Primary vote illuminates changes in Bronx politics

(Continued from Page A1)

largely to vote either for Mr. Jackson or against him.

More residents of the 80th Assembly District turned out for the 1968 primary than the 1965 race for borough president, and that can be laid to Mr. Jackson's candidacy.

In 1985, with Mr. Simon spending thousands of dollars targeting local voters, 14,400 residents cast ballots. In 1988, with only one quick stop here by one candidate (Mr. Dukakis) 18.303 votes were cast.

Mayor Edward Koch's campaign for Tennesse Senator Al Gore-and his virulent attacks on Mr. Jackson—did not stop local residents from favoring Mr. Jackson over Mr. Gore, who nonetheless did better locally than anywhere else in the Bronx.

Mr. Koch's much-publicized attacks on Mr. Jackson did not win the Mayor many friends among Bronx politicians either. While many agreed with the substance of Mr. Koch's statements about Mr. Jackson, those interviewed by The Press uniformly complained about the Mayor's manner in criticizing the candidate, terming his statements divisive.

Flagging support in the Bronx, especially in the largely white and Jewish northwest corner, could be bad news for the Mayor in 1989, when he promises to seek reelection.

Opinion among the politicians was split, however, on whether the anti-Jackson Koch campaign would hurt the Mayor in his campaign for reelection next year.

"I happen to believe that the Mayor's heart was in the right place but I also believe that his manner of expressing himself was innappropriate for these circumstances,' said Democratic county leader George Friedman. "We in public life have to understand the sensitivities of everybody, and in this instance the Mayor was a little insensitive, although he raised very important isques.

Mr. Friedman said it's too early to tell whether Mr. Koch's attacks on next year's election. "Oh, next year is a lifetime away in politics," he

Assemblyman Oliver Koppell called Mr. Koch's attacks "intemperate and really kind of offensive," and predicted they would hurt him in next year's campaign.

"Personalizing the attack to that degree was offensive and counterproductive," said Mr. Koppell. "In the end what he's going to do is to alienate a group of voters . . . He badly gauged what reaction this would

Mr. Koppell said the Mayor should have had "sensitivity to the fact that it's a difficult situation between blacks and Jews and blacks and whites." He said elected officials have a duty to "reduce that kind of tension and statements of the kind Koch made inflamed tensions." The Assemblyman also praised Mr. Jackson for not being drawn into a shouting match with the Mayor.

Councilwoman June Eisland wasn't pleased with the Mayor's outbursts, either. "Well, I don't think it helped the city," she said. "It sets back the agenda of drawing people together.'

Borough President Fernando Ferrer, a Jackson supporter, blasted Mr. Koch on a number of newscasts, including National Public Radio last

"There's a lot of reconciliation that needs to take place in this city," said Mr. Ferrer. "People to their great credit did not respond to [Mr. Koch's rhetoric], and that gives me great heart. There is some healing that has to take place, there were wounds that were opened that have to be healed."

Mr. Ferrer praised Mr. Jackson's behavior in the face of the Koch barbs. "I thought he was restrained and dignified and that's certainly to his credit," he said "It's an indication of his maturation as a candidate. A negative campaign never works, no matter who utters the negativity.'

"I think [Mr. Koch's comments] were outrageous," said Democratic

Mr. Jackson will hurt the Mayor in district leader Jeffrey Dinowitz. "I'm not saying I disagreed with everything that he said, but what he said was divisive. He went out of his way to polarize this city."

Local politicians said they were thrilled with the heavy turnout in Tuesday's voting.

"It's incredible," said Mr. Koppell as he went over the returns, stopping to admire turnout figures in Bronx Assembly districts. "These are unprecendented numbers, this is unprecedented participation," he said.

"Sure it's good," he said, when asked about the meaning of a heavy vote. "It's part of the system." Adding up the totals for largely minority districts, the Assemblyman called

some of the figures "unreal." "Every black must have come out to vote in some areas," he said. "This clearly indicates to me that a black candidate, if he motivates the people, can win the city. It's clear that what some of us have been saying for quite some time is true, minority voters in the Bronx are on the ascendancy."

Ms. Eisland called the turnout "wonderful," saying it had long disappointed her that turnout figures, even in important races, were often low.

Mr. Friedman said the Jackson campaign "did a fantastic job in Bronx county and is motivating the Bronx community in astounding record numbers. The turnout was a tremendous tribute to the Jackson campaign.'

The record turnout "is very positive for our government overall, very positive for our party, and especially the Bronx party," said the county leader. "The more participation we have, the better off we're all going to be. . .I hope it carries over to future elections.'

The record participation of minority voters continues a trend in Bronx politics that started at least four years ago, when Mr. Jackson won the

In 1985, Mr. Serrano, who is Puerto Rican, lost a very tight race to Mr. Simon. Last year, a coalition of black

about his lie in January and received

Under cross examination by Mr.

LaRossa, the 50-year-old accountant

also said he knew of no evidence that

Rep. Biaggi actually received any

Wedtech stock. After the 1983

meeting Mr. Wolf said he felt that the

Congressman "had a say in who

could own the stock. But I was never

told that he owned that stock, that he

immunity for his testimony.

will own that stock."

legislators previously loyal to the county organization, South Bronx Hispanic leaders backed by poverty boss Ramon Velez, and white North Bronx legislators, including Mr. Koppell, grabbed control of the judicial convention and nominated two minority candidates for Supreme Court judgeships.

This year's primary results signal a clear need for more coalitionbuilding, said top Democrats.

"It means if you don't make coalitions, you risk being defeated," said Mr. Koppell. "We need more coalitions, absolutely. What we did last year [at the judicial convention] was not only necessary politically, it was the right thing to do. This vote is a total confirmation of that."

Mr. Ferrer said he hopes the large turnout among minorities signals a growing interest in urban issues among the voters of the borough. "Invariably, people will turn out when they sense there's something at stake," he said.

Among the Dukakis supporters there was cause for celebration. Ms. Eisland, who was among the Massachusetts governor's citywide co-chairs, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Koppell, State Senator Abraham Bernstein, and both local political clubs, the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club and the fledgling Robert F. Kennedy Association of Independent Democrats, backed Mr.

Dukakis. "I am delighted," said Ms. Eisland, who spent primary night at Mr. Dukakis' side at his celebration. "The confidence that I had in him six months ago is just strengthened."

She scoffed at complaints that the candidate "doesn't have charisma,"

saying she spent a good deal of time with Mr. Dukakis and his family during the campaign and found them to be "caring, fine people." The Governor, she said, was "extraordinarily knowledgeable, though not flamboy-

ment." Mr. Friedman said he was pleased with Mr. Dukakis' statewide win but wished the candidate had made more campaign stops in the Bronx. Mr. Dukakis campaigned at Gaelic Park and in the South Bronx on the weekend before the vote.

"I was extremely impressed by the guy's intellect and coolness, although I wish he had a little more oomph and Kennedy-type charisma," said the county leader. "But he doesn't have that. Then again, oomph and charisma aren't important things when it comes to running the coun-

City (finally) hears historic area pleas

(Continued from Page A1)

fort" if his home is not removed from the district.

A final vote on the proposal could take a year or more, according to Lilian Ayala, a spokesman for the Landmarks Commission. Landmark designation would prevent the homeowners in the district from modifying the exteriors of their properties or altering the landscape without review by the commission.

At the heart of the district are four pre-Civil War villas on Independence Avenue and the barns and carriage houses that sheltered their horses and grooms. The barns, now converted to residences, cluster on Sycamore Avenue, where wrought iron fences, cobblestones, trees shown on 19th-century maps, and the adjacent landmark mansions, Stonehurst and Wave Hill, compose a picture that has hardly changed since five merchants created a suburban utopia in 1852 and called it 'Riverdale.''

"That Sycamore Avenue is astonishingly like its 1852 appearance is due to a series of miracles," testified Mr. Kornfeld, who lives in a converted carriage house designed by Frederick Clark Withers, architect of the Jefferson Courthouse in Greenwich Village.

Mr. Kornfeld numbered himself part of a long line of preservationists, beginning with the five merchants who bought 100 acres of land with splendid river views 1852. Followers of the utopian ideas of architect Andrew Jackson Downing, they respected the natural countours of the land when they built their imposing villas, and determined that a portion of their acreage would remain forever green.

During the Depression, Mr. Kornfeld noted, Wave Hill's Perkins family and the Buckner family formed Sycamore Estates to buy land from financially-strapped neighbors in order to keep it from speculators. Myrtie Buckner Hall, the granddaughter of Thomas A. Buckner, chairman of New York Life, wrote from her Connecticut home to recall her birth 65 years ago in one of the villas on Independence Avenue and her years in two of the carriage

Her grandparents, she wrote, 'spoke of seeing Mark Twain taking walks and bowing to them. . . . As little girls, my sister and I hid in the bushes at Wave Hill to watch debutantes and their escorts arrive at an elaborate party to dance to Eddie Duchin and his orchestra."

As recently as last month, Mr. Kornfeld said, a developer who wanted to build six homes offered to buy the green barn at 5220 Sycamore, known since 1908 as the Gale Barn. Mrs. Sanford Knapp, another longtime resident and preservationist who owns the property, refused to sell, and wrote the commission to urge approval of landmark protec-

Mr. Kornfeld paid tribute to her and the other area residents who, he said, "are a who's who . . . special in themselves because they volunteer

their time to keeping this place." Jose Ithier, a former Landmarks Commissioner who is now secretary to the Bronx Borough President, endorsed the proposal on behalf of Fernando Ferrer. Councilwoman June Eisland and a representative of Assemblyman Oliver Koppell also spoke for it, as did Mark Friedlander, chairman of Community Board 8.

Mr. Friedlander, who reported Board 8's unanimous vote in favor of designation, recalled that he would drive along Sycamore Avenue after reciting the prayer for the dead for his father at SAR Academy. He did so, he said because of "the sense of serenity and comfort it brought me to reflect that everything there was built before my father's father was

born.' But in a letter to the commission, Mr. Frankel argued that his home, one of the four surviving villas on Independence Avenue, had been extensively remodeled, attaining its present shape in 1957. Calling the moreencompassing boundaries urged by the commission staff "a hit and run assault on an unwitting citizenry," he asked the commission to restore the boundaries proposed by Mr. Kornfeld, who excluded the villas because

of Mr. Frankel's opposition. Dr. Samuel Basch, who lives in a home built in the mid-50s that was excluded from the Kornfeld proposal also asked to be removed from the district, a request supported by the public officials who testified.

Alvin Lane, an attorney who lives in another of the villas on Independence, challenged the notion that their remodeling made the homes of "Riverdale's" founders ineligible for designation.

"Probably no single house on that street would qualify for landmarking if it was considered separately," his testimony contended. "However, there is no better area in Riverdale to give us a general idea of what Riverdale was like in its infancey and if for no other reason we should try to preserve what is left of it, not as a museum but as an oasis where people live and enjoy an environment, the likes of which is fast disappearing."

Biaggi fights link to stock

(Continued from Page A1)

document in the trial saying Rep. Biaggi owned Wedtech stock. A July 1983 letter from accountant Irwin Wolf to Rep. Biaggi and his former law partner Bernard Ehrlich rested a meeting with Mr. Ehrlich to discuss the tax ramifications of Rep. Biaggi receiving "112,500 shares of stock."

The letter was identified by Evan Bell, who also testified that he prepared tax worksheets for Mr. Ehrlich on the assumption that he and Rep. Biaggi each owned 50 percent of Biaggi & Ehrlich and that the split of the 225,000 Wedtech shares was 40 percent each for Mr. Ehrlich and Mario Biaggi and 20 percent for Richard Biaggi.

On cross-examination, Mr. Bell said he was often asked to imagine hypothetical situations, but when U.S. Attorney Howard Wilson returned to the question on redirect, the accountant acknowledged that this scenario was different. Mr. Ehrlich, he said, was "a lot more persistent" in nagging him to complete his computations, and for the first time and only time asked him to work them out on paper.

Asked whether he thought that meant that the "hypothetical" calculation represented the real state of affairs, however, Mr. Bell replied, "I don't think the partners knew what the real state of affairs was. I think they had a tough time finding

out what was going on in their own

Mr. Wolf told the jury he attended a meeting during which the Biaggis and Mr. Ehrlich discussed ways of making sure Rep. Biaggi received some of the Wedtech stock.

'The gist of the conversation was that the stock would have to be registered in the name of Richard because there didn't seem to be any other alternative," Mr. Wolf testified.

If given to Rep. Biaggi, the stock would have had to be reported in the financial disclosures required by the Ethics in Government act. Since he was not a member of the firm, it would be hard to explain so large a gift from a constituent seeking the Congressman's help.

But if the jury members remembered U.S. Attorney Wilson's promise in his opening statement six weeks ago that evidence by admitted criminals would be backed up by clean, impartial accountants, they may have listened to Mr. Wolf with a modicum of doubt.

Mr. Wolf said he "deliberately" lied to a federal grand jury on April 13, 1987 by not telling them about the 1963 meeting. "It was a stupid mistake," he said. "I panicked, lost control and it just snowballed. I conjured up in my mind I was just as

guilty as they were." He said he first told prosecutors

IRT to shave commuters'

(Continued from Page A1)

morning rush-hour southbound trains now begin at 137th Street and a third of the northbound trains terminate there. Beginning in August, every weekday train will begin and end at 242nd Street.

North of 137th Street, a passenger can wait up to 10 minutes for a train during the day. Under the new system, the maximum wait will continue to be 10 minutes at stations at which only one line stops. At the "allstop" stations, the maximum wait will be five minutes.

The TA developed the skip-stop plan on the basis of studies it conducted. It considered using the center track for express service, but rejected the idea because the track does not extend along the entire line. The agency had operated rush-hour express service on the tracks from 1959 to 1975, but discontinued it as part of the budget cuts of the nnd-1970s.

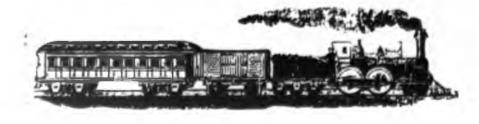
Although service declined and ridership fell in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the No. 1 line has enjoyed a revival in the last few years. The TA lured back riders by replacing the decaying, old 320 cars on the line with sleek new R-62A models from Canada. The number of weekday riders who board trains at the elevated platforms between West

1985 and October, 1987. The TA expects to attract even greater numbers by implementing the skip-stop service.

242nd Street and 225nd Street in-

creased by 24 percent from October,

A spokesman said it was impossible to estimate what the change in service will cost the TA. Each weekday, six additional train crews will be required to operate three additional trains. A train crew consists of a conductor and train operator, or motor-





Guaranteed Lowest prices in New York Many locations all over Westchester, Putnam & Rockland Counties.

COUPON VALID THRU 5/7/88

WITH THIS COUPON

BRONX 3131 Balley Avenue 212-796-7171

Exp 5/7/88

on of care and trucks.



pers. Parts extra If needed. Call for your ag

COUPON VALID THRU 5/7/88

Service