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PASS TO BRENER/GOMPERT FOR THE SECRETARY

UPI - 240 (WASHINGTON)--DEMOCRATS SCORED AN APPARENT LANDSLIDE VICTORY TUESDAY IN THE FIRST POST-WATERGATE ELECTIONS, STRENGTHENING THEIR CONTROL OF CONGRESS AND OUSTING REPUBLICANS FROM STATEHOUSES AROUND THE NATION. A WAVE OF VOTER DISCONTENT OVER INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND RECESSION ENGULFED REPUBLICANS THREATENING PRESIDENT FORD'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM IN THE FINAL TWO YEARS OF HIS TERM AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATS FOR THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL RACE.

DEMOCRATS PICKED OFF AT LEAST THREE REPUBLICAN SENATE SEATS AND FOUR GOVERNORSHIPS HELD BY THE GOP, INCLUDING NEW YORK, WHERE DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN SHUT OUT FOR 16 YEARS. THEY ALSO WERE ROLLING UP LARGE GAINS IN THE HOUSE, AND CBS PROJECTED A 50-SEAT GAIN WHICH WOULD GIVE THE DEMOCRATS THE BIGGEST MAJORITY ANY PARTY HAS HAD SINCE THE DAYS OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT IN THE LATE 1930'S. AMONG THE VICTIMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC TIDE WERE TWO REPUBLICAN SENATORS, MARLOW W. COOK OF KENTUCKY AND PETER M. DOMINICK OF COLORADO. DEMOCRATS ALSO PICKED UP THE FLORIDA SEAT OF RETIRING SEN. EDWARD J. GURNEY.

THREE OTHER INCUMBENT REPUBLICANS EXPECTED TO HAVE TROUBLE--MILTON YOUNG OF NORTH DAKOTA, ROBERT DOLE OF KANSAS, AND HENRY BELLMON OF OKLAHOMA--WERE IN DESPERATE FIGHTS TO AVERT DEFEAT. AT THE SAME TIME, ENTRENCHED SENATE DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENTS WERE ROLLING TO EASY VICTORIES ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY--NONE EVEN THREATENED BY AN UPSET DEFEAT. THEY WERE JOINED BY THREE DEMOCRATIC NEWCOMERS, REP. JOHN C. CULVER OF IOWA, DALE BUMPERS OF ARKANSAS AND JOHN GLENN OF OHIO.

A NUMBER OF POPULAR SENATE REPUBLICANS, MOST OF THEM FROM THE MODERATE-LIBERAL WING, SURVIVED THE DEMOCRATIC ONSLAUGHT. THEY INCLUDED SEN. JACOB K. JAVITS OF NEW YORK, WHO TURNED BACK THE STRONGEST CHALLENGE OF HIS CAREER FROM FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK; SEN. RICHARD SCHWEIKER OF PENNSYLVANIA WHO DEFEATED PITTSBURGH MAYOR PETER FLAHERTY; AND CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS JR. OF MARYLAND WHO TURNED BACK BALTIMORE COUNCILWOMAN BARBARA MIKULSKI, AND ROBERT PACKWOOD OF OREGON WHO BEAT BETTY ROBERTS.

REP. LOUIS WYMAN MANAGED TO HOLD ONTO THE REPUBLICAN SEAT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, LEFT OPEN BY THE RETIREMENT OF SEN. NORRIS H. COTTON, BUT PATRICK LEAHY WAS LEADING REPUBLICAN REP. RICHARD MALLARY FOR A VACANT SEAT IN VERMONT. LEAHY WOULD BECOME THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC SENATOR EVER ELECTED IN VERMONT.

McGOVERN WON RE-ELECTION BY DEFEATING THOMASNESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA. OTHER DEMOCRATS WINNING RE-ELECTION WERE ABRAHAM RIBICOFF OF CONNECTICUT, JAMES B. ALLEN OF ALABAMA, HERMAN E. TALMADGE OF GEORGIA, ADLAI STEVENSON OF ILLINOIS, BIRCH BAYH OF INDIANA, RUSSELL B. LONG OF LOUISIANA, DANIEL K. INOUE OF HAWAII, THOMAS F. EAGLETON OF MISSOURI, ERNEST F. HOLLINGS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, WARREN B. MAGNUSON OF WASHINGTON, AND GAYLORD NELSON OF WISCONSIN.

TWO MORE NEWCOMERS, IN ADDITION TO CULVER, GLENN, AND HART, WERE ROBERT MORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA AND RICHARD STONE OF FLORIDA.

THE HEAVIEST GOP LOSSES WERE IN INDIANA WHERE REPUBLICANS LOST FIVE HOUSE SEATS, NEW JERSEY WITH FOUR, VIRGINIA AND NEW YORK WITH TWO, AND 11 OTHER STATES WITH ONE EACH. ONLY TWO DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENTS WERE OUSTED, ONE IN FLORIDA AND ONE IN LOUISIANA.

AMONG THOSE TO FALL WERE REP. EARL LANDGREBE OF INDIANA, WHO REFUSED TO VOTE FOR THE IMPEACHMENT REPORT ON NIXON; REPS. CHARLES SANDMAN AND JOSEPH MARAZITI, BOTH OF NEW JERSEY, WHO BACK NIXON ALMOST TO THE END; REP. JOEL BROYHILL OF VIRGINIA, ONE OF THE TWO SENIOR REPUBLICANS IN THE HOUSE FROM THE SOUTH; AND REP. WILLIAM B. WIDNALL OF NEW JERSEY, RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE.

REP. WILBUR MILLS OF ARKANSAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, SURVIVED AN ESCAPE WITH A STRIPPER TO WIN RE-ELECTION.

PRESIDENT FORD SAID INFLATION DOMINATED TUESDAY'S ELECTIONS AND PLEDGED TO WORK "WHOLEHEARTEDLY" WITH THE DEMOCRATIC VICTORS TO RIGHT THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. ASKED IF FORD CONSIDERED THE DEMOCRATIC GAINS A PERSONAL DEFEAT, PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID "CERTAINLY NOT."

NESSEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT FORD'S OWN POPULARITY HAS BEEN STEADILY RISING.

HE SAID FORD "HOPES AND EXPECTS" CONGRESS TO COOPERATE WITH HIM.

NESSEN SAID THAT FORD MADE SOME TELEPHONE CALLS BEFORE MIDNIGHT, AMONG THEM CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYOR WALTER WASHINGTON, OF WASHINGTON, D.C. WHO WON RE-ELECTION.

FORD ALSO CALLED SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER HUGH SCOTT, NESSEN SAID, "TO LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT CONGRESS." FORD HAS A MEETING WITH SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

"THERE'S CERTAINLY NO GLOOMY MOOD AROUND HERE," SAID NESSEN. HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT FORD HAD "LAUGHED A LOT."

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