

# The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition

Published by THE EVENING STAR NEWSPAPER CO., Washington, D. C.

SAMUEL H. KAUFFMANN, *Chairman of the Board*

CROSBY N. BOYD, *President*

NEWBOLD NOYES, *Editor*

BENJAMIN M. McKELWAY, *Editorial Chairman*

A—26

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1966

## Upset in Georgia

Although Ellis Arnall was the odds-on favorite to win Georgia's gubernatorial runoff primary, there were a few people—not many—who thought that Lester G. Maddox might just possibly squeeze out a victory. No one dreamed, however, that he would win by some 70,000 votes. And there are plenty of people who are now asking: What does this mean?

It would be easy to conclude that Maddox, a segregationist who closed his Atlanta restaurant rather than serve Negroes, is a beneficiary of the racial issue. And to some extent he doubtless is, especially against the background of the recent senseless race flareup in Atlanta. But this is not the whole story—not any more so than racial disorders are the sole explanation of this week's Senate show of displeasure with the way hospital and school desegregation guidelines have been handled. Majority Leader Mike Mansfield probably spoke for most of the Senate members when he said that the disaffection was not concerned with desegregation as such, but resulted from a general feeling that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare had been moving "too fast."

There is no way of knowing to what extent racial resentment figured in the decision of Georgia Democrats to cast their ballots for Maddox. But it is a matter of record that Maddox said little about the race issue during his campaign. His big rhetorical guns were reserved for the federal government,

President Johnson, the Great Society, liberalism, socialism and communism. Arnall, on the other hand, was tagged with being a "Washington man." And during the campaign he could not get out from under a statement, widely attributed to him, that "I am a national Democrat and anyone who doesn't like it can go to hell."

So, hopefully at least, it looks now as though Georgia will not be ripped up one side and down the other by a governorship campaign keyed to race in the weeks which remain before the November election.

The Republican candidate is Representative Howard Callaway, who was a Democrat until 1964, when he swung over and helped carry Georgia for Senator Goldwater. Callaway is not a racist, and he can be expected to make his bid for the governorship primarily as an anti-administration man.

When the runoff voting patterns have been checked out, Maddox may conclude, of course, that racial feeling was the sleeper in his big win. But then, again, he may not. He may decide to stick to the formula which carried him so successfully through the primary.

If this proves to be the case, LBJ and all his works will be in for a fearful pounding on the Georgia hustings during the next few weeks. But that is greatly to be preferred to a campaign that could undo the notable progress which Georgia has made in recent years in building a better racial climate.