

Efforts to Avoid Controversy

Part of this was because the association's president, Gov. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, a Republican, insisted that the governors spend more time examining problems in the states than "acting like senators."

But it was also because some governors were inclined to await further developments before forming a strategy designed to shape Federal policies more in their favor.

"We want to learn more about what is happening and then to take our case to Congress," said Richard W. Riley of South Carolina, chairman of the Democratic Governors Caucus, who supported the statement drafted within his party but made no effort to bring the matter to the floor for a vote.

Some governors said they were still hoping, after five years of failure, to work out with the President some way of exchanging responsibilities between the Federal and state governments.

The governors, including Governor Alexander, are eager to have the Federal Government accept the full burden of Medicaid, the medical program for the poor that is shared between the state and Washington. In turn, the governors hope to take more responsibility for some other functions such as transportation or education.

Fear of 'Disinvesting'

What the governors of both parties say they fear most is that the President might be successful soon in "disinvesting" an array of Federal programs, and leave the states with the burden of financing and running them without offering anything in return.

One proposal today for the states to

lature in his state would do with the new revenue, saying: "I think this proposal is too radical for the real world.

ence that the association policy of the past still stands, "policy that is tougher than the Democratic statement."

Mayoral Voting in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 25 (AP) — Voters went to the polls today in the fifth mayoral election here since 1983, and in early returns a former City Council member, Maureen O' Connor, was leading.

She was one of 14 candidates seeking to succeed Roger Hedgecock, who resigned in December after his conviction in connection with campaign financing.

With 5.6 percent of the precincts reporting, Mrs. O'Connor was ahead of another Council member, William Cleator, 8,492 votes to 6,377 votes, or 42.8 percent to 32.2 percent.

Another candidate who was considered a leading contender, Floyd Morrow, was a distant third with 16.2 percent of the votes.

If one candidate gets 50 percent of the vote in today's election, he would become Mayor immediately. If not, the top two candidates would be in a runoff June 3.

Mr. Hedgecock was convicted in October on conspiracy and perjury charges stemming from illegal contributions to his first campaign for Mayor and resigned Dec. 10.

Mayoral elections were held twice in 1983, with a special election and runoff when Mr. Hedgecock won the unexpired term of Pete Wilson, now a United States Senator. Two mayoral

elections were held again in 1984, a general election and runoff when Mr. Hedgecock won a full four-year term.

Eleven other people were on the ballot, including Deputy Mayor Ed Struikma who dropped out of the race because an investigation is under way on whether he misused his expense account. Two other candidates qualified to have write-in votes for them counted in the official tally.

Early turnout exceeded a prediction by the registrar that fewer than 30 percent of the city's 435,000 voters would cast ballots.

As of 3 P.M., 16.84 percent of registered voters had cast ballots, and the registrar's office revised its projection of final turnout to 35.14 percent.

Mrs. O'Connor, 39 years old, lost to Mr. Hedgecock in the runoff election in 1983.

Mr. Cleator, 58, finished third in the 1983 mayoral primary, making him ineligible for the runoff that year.

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