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Newspaper Article, McCarthy, Peace Top Choice '68 , May 7, 1968

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McCarthy, Peace Top Choice '68

by Phil Semas
College Press Service

WASHINGTON (CPS)---College students voted for Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) and an end to the war in Vietnam in Choice '68, the national campus presidential primary held April 24.

McCarthy polled 26.7 per cent of the almost 1.1 million votes cast, followed by Sen. Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) with 19.9 per cent and Republican Richard Nixon with 18.4 per cent.

A combined 62.6 per cent of the students voted for either an immediate withdrawal of American troops or a reduction in American military involvement in Vietnam against 30 per cent who voted for either increased or all-out military effort. Some 58 per cent voted for either a permanent or temporary halt to all bombing.

And 79 per cent voted for either job training or education as solutions to the urban crisis.

Bob Harris, executive director of Choice '68, said there would be many more results from the computer to be compiled from cross-checking various votes against one another. Some of the early results from such cross-checking included:

--Not surprisingly, 85 per cent of those who named McCarthy as their first choice preferred either a phased reduction of military activity or immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. Kennedy followed with 69 per cent of his supporters favoring one of those alternatives. Reagan and Nixon supporters were those most heavily in favor of an increase in military activity in Vietnam.

--McCarthy ran strongest on the two coasts, with Kennedy generally running second. McCarthy ran weakest in the South, where Nixon ran strongest but Kennedy ran a surprising second.

--There was no basic difference in voting among age groups, which Harris said presented a good argument for letting 18-year-olds vote. About 44 per cent of the voters will be eligible to vote in November. Most of the candidates ran about the same among those eligible to vote and those not eligible to vote.

--Kennedy got more Democratic votes than McCarthy but the Minnesota senator was the overwhelming choice of independents, beating Kennedy 116,000 to 56,000, and also held a slight edge over him in Republican votes. Rockefeller got slightly more Democratic votes than Nixon but the former vice president was the overwhelming favorite among Republicans, leading Rockefeller by 74,000 votes. Neither of the two Republican did very well among independents.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Choice '68 Results

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Following is a breakdown of the results, with about 90 per cent of the vote in:

Eugene McCarthy (D)-285,988 votes-26.7 per cent
Robert Kennedy (D)-213,832 votes-19.9 per cent
Richard Nixon (R)-197,167 votes-18.4 per cent
Nelson Rockefeller (R)-115,937 votes-10.8 per cent
Lyndon Johnson (D)-57,362 votes-5.3 per cent
George Wallace (Amer. Ind.)-33,178 votes-3.0 per cent
Ronald Reagan (R)-28,215 votes-2.6 per cent
John Lindsay (R)-22,301 votes-2.2 per cent
Hubert Humphrey (D, write-in)-18,535 votes-1.7 per cent
Charles Percy (R)-15,184 votes-1.4 per cent
Mark Hatfield (R)-7,605 votes-0.7 per cent
Fred Halstead (Soc. Work.)-5,886 votes-0.5 per cent
Martin Luther King (Ind.)-3,538 votes-0.3 per cent
Harold Stassen (R)-1,033 votes-0.1 per cent

Referenda:

What course of military action should the United States pursue in Vietnam? (Figures are per cent of total)

Immediate withdrawal of American forces-17.6
Phased reduction of American military activity-45.0
Maintain current level of American military activity-7.0
Increase the level of American military activity-9.0
All-out military effort-21.0

What course of action should the United States pursue in regard to the bombing of North Vietnam:

Permanent cessation of bombing-29.0
Temporary suspension of bombing-29.0
Maintain current level of bombing-12.0
Intensify bombing-26.0
Use of nuclear weapons-4.0

In confronting the urban crisis, which of the following should receive highest priority in governmental spending? (in per cent of vote)

Education-40.0
Job training and employment opportunities-39.0
Housing-6.0
Income subsidy-3
Riot control and stricter law enforcement-12.0