

# Stassen campaign makes low-key OU stop

By TOM LONERGAN

The presidential candidate strolled through the between-class rush at Oakland University last week as if he were another history professor on his way to lunch.

And if the students at the Rochester campus noticed it was veteran Republican candidate Harold Stassen in their midst, they didn't show it.

THE STASSEN campaign hasn't attracted a lot of attention, even though the 73-year-old former "boy governor" of Minnesota was among the first Republicans to toss his hat in the ring nearly a year and a half ago.

The usual TV and radio crews, a mainstay of presidential campaigns, were absent during Stassen's three-hour stay at OU last Wednesday.

No troupe of aides surrounded Stassen, an attorney who specializes in international law. No Secret Service agents, either.

So rather than an orchestrated media show, Stassen runs a person-to-person campaign.

He spoke to three political science classes at OU, remained brief with the speeches and fielded all questions.

And the well-known presidential hopeful — he says this is his third "official" try for the White House — distributes his own campaign flyers, which are kept neatly bundled in his attaché case.

THE REPUBLICAN nomination is "not locked up," Stassen insists. "There are very few delegates who are legally committed."

Stassen maintains he can win the GOP nomination, even though as of last week he had no delegates officially.

"When I started, I recognized I was number 11 of 11 (GOP candidates)," said the former director of foreign operations in the Eisenhower Administration.

As he approached Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary, Stassen noted he had "gradually" climbed to fourth.

"One of my main problems now," he said, "is to break through on to national TV."

The term "perennial" has stuck with candidate Stassen. He says former President Lyndon Johnson first used the term to describe him when Stassen entered the 1968 presidential race based on his opposition to the war in Vietnam.

STASSEN IS on the May 20 primary ballot in Michigan but wouldn't speculate on how he'll do.

## Veteran politician attacks Carter's handling of hostage crisis in Iran

One of the three original drafters and signers of the United Nations charter, Stassen was most critical of President Jimmy Carter's foreign policy.

Carter, said Stassen, is manipulating foreign affairs "for the sake of the domestic spotlight."

He said Carter's "turning the screws" on Iran for continuing to hold American hostages would be "counter-productive."

He rapped Carter for not sending a "skilled, experienced" U.S. representative to negotiate the hostages' release.

Stassen said Carter immediately should have sought a declaration of war from Congress, which would have allowed associates of the Iranian government living in the U.S. to be placed under custody.

"That kind of counter-move would have long ago got us out of there," he said.

STASSEN DISAGREES with the U.S. boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games as a response to the Soviet Union's late December invasion of Afghanistan.

"To interpret that our participation (in Moscow) is support of the Soviet Union's policies is ridiculous," said Stassen.

In 1955, Stassen led the American delegation at the Geneva summit meeting with the Soviets. The talks were the first on nuclear disarmament and led to cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Those exchanges, said Stassen, "continued until this latest flap."

"Our athletes and tourists should be there (at the Olympics)," he said.

Stassen said the U.S. and USSR are in intense competition of what might be called the free system versus the communist system.

"It's a competition, not a cold war, not a hot war. You do not want it to escalate to a war."

"You have to work on a basis (in negotiating conflicts) that you do not trust, but work on mutual actions."

ON DOMESTIC issues, Stassen proposes to stop the country's double digit inflation with "full employment," is opposed to a peacetime draft and sees nuclear power as necessary until other renewable forms of energy are developed.

"We have to put restrictions on the abuse of credit," Stassen said, "but not go for tight money and high interest," which he says, "handicaps necessary expansion of productive capacity."

The federal government should enter into "multi-billion dollar contracts through major corporations," said Stassen, and give the corporations "objectives."



Veteran Republican politician Harold Stassen (pictured in this series of photos) visited Oakland University recently and had some harsh words to say about President Carter's handling of the situation in Iran.



One objective would be the "use of all unemployed youth in integrated worthwhile efforts," said Stassen.

But Stassen admits he has helped the former California Gov. Reagan in one aspect.

"One of my reasons for running was to make him look young," he joked. Reagan is 69.

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