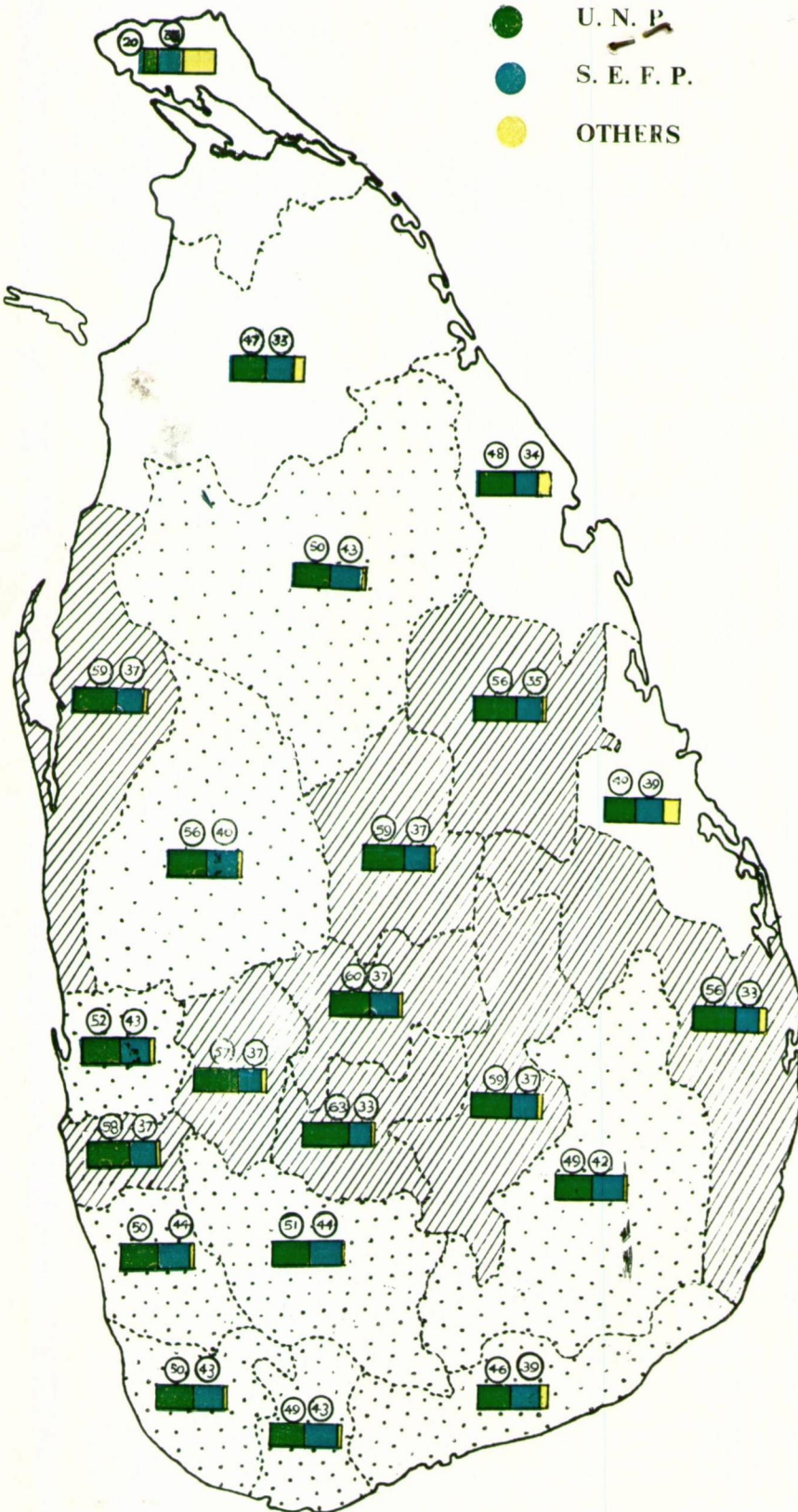


VOTING PATTERNS AT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

● U. N. P.
● S. E. F. P.
● OTHERS



At the Presidential Elections in October the ruling party's candidate received the highest majority of the votes in 21 of the 22 districts, the exception being Jaffna. In four of the districts, namely, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Wannai the demarcation is thin between the votes of the UNP and SLFP and the picture is further distorted by the high number of abstentions and also the influence of the TULF in these districts.

In the other 18 districts there appears to be a pattern where the UNP obtained convincing majorities in half the number (the 9 denoted by stripes). In the other half (the 9 denoted by dots) also the UNP obtained a majority, but the SLFP minority vote was not as low in these as in 9 districts denoted by stripes. (Kurunegala which received almost a 56 percent UNP vote is a borderline case, but since the SLFP vote was 40 percent here it falls into the latter category).

Percentage of votes in 9 of the 18 districts where the UNP fared best.

District	UNP	SLFP
1. Nuwara Eliya	63.1	33.1
2. Kandy	59.8	36.7
3. Puttalam	59.1	36.7
4. Badulla	58.7	36.8
5. Matale	58.1	36.6
6. Colombo	57.7	36.6
7. Kegalle	57.0	36.9
8. Digamadulla	56.4	33.0
9. Polonnaruwa	56.3	35.3

Percentage of votes in 9 of the 18 districts where the SLFP fared best.

District	SLFP	UNP
1. Ratnapura	44.1	51.0
2. Kalutara	44.1	50.2
3. Anuradhapura	43.5	49.9
4. Gampaha	43.3	52.5
5. Matara	43.3	49.3
6. Galle	43.0	50.2
7. Monaragala	42.5	49.4
8. Kurunegala	40.1	55.8
9. Hambantota	38.7	46.0

In the nine districts denoted by stripes the UNP's candidate received over 56 percent of the votes, going up from 56.7 percent in Polonnaruwa to 63.1 percent in Nuwara Eliya. In all these nine districts the SLFP's candidate received less than 37 percent of the vote, ranging from 32.9 percent in Digamadulla to 35.9 percent in Kandy. The majorities in these nine districts were clear and the differences in voting strength very marked.

In the other nine districts, denoted by dots, the UNP once again received a majority of the votes, but the gap between the UNP vote and SLFP is not as marked. In these 9 districts the SLFP vote has varied between 38.7 percent at Hambantota to 44.1 percent at Ratnapura. Leaving out the 4 districts of the Northern and Eastern provinces, generally there is a clear pattern. Where the UNP received its largest number of votes the vote for the SLFP was considerably low. On the other hand, where the SLFP fared best (even though it did not receive majorities) the UNP vote was not as overwhelming, as in the case of the 9 where it received large majorities.