Nixon Gallups Past Kennedy In Student Poll

By GRIFFIN SMITH

Richard Nixon swept the Thresher presidential primary over Senator John Kennedy, with a victory of such staggering proportions that it amazed even confirmed Nixonites.

Of the 551 votes cast, Nixon captured a fraction under 70 per cent. The results were:

Nixon ............... 384
Kennedy ............. 167

RESULTS OF the party-preference question were hardly less surprising. “Independent” was checked by 201 voters, and “Republican” by 190. The Democrats trailed badly with 152. In view of the South’s (and Texas’) traditional Democratic leanings, this would indicate either a great strengthening of Nixon’s own position in the area, or else wholesale defections by students from the political outlook of their parents. There is probably merit in both opinions.

A BREAKDOWN of the way voters in each political grouping cast their ballots also spells trouble for Kennedy. Republicans voted 98 per cent for Nixon, 2 per cent for Kennedy. Democrats, on the other hand, voted 26 per cent for Nixon and 74 per cent for Kennedy. Most important of all, Nixon gathered in a whopping 76 per cent of those voters who classed themselves as independents.

AS ALWAYS, a few minority candidates picked up scattered votes. Eric Hass of the (Continued on Page 5)
(Continued from Page 1)

Socialist Labor party led the also-rans with seven votes, followed by Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus with two (he has neither accepted nor rejected his nomination by the National

States Rights Party) and Mississippian Charles Sullivan of the Constitution Party with one vote.

A lesser-known political figure, the Avoidist Party's Clayton Slope, also got one vote.

A PROTEST of sorts—probably against the “liberalism” of both party platforms—was indicated by four die-hard votes for Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, leader of the conservative wing of the Republican party, and by the fact that several ballots were turned in with “conservative” or “Jeffersonian Democrat” written beside the party affiliations.

The Thresher poll, of course, did not and could not determine why an individual voted for a particular candidate. That can be discovered—if at all—only by personal conversation.

BUT ITEMS ranging from the general tone of campus talk to the large amounts (up to 25 per cent) of “undecided” voters nationwide lend solid credence to the theory that the 1960 election will be decided by votes against a particular personality, platform, or idea rather than by votes explicitly in favor of these things.

There is a tremendous body of opinion, both at Rice and nationwide, which says — as one Rice voter wrote on his ballot — “Confidentially, neither party is offering anyone worth voting for.”