Yarborough, Connally Lead Student Gubernatorial Poll

By GARY HANOVICH

Either the candidates for Governor of Texas are failing to reach Rice students in their campaigns, or Riceites just don’t care. 42% of those questioned in a 108-vote Thresher opinion poll this week expressed no opinion about the forthcoming election.

The remaining 58 votes were divided among five Democrats and one Republican. (Former Major-General Edwin A. Walker, Democratic candidate for the post, did not receive any votes nor did Republican Roy Whittensburg.)

REPUBLICAN Jack Cox led the field with eighteen votes. Among the Democrats, Houston attorney Don Yarborough was first with fourteen.

He was followed by former Navy Secretary John Connally with twelve. Incumbent Governor Price Daniel was third with nine; former Texas Highway Commissioner Marshall Formby had three; and Attorney-General Will Wilson received two votes.

EX-GENERAL Walker did receive some support—but only from non-Texans, who were not included in the poll. Their feelings were summed up by the girl who said, “I’m for Walker because he’s what you Texans deserve.”

Some of those who confessed no opinion stated that they hadn’t made up their minds, but over half admitted little knowledge about or interest in the race. The common statement of this opinion was “I have no idea,” or “I couldn’t care less.”

Many couldn’t name a single candidate in the contest.

STUDENT RESPONSES to a query about reasons for their choices were highly varied, ranging from the short “Connally’s a friend of my parents,” to a long political speech about Formby’s lack of backing by special interests and his stand against merit insurance.

One professed liberal gave four reasons for supporting Don Yarborough in the Democratic primary: “Connally, Daniel, Wilson, and Walker—in that order.”

When asked about Formby, he said, “Who’s he?”

YARBOROUGH got one vote in a somewhat circuitous manner. “I don’t remember his name, but I’m for that fella from Houston because I can’t stand the others.”

A campus politician explained his vote for Connally with this statement: “I’m for Connally because the breadth of his experience in all kinds of business qualifies him best to run a business as big as the State of Texas.”

Incumbent Price Daniel drew some praise for his past record, but one student based his vote on the fact that “he’s against the sales tax.”

“FORMBY IS by far the best,” explained one student. “He did a good job as Highway Commissioner.” Another Formby supporter admitted that his vote for the West Texan was based on the fact that he was talked into being an officer of the Formby-for-Governor Club at Rice.

Only one of the two Wilson supporters gave a reason for his choice. “He should have been Governor years ago.”

SOME OF THE Texans who expressed opinions on the primary races admitted that they are eligible, but not voting. “I would not vote in any primary,” said one disgruntled voter. Another explained simply, “I don’t believe in the poll tax.”

The Thresher gubernatorial poll was taken at various places around campus on a random basis in an attempt to get a completely impartial poll.