

## POLITICS &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Party Hoppers*

"The Party Switchers" by Ronald Brownstein, in *The National Journal* (Oct. 25, 1986), 1730 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

"Switching political parties can be embarrassing," said the narrator of a television pitch used by Nevada Democrat Harry M. Reid in his 1986 campaign for the U.S. Senate. "Just ask Jim Santini."

Ex-Democrat Santini had switched to the G.O.P. in 1985. Reid reminded voters of the old days, when Santini's new Republican friends denounced him. (Reid won last November's election handily.)

Party switching is not new, observes Brownstein, a *National Journal* reporter. But since the landslide 1980 election of (former Democrat) Ronald Reagan, the switching has changed directions. During the 1960s and 1970s, when the Democrats were riding particularly high, especially in Congress and in statehouses, some Republicans—e.g., New York representative Ogden Reid, Michigan representative (now senator) Donald Riegle, former New York mayor John Lindsay—joined them. Then came the Great Society, the Vietnam War, "stagflation," the tax revolt—and a new conservatism among voters. Republicans such as Texas senator Phil Gramm (a Democrat until 1983) began wooing disaffected Democrats over to their side.

Yet last November many Republican newcomers fared poorly. Only six of 11 ex-Democrats who sought G.O.P. gubernatorial, House, and Senate nominations succeeded; only two—governor-elect Bob Martinez (R.-Fla.) Fla.) and congressman-elect Richard H. Baker (R.-La.)—won election.

Among the notable losers were Texas' Kent Hance and Wisconsin's Jonathan Barry, Democrats-turned-Republicans who were soundly defeated in primaries for governor by G.O.P. veterans. Both Nevada's Santini and former Democrat Linda Chavez (R.-Md.) lost Senate bids.

Convert candidates, says Brownstein, always lose some credibility with voters, particularly Republican voters. Indeed, "when the primary field is crowded, the Democratic credentials of the party switchers can stand out like a Mondale-Ferraro button at a Republican convention."

## FOREIGN POLICY &amp; DEFENSE

*Dealing with  
New Delhi*

"India and the United States: Why Detente Won't Happen" by Maya Chadda, in *Asian Survey* (Oct. 1986), Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

August 1982: Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi goes to Washington. May 1985: A festival of India begins in the United States. June 1985: India's new prime minister—Gandhi's son, Rajiv—visits the White House.

Are these signs of a blossoming Indo-American romance?

Not really, says Chadda, a political scientist at William Paterson College. Despite Rajiv Gandhi's Western leanings, Chadda notes that economic and political ties between the United States and India have, in many