Lindsay Points Way For Cities

By RICHARD BEST

The City of New York has a new mayor. A verifiably Yale-educated, white Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, and, wonder of wonders, Republican mayor.

New York seldom elects members of the GOP, especially when their name is not LaGuardia, but it has done so now and over the opposition of Abe Beame, the Democratic nominee endorsed by Messrs. Johnson, Humphrey, and R. Kennedy, and Mr. William F. Buckley, the Conservative party candidate endorsed by the editorial staff of the ‘National Review.’

Mr. John V. Lindsay did not carry his running mates into office with him and thus faces an entrenched Democratic administration — but Gracie Mansion like T. R.'s White House will make, no doubt, a “bully pulpit.”

Mr. Lindsay represents a special kind of Republican a true man of the Left, yet within the tradition of Lincoln. This fact has given the election a national import, for its course will alter the future of the party which in 1964, capitulated to what Mr. Goldwater chose to call conservatism.

It was not for nothing that one fair young maid at this school so far removed from the Subway’s Bagdad wore a Buckley ribbon and prayed for a miracle. The latter candidate who has for years snarled at and spat at Lindsay with unseemly felicity — entered the race for the sole purpose of spoiling the attempted comeback of what he considered a fraudulent Republican, who as a Republican congressman has often given the Democratic administration a crucial lever of support.

It is surely one of politics' juicier ironies that Mr. Beame publicly blamed his loss on Buckley’s inroads in normally safe Democratic districts. Mr. Lindsay most certainly did not count on much support from Mr. Goldwater; Mr. Buckley assured him his victory by drawing many Democratic voters that had reasons of their own for not voting for Beame, but could never vote for Lindsay.

Lindsay has been able to draw positive support from many non-New Yorkers because of his courageous, or at least unique, stands on civil liberties. He once voted by himself, and against 435 colleagues, against an “obscene mail” bill which would have required the sender to prove the inoffensiveness of his material.