

MO UDALL

Offers no magic solutions, just determination

Presidential candidate Morris Udall said the federal government could stop deterioration of neighborhoods by putting a halt to the lending institutions' practice of "red-lining" areas.

And he said that while Democratic front-runner Jimmy Carter has similar housing policies, Udall would not use such terms as "black intrusion or alien outsider."

Udall, the lone campaigner from the liberal wing of the Democratic party, has been in Michigan seeking to outpace Carter in the May 18 presidential primary.

Reporter Eric Peters interviewed Udall early Saturday as the candidate rode from his Metro Airport hotel to a radio interview in Ann Arbor.

THE LANKY, 35-year-old former basketball player and Arizona promoter with 14 years in Congress took on all questions frankly, but insisted he had no magic solutions—just a determination to keep whacking away at problems.

"Redlining has been traditionally possible only with the cooperation of HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) and FHA (Federal Housing Administration)," Udall said.

"They mortgage homes, and they could simply say to banks that anybody that red-lines isn't going to participate in FHA programs. You could put a stop to that."

"This is the way neighborhoods deteriorate. They start down a hill, and they (lenders) draw a line around it and say, 'Don't make any loans there,' so it really goes down a hill."

"Those are the kinds of neighborhoods we ought to be helping and stopping the decay before it gets out of hand."

OF CARTER'S controversial "ethnic poetry" remark, Udall said:

"Carter made all these comments which I found very troubling. Americans have always wanted to move to better neighborhoods, whether it's a young Polish family or Jewish family or Irish family."

"He (Carter) then apologized for the words that he had used and said he was

ported the Open Housing Act of '68 and he supported the 74 Housing Act, which has a policy of spreading low-income housing into different neighborhoods."

"I was asked if I favored those two policies, and I said sure I did. But I said I can't imagine myself using those words or having that attitude."

"I can't imagine Hubert Humphrey or Bob Kennedy or anybody else using words like 'black intrusion' or 'alien outsider.'"

"But if you get down to the technical housing policies, he says he favors what I say."

OF BUSING to achieve school integration, Udall said:

"I don't feel busing is a very satisfactory remedy for a segregated society. But if that's the only way the people's constitutional rights can be enforced, I'm afraid that we're going to have to enforce them through the Constitution."

He sees the federal role in the fight against crime limited to three things:

"A vigorous attack on organized crime. This is beyond the capacity of the states."

"A vigorous war on the production of drugs. Only the federal government could

put the heat on Mexico and Turkey and get this plague off our streets."

"A vigorous attack on organized crime. This is beyond the capacity of the states."

"Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funds. These ought to be concentrated on better police and courts instead of so much hardware. LEAA was oversold. Everybody went for helicopters and guns and fancy kinds of stuff."

WHY HAS WELFARE grown so astronomically?

"We ought to have a welfare system that's designed to help the real unfortunate people who are crippled and old and down on their luck. But it should never be more rewarding to be on welfare than to work."

"I think we need two things to go together. One is full employment economy in which everybody who wants to work will have a job."

The other, he said, is for the federal government to take over the welfare program, making benefits fairly uniform but adjusting for different costs of living in different parts of the country. Unifying the system would help prevent abuses, Udall said.

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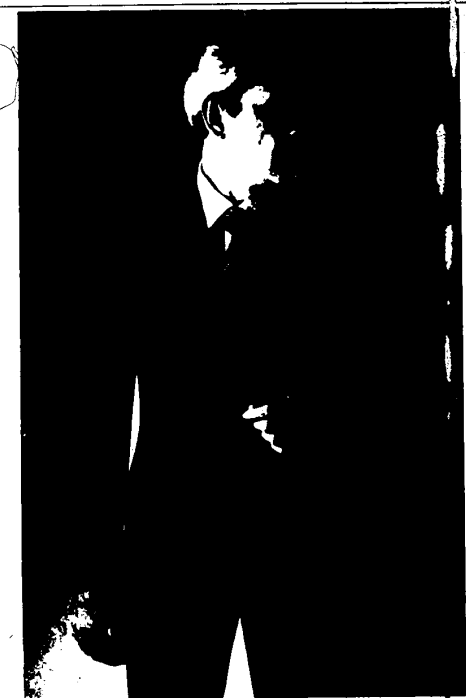
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