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Dear David,

US ELECTIONS: PRIMARIES

- Goldwater and Reagan both went down to defeat in Tuesday's primary elections in California. Congressman Barry Goldwater, son of a famous Senator, and Maureen Reagan, older daughter of the President, were both defeated in their bids for the Republican Senate nomination. The nomination was won by the moderate Republican mayor of San Diego, Pete Wilson, whose other challengers also included Congressman Pete McCloskey (who came second) and conservative Congressman Robert Dorman.
- In the Democratic primary, retiring Governor Jerry Brown captured the nomination with 51% of the Democratic vote. His nearest challenger was Gore Vidal. Mayor Bradley of Los Angeles won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. If elected in November, he will be the first elected black Governor in the United States.
- At one time, Barry Goldwater had been the favourite to win the Republican nomination. Well-founded rumours about his louche private life life, combined with the equally well-founded belief that he is a bone-head, contribute to his poor showing. Throughout the campaign, he had refused to take part in debates with his rivals. Given his recorded views on foreign policy ("I don't know. I am a casual if not an intense observer of the world situation ... I guess I am a little confused myself") it is perhaps as well. Although she came last, Maureen Reagan did at least address herself to local issues. She suffered from lack of money and therefore television advertising. Goldwater, by contrast, had plenty of money, much of it raised through a mailing campaign led by his father.
- Although the White House did not openly endorse any Republican candidates, the President's own hopes were probably reflected in his brother Neil's support for Wilson. Certainly, the President gave no support to his daughter, even at one stage openly expressing the hope that she would not run. Wilson is a moderate (who supported Ford against Reagan in 1976). The polls have shown that he has the best chance of beating Jerry Brown in November. It is important for the Republicans to hold on to this seat. The poor

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performance of the present incumbent (Senator Hayakawa) and the star quality of Jerry Brown have rendered it vulnerable. However, Brown has fallen victim to the Med Fly disaster and will have an uphill struggle. In an effort to divert attention from his own performance, he has indicated that he will base much of his campaign on support for a nuclear freeze, which will be a proposition on the ballot paper in November. Wilson by contrast has an interest in keeping Brown's failings clearly before the electorate. He received predictably enthusiastic support from Republicans by opening his acceptance speech with the words "Goodbye Jerry Brown".

5. While still in California, it is worth noting that Tom Hayden, husband of Jane Fonda and one-time anti-war activist, won the Democratic nomination for a seat in the California State Assembly.

6. I have recorded in my letter about the November elections the victory in the New Jersey Republican primary of Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick. She is a moderate (who also supported Ford against Reagan in 1976) but I would not read too much of political significance into the fact that the Republican opponent whom she beat (Jeffrey Bell) is a former member of Reagan's staff and a strong supporter of Reaganomics. There is no doubt that Ms Fenwick's liberalism and concentration on the need to get people back to work helped her. But the New Jersey gubernatorial election earlier this year showed that the voters there have not altogether turned against Reaganomics and the main reason for Mr Bell's defeat was, as he put it, that there was no way he could compete with the "Millicent magic".

7. I enclose a summary of other results from the Washington Post. It is worth noting that in Ohio, Democratic Congressman Ronald Mottl was defeated by a Democratic rival who focussed his campaign on Mottl's support for Reaganomics. Mottl supported the President's tax cuts in 1981. Tip O'Neill has said that Mottl's defeat sends a message to other Democrats who have supported the President's economic policies, a fair point to make to try to hold off Democratic defections in the current budget battle, but one which overlooks the fact that Mottl was the only Democrat to support Reagan last year and that defections come from sunbelt Democrats who, for historical reasons, are Republicans in everything but name.

8. I owe thanks to Angus Mackay in Los Angeles for his report on the California primaries on which I have drawn in this letter.

Jan.
Steph
J S Wall

cc: A Mackay Esq, LOS ANGELES