

THE ELECTION EYE . . .

# Recall Election Brings Legislative Impact

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Tuesday's unprecedented special recall election which ousted two veteran Idaho Falls Republican legislators is certain of bringing statewide ramifications on the entire legislative process.

As only a third of the 18,000 eligible voters in Legislative District 30 took the bother to cast ballots, it can't, however, be called a mandate of the people. Perhaps if upwards of 4,000 votes had been cast, the results might have been reversed but at least it would have been a more representative vote.

As was predicted, the recall proponents turned out but the less interested opponents didn't take the time to make known their views. As a result, State

Sen. W. Fisher Ellsworth and State Rep. Aden Hyde were booted from office by a little more than 200 vote margin of the approximate 3,300 votes cast.

The result is bound to have an impact throughout the state but whether it will prompt any more recall movement remains to be seen. Already an initial petition signed by 21 names was filed against State Rep. Terry L. Crapo, R-Idaho, in District 29. Whether the leader, Richard Bowman, a bread company delivery worker, will now go ahead in an effort to obtain signatures of more than 1,100 to force an election remains to be seen.

The task of ousting Crapo, however, will be considerably harder to accomplish. Crapo, a viable popular legislator, has easily led the election ticket in his district while both Ellsworth and Hyde barely squeezed to victories in the 1970 elections.

As stated previously, 75 legislators in both chambers voted for the legislative pay increase, the basis for Tuesday's recall, while only 24 voted in opposition and six did not vote. Of these, the other East Idaho legislators voted for the pay increase in the last session besides Ellsworth, Hyde and Crapo were State Reps. Wilbert Cammack, D-Blackfoot; Helen McKinney, R-Salmon; and State Sen. Joe Allen, R-American Falls.

Most of the Boise Valley Republicans and all of the North Idaho Democrats favored the pay increase.

Jim Hill, chairman of We the People, contended the legislators voted the increase contrary to the 1970 people passed initiative.

The opponents insist they voted a compromise of about \$3,700, between the \$5,100 they received previously and the \$2,100 the so-called W. C. Burns initiative would have provided.

As predicted by this writer, the light vote helped bring defeat to Ellsworth and Hyde. Perhaps a turnout of upwards of 4,000 would have enabled them to survive the test. This writer believed the interest engendered by the campaign in the final week would coax out a large number of electors. It appeared this would be the case in the forenoon, but the anticipated peak at noon and before the closing hour failed to materialize and that was the election.

There is little question, legislators throughout the state will be apprehensive at the type of legislation they enact that could conceivably spur the ire of the people.

It must be observed here as Hill and others say, the "yes" recall vote reflected the frustration and anger of voters against rising taxation, government costs and other extraneous matters that had nothing to do with

the recall issue itself. Ellsworth and Hyde were the prime targets to register their protests.

As Hyde remarked in a statement, even President Nixon could be recalled at this time if such a nationwide movement were under way. He points out, however, the situation is different when voters are presented an opportunity to vote between two opposing candidates, rather than voting against the one in a recall.

There will be some maneuvering now by the Legislative District 30 Committee under Charles Just, Idaho Falls businessman, on the selection of three nominees for each of the two vacancies, or six in all.

Hill had disclosed his intention of selecting nominees for those with a philosophy which favored the recall. Just and perhaps a majority of the precinct committeemen making up the 17 precincts in the district are more or less middle of the roaders. There shapes up a battle on this. In this respect, Idaho Democratic Gov. Cecil D. Andrus likely will lean towards the middle of roaders, on basis of his comparative liberal record.

Timothy Hopkins, Idaho Falls attorney, one of the co-chairmen backing Ellsworth and Hyde, at this time is the only name mentioned as a possible replacement.

There is mention that Hill

should be a candidate but Hill reiterates he plans to move to Boise within a month and is not interested. The other recall Leader, Keith Brower, Idaho Falls barber, lives outside the legislative district.

Hill said he hopes to have some potential candidates for placement within the next day or two.