

FLORIO CONCEDES GOVERNOR'S RACE TO KEAN IN JERSEY

Winner Will Be Certified Today
— Democrat Says Recount
Has Cost Him \$40,000

By JOSEPH F. SULLIVAN

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TRENTON, Nov. 30 — After 27 days of uncertainty, Representative James J. Florio conceded defeat today in the close gubernatorial election held Nov. 3.

"The people have selected Tom Kean," Mr. Florio said as he yielded to his opponent, Thomas H. Kean, a 46-year-old Republican from Livingston.

Mr. Kean, a former Assembly Speaker, will be certified as the winner Tuesday and sworn in as New Jersey's 71st Governor on Jan. 19.

Mr. Florio, a 44-year-old Democrat from Runnemede, telephoned Mr. Kean this morning and paid a courtesy call on Governor Byrne at the State Capitol before announcing he "will not in any way contest the election."

He said that a recount of the 2.3 million votes had cost him \$40,000 thus far and that the effort had been well worth the expense since it removed any doubt about Mr. Kean's victory. The Republican had a 1,677-vote lead after the initial count, and although 3,000 votes have changed in the recount, Mr. Kean's lead remains almost unchanged.

Recount to Continue

The recount, which was virtually complete this morning, will continue, but Mr. Florio abandoned his request for a manual recount of computer-card ballots in Salem, Sussex and Warren Counties. This will enable the remaining few ballots to be counted by machine, with the tallying possibly completed before Mr. Kean is certified at 2 P.M. Tuesday by the State Board of Canvassers headed by Governor Byrne.

Mr. Florio said at a news conference, however, that he wanted inquiries into the activities of the Republicans' National Ballot Security Task Force to continue so that "the motivation behind the activities of the task force will be ferreted out and exposed for all to see."

Some Democratic spokesmen and representatives of a coalition of civic and labor groups have charged that the sight of 200 special poll watchers, many of them armed off-duty policemen wearing armbands, along with warning signs posted at polling places by the task force, might have intimidated some voters. The task force operated only in

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Associated Press

Thomas H. Kean