

# Reflections On The Election

The losers and the winners, the Monday morning quarterbacks and the professional analysts, all were tracking back through Maryland's political menagerie last week to see why things happened as they did. Even some of the losers were saying: "I told you so."

The big fact was that Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin had become the first Republican ever to be elected to a second term as governor of the State, by a thumping 61,000 popular vote majority over Dr. H. C. Byrd, ex-president of the University of Maryland.

But at the same time this happened, voters elected a Democratic attorney general, C. Ferdinand Sybert; elected a new Democratic congressman to swing the balance to four Democrats and three Republicans in

the House of Representatives, and increased the Democratic grip on the State Legislature.

## Sodaro Re-Elected

While Baltimore city gave McKeldin a heavy majority it, nevertheless, re-elected a Democratic State's attorney, Anselm Sodaro, by a vote of 137,271 to 75,379 over his Republican opponent, Lester Crowther.

Some of the second-guessers (and even first guessers) said the Democratic party had been rent asunder on the governor vote by the epic battle between George Mahoney and Dr. Byrd after the primary. Mahoney never took an active part in the general election campaign.

Efforts by some Democrats to inject a racial issue into the campaign (trying to leave the impression that if they elected a governor he could do something about the Supreme Court decision against school segregation) had picked up a few votes in the wool-hat sections, but it had been poison in both Negro and liberal sections.

## Frank Small Beaten

The steady drumfire of criticism against Dr. Byrd's "dictatorial methods" at the University of Maryland had also found its mark in some voter sentiment. The Byrd criticisms of McKeldin included some charges of financial deals that were a bit too complicated for many voters to understand.

Add all this to the fact that the "ins" always have an advantage over the "outs," said the experts, and McKeldin was "in again."

Three of the incumbent Republican Congressmen—Miller, Devereux and Hyde—were re-elected. In Southern Maryland's Fifth district, an Annapolis attorney, Richard Lankford, won for the Democrats over Frank Small. Lankford's victory, along with those of incumbents Garmatz, Fallon and Friedel, turned the congressional balance against the GOP.

Ten new State senators were elected to the General Assembly, all but one of them Democrats.

At the same time the city's Fourth district elected the first Negro ever to serve in the Maryland Legislature, Truly Hatchett, a Democrat and a candidate supported by James H. (Jack) Pollack, district boss.

Overall in the House of Delegates, the Democrats brought their number to 99 against the Republican total of 24. In the Senate, the Democrats held 22 seats to 7 for the GOP.