

Bush big winner, but none award him nomination yet

By Ken Sullivan
Gazette political writer

DES MOINES — George Bush may have won the Iowa Republican caucuses by virtue of receiving more votes in the straw poll than any other candidate, but those other candidates do not appear willing to concede the nomination to him at this early stage.

Far from it, said Dick Redman of Carlyle, state chairman of Sen. Howard Baker's bid for the GOP presidential nomination.

Redman, along with campaign staff members and volunteers representing nearly every other major candidate for the GOP nod, assembled at the Hotel Fort Des Moines Monday night as the votes began rolling in from straw polls conducted at 2,531 precinct caucus sites around the state.

Despite a slump in the communications network that prevented about a fourth of the votes from being posted today, the trend was obvious: George Bush was leading the pack.

Former U.N. Ambassador Bush's candidacy gained momentum as he tallied nearly 33 percent of the votes cast by approximately 100,000 Iowa Republicans.

But Ronald Reagan, one-time Iowan, former governor of California and a serious contender for the GOP presidential nomination four years ago, was close on his heels, with 26 percent of the vote.

Others in the field were further back — much further — ranging from 13 percent for Baker of Tennessee and just under 10 percent for former Gov. John Connally of Texas, to just a fraction of a percent for former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota.

A mild surprise was turned in by Rep. John Anderson of Illinois, a liberal Republican who had virtually ignored Iowa to concentrate on New Hampshire and other primary states. He garnered nearly twice the support as that given Kansas Sen. Robert Dole, who had campaigned extensively in the final weeks.

Both finished behind Rep. Philip Crane of Illinois, whom some observers believe was helped by his early start and conservative philosophy that pulled some Republicans from the Reagan camp.

For the four top finishers, how-

ever, the battle is just beginning, according to their agents at the GOP caucus center.

Bush, for example, told a reporter he is not ready to view the campaign merely as a two-man race between him and Reagan.

Reagan campaign officials generally remained silent.

John Sears, Reagan's top national strategist, left the GOP vote tabulation center early, declining to talk with reporters.

Later, when the vote count was about half completed and Reagan trailed Bush, Sears issued a one-paragraph statement.

"It's really too close to say. I would like to get more complete returns before making a more complete assessment," he said.

Earlier, Reagan's Iowa campaign director, Peter McPherson, said the tightness of the race did not come as a surprise. "I've said all along it was going to be close," McPherson said.

For his part, Redman declares the Baker campaign is "now launched."

"A good, strong third-place finish is very creditable," he said as returns came in, showing his man with a hammerlock on third, "considering that we have done it all in six weeks."

Redman took over the helm of Baker's foundering Iowa campaign the first week in December.

"I said all along that we were not going to play the numbers game," he noted, pointing to the vote spread between top contenders. "That would be impossible, but I felt third would be very creditable."

He was generous with his praise of the Bush organization, although calling attention to the vast difference in duration of the two groups. Bush, said Redman, "in 15 months has built a tremendous political organization" in Iowa.

He was mildly critical, too, of Reagan's failure to win as most observers expected, which he attributed in part to "failure to campaign in Iowa and several other factors."

"I'll be interested to see what he (Reagan) does from here on out," said Redman.

And Ted Johnson of Cedar Rapids, one of Connally's top Iowa supporters, refused to acknowledge the Texan's campaign was damaged by a fourth-place finish, although he noted, "We could have used a snow-storm.

"We got the percentage that was fairly consistent with what the polls indicated his percentage would be," said Johnson, noting that "on a national basis in the Harris Poll, John Connally is up. Reagan, Baker and Bush are down."

Although he has consistently predicted a caucus turnout in the range of 100,000, Johnson indicated a smaller turnout would have enhanced the percentage of votes Connally received. The numbers were there, he said, meaning Connally workers had turned out those people known to be strong supporters.

Thus, said Johnson, if the turnout "had been half what it was, our percentage would have been twice as big."

"It's a different ball game than many expected."

But that ball game isn't in the bottom of the ninth inning, in Johnson's view. Indeed, he believes the fact Reagan failed to take the top spot in Iowa will "make him a good deal easier to take," said Johnson. "Some of the glitter is off his image."

Whether the impact was real or imagined, the failure of Reagan to campaign extensively in Iowa was at the heart of considerable speculation Monday night.

State GOP Chairman Steve Roberts, for example, suggested Reagan may have committed "a major strategic mistake as far as Iowa is concerned by not doing more campaigning, participating in the debate or attending the Cavalcade of Stars."

Reagan was seldom seen in Iowa during a feverish campaign season that saw most of his opponents make repeated visits to the state. And he attended neither of the events referred to by Roberts, the GOP forum in Des Moines Jan. 5 and the statewide GOP fund-raiser in Ames last fall.

Roberts suggested "you can't campaign in Iowa without being here as a candidate. This is a clear indication."

As he acknowledged the cheers of staff members and volunteers, Bush pledged to carry the campaign to New Hampshire and eventually "to become your next president."

He left Des Moines early this morning for a campaign swing through New Hampshire, where the primary election will be held Feb. 26.

Projected Delegates to State Demo Convention

The following table, provided by the Iowa Democratic party, projects delegate strength at the district and state Democratic conventions, based on Monday night's county caucus delegate selections.

	Carter	Kennedy	Uncommitted
Adair.....	8	4	2
Adams.....	5	2	1
Allamakee.....	9	2	2
Appanoose.....	13	5	1
Audubon.....	8	3	0
Benton.....	20	5	3
Black Hawk.....	80	55	13
Boone.....	22	9	4
Bremer.....	14	5	2
Buchanan.....	12	7	4
Buena Vista.....	14	3	5
Butler.....	7	4	2
Calhoun.....	11	3	3
Carroll.....	17	10	2
Cass.....	10	4	1
Cedar.....	10	5	2
Cerro Gordo.....	32	18	5
Cherokee.....	13	4	2
Chickasaw.....	12	5	2
Clarke.....	8	4	1
Clay.....	15	2	2
Clayton.....	12	4	4
Clinton.....	31	27	3
Crawford.....	12	5	2
Dallas.....	19	12	5
Davis.....	8	4	2
Decatur.....	10	3	1
Delaware.....	10	5	3
Des Moines.....	41	13	4
Dickinson.....	7	4	1
Dubuque.....	65	39	13
Emmet.....	8	4	2
Fayette.....	17	8	3
Floyd.....	14	6	3
Franklin.....	10	2	2
Fremont.....	7	2	1
Greene.....	10	5	3
Grundy.....	8	3	2
Guthrie.....	10	2	3
Hamilton.....	15	5	1
Hancock.....	10	3	1
Hardin.....	15	8	2
Harrison.....	10	6	2
Henry.....	17	2	1
Howard.....	9	4	3
Humboldt.....	6	2	2
Ia.....	8	1	7
Iowa.....	13	5	3
Jackson.....	12	8	1
Jasper.....	25	18	2
Jefferson.....	9	5	1
Johnson.....	40	22	10
Jones.....	12	9	3
Keokuk.....	12	3	3
Kossuth.....	17	6	7
Lee.....	29	14	1
Linn.....	108	99	10
Louis.....	7	2	1
Lucas.....	10	4	1
Lyon.....	5	2	1
Madison.....	10	4	3
Mahaska.....	20	7	0
Marion.....	20	11	2
Marshall.....	22	21	4
Mills.....	6	2	1
Mitchell.....	9	2	2
Monona.....	10	4	1
Monroe.....	7	5	1
Montgomery.....	8	2	0
Muscatine.....	16	12	2
O'Brien.....	9	7	1
Osceola.....	4	2	1
Page.....	6	6	1
Palo Alto.....	10	4	2
Plymouth.....	12	5	2
Pocahontas.....	10	5	1
Polk.....	186	135	35
Pottawattamie.....	40	25	5
Poweshiek.....	12	8	3
Ringgold.....	5	2	1
Sac.....	9	1	5
Scott.....	72	47	8
Shelby.....	8	4	3
Sioux.....	11	4	2
Story.....	49	18	12
Tama.....	12	4	4
Taylor.....	6	2	1
Union.....	12	3	1
Van Buren.....	6	2	0
Wapello.....	22	17	1
Warren.....	26	14	2
Washington.....	16	3	2
Wayne.....	7	3	0
Webster.....	42	15	3
Winnebago.....	10	3	1
Winneshiek.....	10	4	4
Woodbury.....	54	39	7
Worth.....	6	3	1
Wright.....	12	5	2

Computer woes plague vote tally

DES MOINES (UPI) — Computer problems early today stalled efforts to finish counting the results of a presidential straw poll taken in Monday's Republican precinct caucuses.

One party official said it might be Wednesday before a full tally was available.

Republican state Chairman Steve Roberts said a scanning device — used to feed information into the computer — quit working shortly after 5 a.m., with results from at least 400 precincts still uncounted.

Tim Hyde, GOP legislative director, said he was doubtful the tabulation efforts would resume today. He said the mechanical problems were compounded by the fatigue of volunteers who had worked all night tallying the results.

"I don't see how they can do it," he said. "I don't know what's (wrong) with the machine, but those operators could hardly talk."

Scores of volunteers blacked out circles on computer cards throughout the night as results from the 2,531 GOP caucuses were telephoned to the party's tabulation center in a Des Moines hotel.

The cards — with their darkened circles representing votes for this or that presidential candidate — then were fed into an optical scanner which read the darkened circles and tallied the results.

It was the second time the computer balked during the night. As the first results were coming in Monday night, the computer refused to credit votes to the right candidates, delaying the counting effort by 20 minutes. At one point the computer credited Harold Stassen with 803 votes when in reality he had only received three.

The last count before the computer broke down covered results from 1,985 precincts, or 78.43 percent of the total, and registered the straw poll votes of 96,805 Republicans.

The accompanying chart (below) reflects figures available at that time for Republican straw polls in Eastern Iowa counties.

The Democratic chart at left shows how many delegates the candidates will have at the state convention from each county, assuming the ratio of Monday's precinct votes carries over through the March county conventions.

Rep. Tofte hospitalized

DES MOINES — The Iowa House began its second week of the 1980 session today without the services of Rep. Semor Tofte, R-Decorah.

Tofte was reported in good condition in the Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital at Decorah where he was taken over the weekend, reportedly due to a heart condition.

He handled a bill on the House floor last Friday.

ON THIS DATE in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson delivered the speech outlining his famous "10 points" — conditions under which he would urge the United States to enter a world federation.

Kennedy backers blame result on absorption with foreign crises

By John McCarroll
Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Supporters of Sen. Edward Kennedy today attempted to minimize the significance of his loss to President Carter in Monday's Democratic precinct caucuses by explaining that Iowa Democrats were rallying to support the president in troubled times, not voting against the Massachusetts senator.

From several Kennedy campaign workers and supporters the response to the Carter win was the same: Iowa Democrats voted for the president to show their support for his efforts to resolve the Iranian crisis and to deal with the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

"The same kinds of problems we've been saying for the last two months, Iran and Afghanistan and breaking through that wall of discussion centered solely on foreign problems," said Bob Miller, who coordinated Kennedy's two-month campaign in Iowa.

"... not being able to discuss the domestic issues. I think if we had been able to ventilate those issues we would have done better," he said.

Carter won the caucuses with 59 percent to Kennedy's 31 percent, a landslide victory in traditional political terms. It was the first election defeat ever for Kennedy, and only the second for the Kennedy clan in 34 years of campaigning. The other was the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's loss in the 1968 Oregon primary.

Miller admitted he was surprised by the big margin of victory for Carter, and said the Kennedy campaign, which didn't get started formally in Iowa until early November, simply didn't have enough time to catch Carter.

"You try to organize 99 counties in a few months, you know you can get into some of the big ones, but to do it in those rural counties when they've (the Carter campaign) had an opportunity for the president to personally call the party officials out there, it is a tough wall to break through," Miller said.

He complained that the cancellation of the Jan. 7 debate that was to involve Kennedy, Carter and California Gov. Jerry Brown, also a Democratic presidential hopeful, also was a factor in Kennedy's disappointing showing in the caucuses. Carter backed out of the debate, saying he needed to remain in Washington to deal with international affairs.

"I don't think the caucus loss to Carter was a possible death blow to the Kennedy campaign.

It's just the first primary, this is his best hour, his best state

... and there's a lot of primaries coming up and I think as the campaign goes on and the domestic issues are concentrated on more you'll find Sen. Kennedy improving," Miller said.

The candidate, himself, was able to react with a quip and a smile when he conceded defeat to Carter.

"Well, we could have done a little better," the Massachusetts senator told several hundred supporters Monday night at his campaign headquarters. But he, too, forecast better times ahead.

"Tonight, according to my count, President Carter needs 1,643 delegates more to win the nomination. We need 1,657 and we're going to get it."

It will require 1,666 delegates to win the nomination at the Democratic convention this summer.

Carter campaign officials interpreted the Carter victory as something more than simply an expression of support for the president. Robert Strauss, Carter's re-election director, said the caucus vote shows confidence in the president.

"I really think (the caucus vote) ... does show that a president who has character, is intelligent and has integrity, that the people believe in, can make hard, tough, even unpopular decisions and the people of this nation, of all types and kinds will rally behind him," Strauss said.

Strauss shared a small stage with Carter campaign strategist Tim Kraft and Iowa campaign director Bill Romjue to claim victory in the Iowa caucuses long before the final tally was in.

Kraft declined to speculate on what problems the caucus vote might cause for the Kennedy campaign as it moves on to the Feb. 26 New Hampshire primary, but another Carter supporter was quick to suggest what Kennedy might do.

"I would think that in light of what happened here that the senator, being a good Democrat that he is, not having his heart in the campaign, would ... just withdraw," said Floyd Gillotti of Des Moines, the deputy Polk County auditor. Gillotti was one of the first prominent Democrats in the state's largest county to pledge support for Carter during the Georgian's first run at the presidency.

Gillotti said the "die is cast" in the Democratic presidential race as a result of the Iowa caucuses and it "would be a waste of time and resources" for Kennedy to continue challenging the incumbent president.

But Steve Jackson, a Cedar Rapids attorney and head of the Kennedy campaign in Linn County,

wasn't willing to throw in the towel after the caucuses. He was surprised with the margin of the Carter victory, but he too attributed that to the organizational work done by the Carter campaign that was under way before Kennedy announced his candidacy.

No one was hurling accusations of a dirty campaign. To the contrary, Strauss emphasized, it was a clean effort by both Carter and Kennedy.

"This was a heated campaign and a hard-fought campaign, a tough campaign, but I think if you'll examine the rhetoric on each side it wasn't a mean or nasty campaign. And I think the people here would have resented one and I think it's to Senator Kennedy's credit ... (and) our campaign was conducted the same way," Strauss said.

Brown, meanwhile, said Monday night the Iowa caucuses showed "the challenge of Senator Kennedy is failing."

"And it now becomes my responsibility to mount the challenge," Brown said at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in mid-town Manhattan, where he watched the caucus results on television.

The California Democrat, who had asked his supporters to vote uncommitted, said he was not discouraged by the 13 percent uncommitted vote or by the 0.5 percent vote he had drawn in CBS estimates of caucus voting.

"I take uncommitted as a lack of acceptance of either" President Carter or the Massachusetts senator, he said. Kennedy, he said, had made "a full-court press" in Iowa.

"Now we go to a larger arena (New Hampshire) and I intend to mount a vigorous challenge to Jimmy Carter," he said.

GOP Straw Poll

	Anderson	Baker	Bush	Connally	Crane	Dole	Reagan	Uncomm.
Allamakee.....	10	49	92	32	22	6	161	4
Benton.....	11	101	224	154	41	17	183	12
Buchanan.....	11	73	183	110	63	16	200	2
Cedar.....	8	59	173	52	64	8	106	7
Clayton.....	19	104	157	64	23	20	130	9
Delaware.....	3	9	25	15	2	3	11	3
Fayette.....	5	61	87	62	38	8	142	11
Iowa.....	8	66	172	50	68	36	102	15
Johnson.....	754	426	1,484	294	196	17	419	—
Jones.....	4	49	114	76	79	3	77	8
Poweshiek.....	95	99	159	88	19	9	127	2
Tama.....	8	59	128	52	70	38	341	5
Washington.....	19	17	140	30	66	11	109	2
Winneshiek.....	13	43	105	34	57	3	72	2

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