

Candidates views told

By ERIC PETERS

A joint meeting of the Southfield and Farmington Democratic Clubs Wednesday evening, May 8, in Birney Junior High School, assessed U.S. presidential candidates.

Although representatives for numerous Democrats were expected to show, most already had dropped out of the race. Of those remaining, George Wallace did not send a representative. Jimmy Carter and Morris Udall did.

Sissy Dolvin, Carter's aunt, began the proceedings with a low-key biography of "Jimmy the man and Jimmy the boy as I knew him." She went on to cite Carter's accomplishments as governor of Georgia. Maxine Berman assisted Mrs. Dolvin in answering questions of policy.

A very brief statement was made by William Kellie about Morris Udall's "enlightened, far-sighted approach to basic and derivative problems in the country." He listed Udall's accomplishments as a seven-term congressman. Later, he took turns with Debbie Burns in answering questions about Udall's stand on issues.

ISSUES WERE the main thrust of the question and answer period which followed the brief opening remarks. The representatives generally were cautious about their answers and often referred individuals to campaign literature for verification.

On amnesty, Carter favors a pardon for veterans of the Vietnam War but opposes blanket amnesty. Udall is not yet ready for total amnesty.

With regard to the "Right to Work" amendment, Mr. Udall actively would seek its repeal. Carter would sign a repeal if Congress sent it to him.

On busing, the representatives said neither candidate actively supports the practice, but neither would repeal its use entirely. Both would seek other alternatives to busing.

GUN CONTROL is not a prime issue with either candidate. Carter is opposed to "Saturday night specials," according to the speaker. Udall does not see the point of registering hand guns, said Kellie, since there are so many of them in the country. Instead, he would seek to plug existing laws and take it from there.

On the environment and strip mining, both candidates agree that environmental considerations must take priority. Both would be opposed to unrestricted mining where the land could not be reclaimed.

The Pentagon budget was a big issue with both candidates. It was said that Udall desires a "lean, hard defense budget," opposes Trident submarines, a Sea-Force command station in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the B1 bomber project.

According to Mrs. Berman, Carter "would cut military spending by \$7 billion." Which programs would go was not cited.

Capital punishment was an area where the candidates differed. Carter favors the death penalty in certain specific cases—not on a wide scale. Udall's people had to phone headquarters to be certain, and returned to state that Udall is unalterably opposed to the death penalty under any circumstances.

UDALL IS actively pushing for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for women and tried, but failed, to have the Democratic Convention held in a state which passed it, according to Mrs. Burns.

Mrs. Dolvin stated that Carter actively supported passage of ERA in his home state of Georgia, although it did not pass.

Carter is dissatisfied with the results of detente and the position of the U.S. on that

issue, it was said. Kellie said Udall would "negotiate a peace detente" using American wheat as an economic measure as a tool to get a better deal from the Russians than we now have.

Both candidates support social services programs.

Udall would increase aid to education, support day care centers and programs for senior citizens and propose a national health program. Carter would support national health insurance, cut welfare spending, spend more on day care centers and education.

ON THE NATION'S energy policies, Carter would put renewable energy into solar energy, said Mrs. Berman. Kellie stated that Udall would try to explore all available energy systems except nuclear power, which he sees as an environmental risk and only a short-term answer.

Udall, it was said, considers "jobs" the number one priority in 1976. He would create public jobs to service needs of failing cities, public facilities and transportation and create jobs in the private sector.

Mrs. Dolvin said Carter would use government as the "employer of last resort" to rebuild the nation's railroads. He would work to create jobs in the private sector, she said. Both candidates would legislate to stop tax incentives for U.S. business to move abroad.

On efficiency in government, Carter would cut waste from organizations and regroup federal agencies, using money saved for his new programs. Mrs. Dolvin noted that this is what her nephew did as governor.

MRS. BURNS said Udall seeks to revitalize federal programs for their original purposes and to make government more responsive to the people. Noted was his Congressional record as an "activist."

On honesty in government, Udall was one of the first to announce his campaign finances 18 years ago, said Mrs. Burns. He co-authored both 1972 and 1974 campaign reform acts. Carter tells most Americans are disillusioned about Washington and offers himself as an alternative to those in federal government. He is "a new face" from outside Washington, said Mrs. Dolvin.

Carter would not raise taxes generally, but would seek to change and simplify the tax laws. He would consider taxing capital gains as income. Mrs. Berman noted, Udall wants to plug loopholes in the tax structure, and it was claimed this would bring in an additional \$90 billion a year without raising general taxes.

Regarding records of achievement, it was pointed out that Udall has authored bills for Indians and Latinos, the environment, regulations on lobbying and campaign financing. Carter reorganized the Georgia state government, said Mrs. Dolvin, combining more than 300 agencies into 22, initiating day-care centers, a voluntary busing program and hiring blacks for government positions.

Both candidates also have pledged to support the Democratic nominee of the convention.

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