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South Wales Echo

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ASSEMBLY RESULTS

Assembly: Massive No vote in all eight counties

IT'S THE D-DAY MASSACRE OF THE WELSH YES-MEN

By PAUL KEEL

THE WELSH ASSEMBLY proposals have been slaughtered at the polls with a resounding No vote from the people of Wales, who threw devolution out by almost four-to-one.

As each of the eight Welsh counties declared their verdicts today, the decisive defeat was hammered home by a total of 958,537 votes cast against the Assembly to 243,048 Yes votes.

Welsh voting

With all county results declared, the voting is:

Total Yes vote 243,048.

Total No vote 958,537.

Yes vote 12 p.c. of electorate entitled to vote.

Total Yes vote needed to reach 40 p.c.—815,220.

How they voted

SOUTH GLAMORGAN
Electorate: 280,389 Votes cast: 166,912
Yes: 21,836 No: 144,186
Yes percentage of votes cast: 13
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 8

MID GLAMORGAN
Electorate: 209,753 Votes cast: 232,026
Yes: 46,747 No: 184,196
Yes percentage of votes cast: 20
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 12

GWENT
Electorate: 310,544 Votes cast: 176,947
Yes: 21,309 No: 155,389
Yes percentage of votes cast: 12
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 7

WEST GLAMORGAN
Electorate: 273,399 Votes cast: 159,694
Yes: 29,665 Against: 128,834
Yes percentage of votes cast: 19
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 11

POWYS
Electorate: 80,608 Votes cast: 53,520
Yes: 9,843 No: 43,502
Yes percentage of votes cast: 18
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 12

DYFED
Electorate: 245,229 Votes cast: 160,359
Yes: 44,849 No: 114,947
Yes percentage of votes cast: 28
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 18

GWYNEDD
Electorate: 169,529 Votes cast: 108,834
Yes: 37,363 No: 71,187
Yes percentage of votes cast: 34
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 22

CLWYD
Electorate: 282,106 Votes cast: 145,738
Yes: 31,384 No: 114,119
Yes percentage of votes cast: 22
Yes percentage of those entitled to vote: 11

Of those entitled to vote 59 per cent went to the polls with 41 per cent registering their opposition and only 12 per cent saying Yes.

At no time did the Assembly supporters have a hope of achieving anything like the 40 per cent. Yes vote necessary before the Assembly could be set up.

In South Wales the biggest defeats for the devolution proposals were registered in South, Mid and West Glamorgan and Gwent.

The South Glamorgan result was declared although the votes were not counted in for.

West Glamorgan's rejection of the Government's plans is a personal blow to Welsh Secretary John Morris who has been closely associated with the legislation since its inception, and whose constituency is in the county.

Gwynedd, which returns two Plaid Cymru MPs to Parliament, was the Assembly supporters' main hope.

Less than 60 per cent of the electorate voted in the referendum.

After all eight county poll figures, Welsh average turnout was 58.3 per cent, of names entitled to vote, and 42 per cent of the adjusted electorate after deductions of abstentions, the dead, multiple registrations and non-UK passport holders.

Highest figures

Highest poll for Wales was in Monmouth, Gwynedd, where nearly 71 per cent of the electorate turned out. Lowest was in Wrexham where only 45 per cent voted.

The average poll for the whole of Wales was 59 per cent and this was reduced in Mid Glamorgan — the most heavily populated county in Wales—where almost 70 people, 58.2 per cent of the total electorate of 398,043, cast their vote.

The poll in Cardiff was 57.49 per cent and in the Vale of Glamorgan it topped 62 per cent.

A breakdown of the number of people who voted in each of the eight counties of Wales is given below.

MID GLAMORGAN (electorate 394,963): Ballot papers received, 232,026; per centage poll, 58.75.

SOUTH GLAMORGAN (electorate 282,907): Ballot papers received, 166,810; poll, 58.96.

WEST GLAMORGAN (electorate 273,853): Ballot papers received, 159,694; poll, 58.3.

GWENT (electorate 310,397): Ballot papers received 177,071; poll, 57.1.

CLWYD (electorate 284,620): Ballot papers received, 145,783; poll, 51.2.

POWYS (electorate 80,817): Ballot papers received, 53,473; poll, 66.2.

GWYNEDD (electorate 171,054): Ballot papers received, 108,834; poll, 63.6.

DYFED (electorate 247,637): Ballot papers received, 160,359; poll, 64.7.

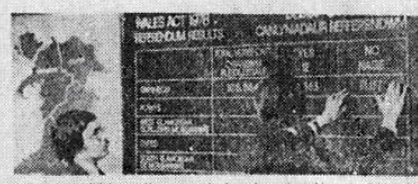
The following are the per-centage polls in some of the so-called "safe" constituencies: Cardiff, 57.7; Vale of Glamorgan, 62; Cynon, 57.2; Rhondda, 58; Merthyr Tydfil, 54; Ogmore, 60; Rhymney Valley, 60.7; Islwyn, 60.8; Monmouth, 61.4; Torfaen, 57.28; Newport, 59.22; Blaenau Gwent, 55.79; Torfaen, 57.28; Pontypridd, 58.

Baby for Mrs. JPR —on St. David's Day

IT just HAD to be a St David's Day baby for Welsh rugby star Dr. J. P. R. Williams and his wife Bella . . . so the new Miss Williams obliged and arrived two weeks ahead of time yesterday afternoon.

The baby weighed in at 8lb. 1oz. when she made her debut at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, at 3.27 p.m. and today mother and baby—pictured above—were said to be "very well indeed."

J.P.R. and Bella have another daughter, Lauren Louise, who was born in April 1977.



● The first Welsh result goes on the board—and it's No from Gwynedd.

Question mark on future of Morris

By GORDON JACKSON

A BIG question mark hangs over the future of Welsh Secretary John Morris — the Callaghan Cabinet Minister who has gone out on a limb over devolution.

Did the word in Westminster this afternoon, as the full extent came in, that the pro-devolution cabinet, was that he was no intention of resigning — both if, as expected, Wales gives a big thumbs down to his devolution arguments.

Mr. Morris will be the first senior Minister to react to the referendum verdicts at a news conference this evening, being staged not in Cardiff but far from the battleground in Whitehall.

Meanwhile, Mr. Morris goes to Downing Street tonight to explain what looks the being his massive over-simplification of what the people of Wales really want—and he will have some hard talking to do.

Mr. Morris has described the present local government system as finished—yet, as the Cabinet Minister in charge of the government strings, he will have to go on working with the present 1974 detested legislation.

He has described the Assembly proposals as a reformation, and has insisted that the Welsh Assembly will be a real one, with many of the powers now exercised by the Welsh Office. Whether a second bodge job can be put through the House of Commons to the Welsh Assembly is not so.

The accusation of his opponents is that he has already pawned the future, without any real regard to what the people desire themselves.

Scotland Yes vote hit by early blows

EARLY results from the Scottish referendum held few crumbs of comfort for the Government, already reeling from sweeping victories by the Tories in yesterday's two by-elections.

A warning of the major shocks to come was sounded by the Tories in the Western Isles, a traditional home of Scottish nationalism, which recorded a timid Yes vote of 27.8 per cent., well below the 40 per cent. target set by Parliament.

Thumbs down

The devolution proposals received a firm thumbs-down from two other Scottish areas. Where results were declared before lunchtime in Shetland, where the Yes vote was expected to only 13.8 per cent., and Dumfries and Galloway.

If the Yes votes fail to reach the 40 per cent. needed, or, for regional country, as now seems likely, draft orders must be introduced to enable the Bill providing for Assemblies in Edinburgh and Cardiff.

That is the referenda are only advisory. MPs would still have the final say on whether finally to carry the devolution proposals, which would give Scotland and Wales responsibility over a wide range of domestic affairs.

Scottish voting

With 5 results declared, the aggregate voting so far is:

Total Yes vote 192,943.

Total No vote 184,179.

Yes vote 32·9 p.c. of electorate entitled to vote.

Total Yes vote needed to reach 40 p.c.—1,498,845.

CENTRAL
Yes 31,295
No 38,166
Yes vote percentage: 26

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
Yes 27,161
No 80,289
Yes vote percentage: 27·3

FIFE
Yes 66,232
No 74,436
Yes vote percentage: 33

SHETLAND
Yes 2,225
No 9,665
Yes vote percentage: 13·6

WESTERN ISLES
Yes 4,218
No 4,922
Yes vote percentage: 21·4

ORKNEY
Yes 3,194
No 3,431
Yes vote percentage: 15·1

DUSTMEN BACK ON MONDAY

CARDIFF dustmen decided by an overwhelming majority today to end their five-week strike and return to work on Monday.

Before the meeting the men decided to accept the return to work formula which would not affect their wages or their union leaders and the city council.

Elated Tories plan big attack

THE RESULTS

CLITHEROE:
Mr. David Waddington (C) 25,125.
Mr. Lindsay Sutton (Lab) 9,651.
Mr. Frank Wilson (L) 7,345.
Tory majority 15,474.
No change.

General election: Waddington (C) 25,125; Mackaness (Lab) 13,776; Roberts (L) 8,800. Conservative majority 11,349.

KNUTSFORD
Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardyne (C) 25,896.
Mr. Bob Ingham (L) 8,206.
Mr. Alan Barton (Lab) 5,815.
Mr. Michael Byrne (Ind C) 686.
Tory majority 16,690.
No change.
General election: Davies, F. H. 21,856; Beaumont, D. C. 11,218; Beaumont, D. C. (Lab) 8,664. Conservative majority 13,192.

CONSERVATIVES, elated by last night's two big by-election victories at Clitheroe and Knutsford, now plan a major assault on the Government when the Commons resume on Monday.

They mood was summed up in six words by one party chairman, Lord Thorney-croft, in a blood message to the Prime Minister: "In the name of God, go."

But even though the swing to the Conservatives in these two safe seats was nearly 15 per cent. at Clitheroe and 11.5 per cent. at Knutsford, the results were no worse than Labour feared.

However, if these swings were reflected at a general election they would be more than enough to put Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street with a thumping Parliamentary majority of more than 100.

Cock-a-hoop Conservatives are now determined to deal the Prime Minister the coup de grace when Parliament reassembles on Monday.

They ruthlessly rejoice that Lord Thorney-croft who plans launching a new anti-Socialist party next May, is planning reports to submit and clear in the name of God, go.

Mr. Peter Walker, Tory general secretary, said: "At the heart of these by-elections is the cost of living. People are so worried that they would produce a poor result for Labour."

After the recent industrial disputes, he expected even more Tories to abstain.

For the Liberals there was no comfort. Their deposits were lost in third or fourth position. Their despair was summed up by Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, who described the results as a disaster.

Effective Opposition leaders are Labour 55, Opposition 22, Others 4, Vacant seat 2, Total 625.

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Front page of the South Wales Echo, 2 March 1979 (Source: Western Mail & Echo Ltd.)
Post-War Wales