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Flournoy

Wishes

Brown Well

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Los Angeles

Houston Flournoy conceded defeat yesterday and wished Democratic Governor-elect Edmund Brown Jr. well, saying "I hope he'll prove to be a better governor than I hoped was possible."

"All I have to say is we ran a very fine race," the Republican candidate told a news conference. "We did a lot better than people thought we would."

Flournoy said he had not yet contacted Brown to congratulate him on his victory in Tuesday's gubernatorial election.

"It hadn't crossed my mind," he said.

Flournoy conceded defeat by saying of Brown, "He's going to be the governor."

"I've been wrong before. I hope he'll prove to be a better governor than I hoped was possible. I wish him well."

He said President Ford's pardon of former President Nixon hurt his campaign but Mr. Ford's visit to California last week also helped.

"If the President had kept the pardon until Christmas, we would have won," Flournoy said. "If there is a key

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REPUBLICAN HOUSTON FLOURNOY
He conceded defeat at a press conference yesterday

FLOURNOY'S SPEECH

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factor, that is it. It came right after Labor Day. We lost time and enthusiasm. It took time to get it back."

Flournoy said Mr. Ford's visit was "one of the reasons we were able to close the gap" in the last days of the campaign.

He said he had no regrets about the campaign.

"We did everything we could do," he said.

The former college professor said he suspects a great part of the campaign depended on television advertising in Los Angeles.

"We were later in getting that on in this area than we had hoped to be," he said, citing a lack of money early in the race.

Flournoy said he had no idea what he will do professionally when he leaves the office of state controller at the end of the year.

He added that he wouldn't

preclude the possibility of running in 1976 for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat John Tunney. He said he also might seek another office, but didn't specify.

His only immediate plans were for a vacation in the mountains with his family.

Of his opponent, the restrained Flournoy said: "As far as I'm concerned he's going to be the governor of the greatest state in the union."

A.P. & U.P.