

Key races confirmed Reagan's mandate

by Susan Kokinda

Three of the most closely watched and closely decided Congressional races settled by the voters on Nov. 6 were determined largely because the electorate responded to the national security issues stressed by President Reagan in his second debate. The re-election victory of North Carolina Republican Sen. Jesse Helms and the defeats of Illinois Republican Sen. Charles Percy and Maryland Democratic Rep. Clarence Long were strong indicators of the American people's ability to respond to the imperatives of national defense.

The results in each of those elections stands in stark contrast to the pattern seen in other congressional races. There, the Republican Party failed to follow the lead of President Reagan, who stressed defense matters and traditional values. Instead, Republican candidates ran glossy, hyped-up Madison Avenue campaigns around a non-existent economic recovery, all the while apologizing for support of military spending.

The net result of that strategy was a loss of two seats to the Democrats in the Senate, a barely noticeable gain of seats in the House, and an overall strengthening of the KGB wing of the Democratic Party.

President Reagan will have to exercise his mandate as never before, mobilizing the American population to terrify Congress into supporting the MX missile, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and defense spending in general.

Foreign Relations Committee chairmanship

The foreign-policy stakes were most far-reaching in the interplay between the Helms and Percy races. Chuck Percy has been chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since the Republicans took control of the Senate in 1980. As the voters knew, his defeat, and Helms's victory, would put Helms in line for the chairmanship.

Percy, from the outset of his Senate career in the 1960s, was one of the leading Kissinger followers in the U.S. Congress. For nearly 20 years, Percy has championed the insane doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

As a young senator, he led the fight to pass the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty which banned defensive weapons—at least, U.S. defensive weapons. Most recently,

he gave free rein on his committee to the opponents of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Percy's other claim to infamy is his unending support for the genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund. He was the floor manager for the 1983 passage of legislation continuing U.S. participation in that institution of austerity.

Ironically, Percy was defeated by a liberal Democrat, Paul Simon, whose defense policies are much worse than his own. But voters understood the implications of removing him as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Next in line to become chairman is Sen. Jesse Helms, the old-line, anti-Kissinger North Carolina conservative, who was himself engaged in a bitter and expensive election campaign.

While it is still in doubt as to whether Helms will give up his chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee to move over to the Foreign Relations Committee, his victory over Eastern Establishment-backed North Carolina Gov. James Hunt ultimately revolved around the themes established by President Reagan. Helms, who raised over \$14 million in his campaign to return to the Senate, tied Hunt closely to the national, anti-defense posture of the Democratic Party. Television commercials run by Helms attacked Hunt as a "Mondale liberal." In the last weeks of the campaign, Helms drummed up the endorsements of two dozen former and current U.S. ambassadors to foreign nations, who testified to the importance, for U.S. foreign policy, of re-electing Helms.

While Helms, with typical conservative ideological weaknesses, has been duped by enemies of this nation and of our allies on all-too-many occasions, on clear-cut issues such as support for the Strategic Defense Initiative, opposition to the MAD doctrine, to Henry Kissinger, and continued U.S. support of the IMF, his record is unequalled in the U.S. Senate.

Jobs and foreign policy

On a less nationally imposing level, the defeat of arch-Malthusian Clarence Long in Maryland's second congressional district reflected the same phenomenon. Republican Helen Bentley defeated Long in a cliff-hanger election, on her third effort to unseat him. Long, who chaired the powerful Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, was a leading supporter of the notorious Malthusian policy statement—Global 2000. This translated into concrete policy for his constituents in the staggered port city of Baltimore, when incredibly, he opposed funding for the Export-Import Bank, upon which the exports of Baltimore depend. Bentley campaigned on a strong, pro-growth platform of support for exports and jobs.

Long's loyalties to something other than his constituents and his country were further established when he joined a minority of extremist congressmen in opposing President Reagan's Grenada rescue mission. He also attacked President Reagan for the terrorist assault on U.S. Marines in Beirut.