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# John Burton Claims Reagan Hopes Dimming

Governor Ronald Reagan's national ambitions have been blunted by the results of last Tuesday's special state Senate election in Santa Barbara, Congressman John L. Burton said here yesterday.

The freshman Democrat told a press conference in his Federal Building office that "Reagan had put his prestige on the line, for the third time in a special senate election, and this was the third straight loss for him."

In the Santa Barbara election, underdog Democrat Omer Rains defeated Republican Assemblyman Don MacGillivray for the seat vacated by former Senator Robert Lagomarsino, a Republican who earlier won a special election to Congress from the area.

Burton, wearing his other hat as State Democratic Chairman, said the Santa Barbara results Tuesday augured well for the party in

the November general elections.

"California is the number one state in the nation, and if President Nixon is still in office at that time, there'll be a Democratic sweep in the state, and across the country the Republicans won't win any marginal seats.

"As state party chairman, the best thing for the Democrats would be to have the President in office in November. But as an American citizen, I think the best thing would be to have him leave the office, so that the country could go ahead with its business."

Burton said he had no qualms about the effect of a massive Democratic gain in the House, to the extent of bringing about what Vice President Gerald Ford has called a "veto-proof" Congress.

"A Congress — whether it's Republican or Democratic — reflects the will of the electorate, otherwise they

wouldn't be three.

"I don't agree with congressmen who vote for a bill and then when the President vetoes it, won't vote to override the veto. If the bill is good enough to support on Tuesday, it's good enough to support on Thursday after the veto."

Burton said the Santa Barbara results "electing an unknown Democrat over a Republican officeholder who was well-known" were a direct result of "Watergate and the voters' disenchantment with President Nixon and Watergate."

Reagan, he noted, had campaigned for MacGillivray, and earlier in special elections for Republicans who lost to Democrats in two Southern California races.

## Monroe's Term

### Washington

President James Monroe held office from 1817 to 1825.

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