

2 Nixon Critics Lose In Michigan, Illinois

By Lou Cannon
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Two Republican congressional candidates who directly challenged President Nixon on Watergate lost narrow battles in Illinois and Michigan primary elections yesterday.

But the Republican winner in the key eastern Michigan 8th District lost no time in disassociating himself from the President in advance of a hotly contested April 16 special election.

James Sparling of Saginaw said that he and his Democratic opponent, state Sen. Robert Traxler, were only "two inches apart on impeachment or Watergate. We both say that inflation is horrible, and we both say 'jail the law-breakers.'"

Sparling, a 45-year-old former congressional assistant who worked briefly as a White House aide, turned back the challenge of Michael Gillman, 32, who had called his campaign a referendum on the President's failure to make full disclosure to the Watergate special prosecutor and the House Judiciary Committee. Two other Republicans trailed.

Traxler, 42, won his primary easily and is expected to make

the Nixon administration the issue in the special election runoff.

Republicans have lost previously safe GOP districts in Michigan and Ohio where Democrats made the Nixon administration and Watergate the chief issues, and Traxler left no doubt that the same theme will be used in the Michigan 8th, which has voted Democratic only once this century.

"We are going to send them a message and I'm going to be your messenger," Traxler said.

In Illinois, Rep. Robert McClory, second-ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, led narrowly over challenger Edward Vass on the basis of fragmentary returns in the GOP primary. Vass had severely criticized McClory for the committee's failure to proceed more quickly on impeachment and said "the American people had been lied to and had."

The big winner in Illinois, however, appeared not to have been President Nixon but long-time Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Early returns showed that a slate of state legislative candidates backed by Daley was winning handily over a rival

slate endorsed by Daley's chief intra-party foe, Gov. Daniel Walker.

Walker won the governorship in 1972 over Daley's opposition and the loyalist Daley legislators have been a thorn in his side ever since.

Daley also scored a major victory in Cook County when his candidate for assessor, Thomas M. Tulley, was nominated over Alderman Edward M. Vrdolyak, the first member of Daley's own organization ever to challenge the Chicago Democratic machine.

In a statewide primary, incumbent Democratic Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III swamped W. Dakin Williams, a Collinsville lawyer and brother of playwright Tennessee Williams. George M. Burditt, a businessman, easily won the Republican nomination over perennial candidate Lar Daly.

Former Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan appeared headed for a political comeback as he jumped to a lead over Robert Miller in Chicago's west suburban 6th District.

Running as an independent against Miller, who had Daley's endorsement, Hanrahan built a 2-to-1 lead in the heavily blue-collar district. Hanrahan was acquitted of charges of obstruction of justice in connection with a 1969 raid on Black Panther headquarters. State Rep. Henry J. Hyde won the GOP nomination in a six-man contest.

In another budding political comeback former Lt. Gov. Paul Simon took a 3-to-1 lead over Joe Browning in the downstate 24th District primary to succeed Democrat Kenneth Gray, who is retiring.