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Segregationist Tops Arnall In Georgia Democrat Runoff

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—Lester G. Maddox, a segregationist running a shoestring campaign, has captured the Democratic nomination for governor—upsetting a moderate candidate and Georgia's middleroad racial course.

Maddox, a furniture merchant who quit the cafeteria business rather than be forced to serve Negroes, decisively defeated Ellis G. Arnall, a former governor, in yesterday's primary runoff. Arnall had led a six-man race two weeks ago.

"God and the people are my campaign managers," exulted Maddox, 50, after pulling off the upset without big-money backers or the support of high-ranking politicians, reported the vote count stood at: Maddox 419,557, Arnall 356,078.

Not a Racial Campaign

A fiery opponent of the federal government, President Johnson, liberalism, socialism and communism, Maddox says he shares the racial views of Alabama's Gov. George C. Wallace. But Maddox said very little about racial issues in his campaign.

Arnall, 59, who scored a major upset two decades ago to win the governorship over the popular Eugene Talmadge, had charged in the runoff fight that Maddox was radical and an extremist, a man whose symbols were ax handles and pistols.

A Look at the Lester Maddox Political Method. Page A-12

Maddox, in resisting integration in 1964 and 1965, once waved a pistol to chase Negroes from his place and provided ax handles for white patrons. When ordered by a court to serve Negroes, Maddox quit the cafeteria business.

Arnall met Maddox to concede personally. Some followers of Arnall said Republicans voted for Maddox as the easier opponent for their nominee in November.

Taking on Maddox in the first Georgia two-party contest for governor since Reconstruction will be Rep. Howard H. (Bo) Callaway, the state's lone Republican congressman. He is a conservative ex-Democrat who helped carry the state for Barry Goldwater in 1964.

The voting patterns were jumbled strangely—adding at least some weight to the view that Republicans voted for Maddox. In the Goldwater strongholds of Macon, Augusta and Columbus, Arnall managed bare majorities after leading the field two weeks ago in those same cities.

In the lieutenant governor's race, the voters nominated moderate George T. Smith, speaker of the Georgia House, over conservative Peter Zack Geer, the incumbent.

Geer told newsmen last night: "I want to tell you one more time—I'm still the lieutenant governor of the white folks. I'm glad Lester Maddox beat Ellis Arnall."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who lives in Atlanta, said the voting "revealed that Georgia is desperately competing with Mississippi for the bottom."

"I must confess that Mr. Maddox's victory causes me to be ashamed to be a Georgian. This pretends that the days ahead in race relations will be confusingly dreary and the nights will be darker than a thousand midnights."

Maddox takes charge of the almost completely disorganized Democratic party which under Gov. Carl E. Sanders has steered a moderate racial course.

Maddox will control the state delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968 and serve as titular party chief, even if he loses to Callaway on Nov. 8.

Wallace is expected to run for president on a third-party ticket in '68.

Other Results

In other contests yesterday, Rep. G. Elliott Hagan won re-nomination to Congress from Georgia's 1st District, beating

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