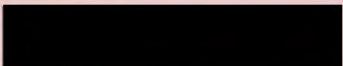


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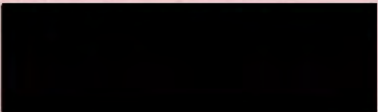
7/24 p.m.

C-SPAN --

My apologies for not sending this to you sooner.

How stupid are the American media when it comes to analysis of an election? Look to this story from USA Today about the June 2 elections in Canada. You get the impression that the voter turnout in western Canada would suffer because voters heard the early returns from eastern provinces. All too typical of the right-wing bias that permeates USA Today.

CBC stations in each Canadian province didn't begin the CBC's election night telecast until after the polls closed in that province. C-SPAN didn't begin carrying the election returns until after the polls closed in Saskatchewan, the last province to do so. That's a lot more than can be said about American networks during American elections!



o. Can. elections

so that he can lead

The 77-year-old said at a prayer service in the southern town of Gorzow, that his mentor, the Cardinal Stefan Szynski, had predicted he would take the church into the third millennium of Christianity.

"I'm growing in years," John Paul said, "I ask you to beg, on your knees, that I will be able to fulfill this task."

The crowd of nearly 400,000 responded "we will help, we will help," a chant led in the early government. Commun-

know this chant," he live."

errillas accused the north, killing, wounded, military officers, the Tamil Tigers, targets.

The first of three soldiers on a European he raped, sodomized, a Darmstadt, Germany Davis is charged with, one of attempted counts of cruelty to-

Andals had spread to female soldiers had at the training base. to be tried. A fellow charges, including and cruelty toward a staff Sgt. Robert Rob-

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a spymaster Markus Webster naive for Cold War. Wolf said e, money and a new the names of East y, Man Without a tries.

in S. Korea



the Hsiao, Agence France-Presse for cover as a 2,000 students es were holed up at was killed.



Into the box: Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe casts his ballot in Montreal.

In Canada, east's voters wait on west

By Daniela Deane
USA TODAY

If it were a U.S. election, network news anchors would have announced the results during the day. Voters in California would have been left wondering whether to even bother going to the polls. And the defeated politician would have conceded early.

But in Canada, not one result and nary a turnout figure was released until every polling booth, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, was securely shut.



Agence France-Presse
Chretien: Prime minister suffered election setbacks.

Nothing was known about voting patterns until every Canadian voter marked a choice on the ballot. Unlike voting in the USA, where many polling stations use machines, all Canadian voting is still done on paper ballots.

And under the recently amended Canada Elections Act, voting hours are now staggered throughout the vast country. Canadians voted Monday for 301 seats in the House of Commons, the lower house of Parliament. "I think it was great to vote," Prime Minister Jean Chretien said after casting his ballot in a little primary school near his birthplace north-east of Montreal.

For the first time in a Canadian federal election, the polls opened and closed earlier in the western provinces than in the east in an effort to bring voting hours in line in a country that has six time zones.

"They changed the voting law to deal with the historic problem of time difference," said Larry LeDuc, a political scientist at the University of Toronto. "Since Ontario counts for one-third of votes, an election used to be effectively over when polling was still in full swing out west."

The law prohibits all polling, even exit polls, from 60 hours before voting begins until all polls close.

Although more equitable, the new hours may have unintended consequences, inadvertently lowering the number of voters that cast their ballots in western Canada.

The polls in Vancouver, for example, were open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"This law may make it more difficult to vote," said LeDuc. "Let's say you don't get off work until 6 and you have a long commute home. You have to get home and get to the polling booth by 7. Some people may not vote because of these time constraints."

Officials at Election Canada, the nonpartisan organization running the Canadian polls, said the law's effect will be studied, after polls closed, of course.

Canadians reduce Liberals' power

Party will maintain a smaller majority

By David Crary
The Associated Press

OTTAWA — Canada's governing Liberal Party suffered embarrassing setbacks Monday, eking out a reduced majority in a Parliament more divided than ever by regional interests.

The western-based Reform Party played on anti-Quebec sentiment and emerged as the main opposition force in the House of Commons. Reform candidates rolled to a near-sweep in Alberta and British Columbia. Their platform suggested too many concessions had been made to placate Que-

bec separatists.

The centrist Liberals five weeks ago were cocky enough to call the election 18 months early. They held 174 seats in the outgoing Parliament. They lost ground Monday but were assured of winning more than the 151 seats needed to form a majority government under Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Chretien barely survived a close race in his own district in Quebec against a strong separatist challenger.

The separatist Bloc Quebecois led in just over half of Quebec's 75 districts. This was enough for them to claim continued momentum for a referendum on independence within the next few years. They had held 50 seats going into the election.

Monday's results cast doubt on the Liberals' claim to be the only truly na-

tional party in Canada, the United States' No. 1 trading partner.

About 20 million Canadians were eligible to cast ballots at 53,000 polling stations across the world's second-largest country in terms of geography.

Chretien, 63, wanted to become the first Liberal prime minister since 1953 to win consecutive majorities. He led the Liberals to a landslide win in 1993.

When Chretien called this election April 27, opinion polls indicated the Liberals would add seats. But the party ran a lackluster campaign.

The Liberals' main first-term accomplishment was to slash a record \$31 billion deficit by more than two-thirds. But they were unable to bring down Canada's unemployment rate. And they failed to prevent increasing polarization on the status of Quebec.

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