

THE SENATE

Maryland's Mathias Bows Out

The Republican majority in the Senate now stands at a slender 53-47, and the chances of its surviving the 1986 elections decrease each time a G.O.P. member announces plans to retire. Those who have done so: Arizona's Barry Goldwater, Nevada's Paul Laxalt and North Carolina's ailing John East. Last week Maryland's Charles ("Mac") Mathias Jr. said he too would not run. One of the last liberal Republicans in high office, Mathias, 63, was elected to the House in 1960, then won his Senate seat in 1968. As a drafter of many key civil rights laws, he was proudest of his role in that "peaceful revolution." For years he exemplified the style, balance and intellect that were once characteristic of the proud upper chamber. Yet when his own party came to power under Ronald Reagan, he found himself at odds with the G.O.P. right. Mathias was the only Republican in the Senate to vote against Reagan's 1981 tax bill.



A liberal's departure

Maryland Democrats outnumber Republicans 3 to 1, and to many observers, Mathias' retirement means that his seat could be won by a Democrat, perhaps Governor Harry Hughes. One possibility as a G.O.P. contender: former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick.

BLACKS

Not Following the Leaders

The Reagan Administration has long contended that black leaders do not represent the views of the black community as a whole. Last week that argument got some support. A poll in *Public Opinion* magazine, the journal of the American Enterprise Institute, indicated that a majority of blacks do not support liberal prescriptions favored by most of their leaders.

More than three-fourths of the 105 black leaders polled favored affirmative-action preferences in hiring and college admissions; by the same percentage, the survey's 600 black citizens rejected the notion that race should be the main criterion. Leaders heavily favored abortion, busing to achieve school integration and a ban on school prayer, while large percentages of all blacks opposed those views. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the N.A.A.C.P., claimed that despite the survey's findings, most leaders were in tune with the sensibilities of the black community. The split indicated in the poll holds true for attitudes toward the man in the White House. Nearly a third of all blacks said they liked the way Ronald Reagan is doing his job, while only 13% of black leaders felt that way.

CONGRESS

A Not So Humble House

The "people's House" is becoming richer and richer. Figures reported last week by New York City's Democracy Project, a liberal think tank, and the Public Interest Research Group, a similar institution in Washington, D.C., showed that the wealth of the 43 new members elected last year to the House of Representatives was almost four times greater than that reported by the 77 freshmen elected in 1978, after accounting for inflation. On the average, each of the 43 Representatives had assets of \$251,296, vs. \$41,358 for the 1978 group. Among the new lawmakers are as many as 15 millionaires, compared with only one in 1978. The wealthiest: Georgia Republican Patrick Swindall, with minimum assets of \$1.1 million, not including his home.

The tabulations were the idea of Mark Green, head of the Democracy Project and a longtime Ralph Nader associate. Congressmen spent an average of \$459,344 to get elected, and of that sum an average of \$50,329 came from their own pockets. This "congressional plutocracy" worries Green, who argues that diverse democracy cannot be represented adequately by a "one-class Congress." His solution: using tax money to provide partial financing of congressional campaigns.



Georgia's Swindall

FOREIGN AID

The Antiabortionists Win One

Between 1979 and 1984, 53 million abortions were performed in China. Many occurred during the last three months of pregnancy and against the women's wishes. Antiabortion activists in and out of the Reagan Administration have long fought to stop the use of American dollars for such programs, and last week they scored a victory. The Agency for International Development said it would withhold \$10 million from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which has sent money to China for birth control. Instead, said M. Peter McPherson, the agency's administrator, the money would be "reprogrammed" toward family planning services in other countries.

Jack Kemp, a conservative Republican who is a strong backer of the agency's move, said that withholding money was a way to expose China's "demonstrably bad practices." So far, experts do not believe that the action will seriously harm relations between the U.S. and China, which denies that its methods are coercive. But a bigger threat lies ahead. Unless it withdraws from China or persuades Peking to change its policies, the U.N. agency will not get another dime from the U.S. That would cut the budget by \$46 million and curtail its population-control efforts.

WASHINGTON

Still 3,000 to 0

Change just keeps grinding away at the Cosmos Club, the 107-year-old Washington institution with the slightly seedy lobby and stately French Renaissance façade. In 1962 the club rule excluding blacks was dropped, but only after several members resigned and President John F. Kennedy's nomination was withdrawn over the blackballing of Carl Rowan. Now the issue concerns the policy encapsulated by a small gold sign at the base of the club's red-carpeted staircase: MEMBERS AND MALE GUESTS ONLY AT THIS HOUR. Not since its founding in 1878 has the 3,000-member Cosmos included a woman.

Last week the club's board of management considered the matter of Samuel Hayes, 75, a retired economist who heads a committee that has been pressing to admit women. In a letter to members, the board described Hayes' crusade as "ungentlemanly." So far, no disciplinary action has been announced. The pro-



Entrance to the Cosmos Club

women faction vowed to push ahead. "The club has suffered from this exclusionary policy," said an unrepentant Hayes last week. "We have cut ourselves off from society." The last time the membership was surveyed on the issue, in 1980, 41% supported the admission of women.