apparently chose to ignore the danger that Mr. Largomarsino is well known throughout the district and conceivably could win the office without a runoff unless an effective Democratic turnout stops him.

The winner of the seat here will be faced with a June primary race for the next two-year term—the present election fills the office only for the rest of this year. But the state has been redistricted, and Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties will largely make up the new 19th Congressional District, which will be more heavily

populated with registered Democrats than is the present 13th Congressional District.

Mr. Largomarsino could therefore win this election but face a much tougher contest next November.

Muskie Campaigns in Ohio

CINCINNATI, March 1 (UPI)—Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, the last in a long series of top Democrats and Republicans campaigning for Congressional candidates here, flew in today to stump for Thomas Luken.

Mr. Luken, a Democrat, is opposing Willis D. Gradison Jr., Republican, in Tuesday's special Ohio First Congressional District election—a race in a traditional Republican district. The special election was called to replace William Keating, Republican, who quit Congress to become president of The Cincinnati Enquirer.