Professors Stick With Democrats

By P. F. McGOWAN

In vivid contrast to the pro-Nixon sentiment of the student body, a Thresher faculty opinion poll indicates that the Rice faculty favors Sen. John Kennedy by a 16% margin over Vice President Richard Nixon.

Approximately three-fourths of the faculty received ballots, but only 43% of the ballots were returned marked. The percentage results were:

Kennedy ............... 58%
Nixon ................ 42%

THE MOST SURPRISING result obtained by the poll shows that within the faculty itself a sharp political division exists between the academic and the science-engineering departments. The academic departments cast 90% of their votes for Kennedy, while the science-engineering ones voted 75% for Nixon.

The student poll of last month showed that the students tended to classify themselves first as Independent, then as Republican, and least of all as Democratic. But the faculty party preference followed the traditional Southern pattern to a close extent: 45% Democratic, 33% Independent, and only 22% Republican.

Very few of the faculty switched parties with regard to their 1956 election choices. Of those voting for Kennedy, 87% had voted for Stevenson four years ago; of those voting for Nixon, 89% had voted for Eisenhower.

THE FACULTY MEMBERS

were asked to state their reasons for choosing Kennedy-Johnson or Nixon-Lodge. Dr. Louis Mackey of the Philosophy Department came out for Kennedy because:

"He is a Democrat in the tradition of Roosevelt and Truman. I believe the policies of the Democratic party have consistently been the policies that promoted: 1) a realistic recognition of the need for federal legislation to

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(Continued from Page 1) further the general welfare of the people; 2.) a realistic recognition of the responsibility of this nation to the international community. In opposition to the Republican party, which loudly professes a belief in freedom and individuality, but which in practice has furthered the growth of irresponsible corporate power, the Democratic party has consistently acted on the realistic view that individual freedom is possible only in a context of public and governmental responsibility.”

ON THE OTHER HAND, Dr. P. L. Donohoo, Assistant Professor of Physics, comes out strongly against Kennedy in saying: “I feel that Mr. Kennedy is representative of the philosophy that advocates Federal Control over any area in which there is presently a far-from-ideal state. I do not quarrel with his views that much needs to be done in the areas of education and civil rights — only with his methods. I feel that his party’s agricultural policies will impose an intolerable burden on the nation. I feel that his statements on foreign policy are immature and unconstructive.”

DR. FLOYD LEAR of the History Department agrees with the choice of Nixon: “I think the nation will experience greater financial and fiscal responsibility under a Republican administration. Internal domestic stability and security from external aggression depend in large measure upon maintaining a sound economy.”

But Dr. Paul E. Pfiffer, Professor of Electrical Engineering, opposes Nixon and supports Kennedy: “Although I consider both candidates capable men, I have considerable resident distrust of Nixon’s convictions held over from previous campaigns. I am not impressed by his record of “handling” the Russians. While I should prefer Lodge over Johnson, Lodge’s action in the U.N. has not always measured up to my ideas of mature statesmanship.

“I FEEL THAT KENNEDY has a better intellectual grasp of the problems facing him. He has proved his political “know-how” in his campaign for nomination. While he will certainly have trouble with conservative Democrats, he will have a better chance of working with a Congress that will most likely be Democratic.”

DR. J. C. WILHOIT of Mechanical Engineering believes that Mr. Nixon is “more likely to be firm in dealing with the Russians” and also would allow “less federal usurpation of powers reserved to the states.” Dr. A. B. Bryan of Physics says: “I strongly oppose continuing deficit spending and the resultant inflation—I believe Nixon is more in favor of this view than Kennedy although we will probably have further deficits and inflation in any case.”

Very strongly against Nixon is Dr. John B. Pickard of the English Department, who argues that: “Nixon is: 1.) an opportunist; 2.) has no principles, political or otherwise; 3.) argues emotionally rather than logically; 4.) has bad taste in using wife, children, dog and anything else that would get him the presidency.” Dr. G. R. MacLane of Mathematics also picks Kennedy but only as “the lesser of two evils.”