Republicans get major gains in House, Senate

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the Republican gains. He explained that Carter repaid his 1976 supporters with Republican-like policies and thereby "lost crucial ground." "People decided some leadership is better than no leadership. Jimmy Carter blew it by an increase in abstentions." Burnham stressed it was a "Big Election."

Menand had another view. "The electorate seemed to be responding to life being too complex," he said. "There is a desire to go back to a simpler way of life, and Reagan exemplifies that." Menand said Americans are reaching for individual instead of group wealth, a stand Reagan exemplifies.

MIT President Emeritus Jerome Wiesner saw the election as a very sad one. "Reagan exploited the economy and Carter didn't deal with it," Wiesner commented. Carter looked at long term defense, while Reagan "undercut with short-term issues" that the people are concerned with.

As for the Anderson difference, both Burnham and Menand believe it was negligible, while Wiesner thinks it "lifted the level of the campaign." Menand said the hostage issue did "increase public perception" in the election, however. Burnham said that the issues remaining open and unresolved at the last minute created a "shifting from a clear win to a landslide," as the American people are "humiliated and angry" over the situation.

The Senate change is seen as an extremely important occurrence by all. "The Senate did not change markedly in previously recent landslides," said Menand. Burnham called it "an amazing breakthrough for the Right." Menand does not see Reagan as a "world order politician," but rather as nationalist. "He has a lack of understanding of SALT and must be willing to learn how to negotiate," he remarked.

Wiesner believed both candidates were given an awareness of the arms race during the campaign. He stressed, "He must keep the West Alliance viable." Burnham suggested investors seriously look into defense-related investments, as there should be an increase in defense spending and "much more aggressive foreign policies."

"Reagan is not against education," commented Wiesner. "Menand, however, sees "decreased support for public education" but does not fear for private institutions. He believed Reagan might try to eliminate the Department of Education but will not succeed. "It may be serious for basic research funds," he added.

Burnham finds a turn of education responsibilities over to the states, as well as corporate funding, possible in the next four years.

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