



Robert Strauss, Carter's campaign chairman

**'We'd win big,' says Strauss, if it weren't for Anderson**

By JUDITH BERNE

Robert Strauss, President Carter's national campaign manager, Wednesday told about 200 Detroit-area Democratic party backers that he whines a lot.

"If John Anderson was not in this race, I'd have a 9-to-5 job. Instead I have a 7-to-11 job. I'm full of self pity and I'm doing a lot of whining," he said with a laugh.

"The assembled Democrats had paid \$500 per person to attend the cocktail party-style fund-raiser at the Standard Club in Detroit's Renaissance Center, where Strauss made a short speech and shook a lot of hands before returning to Washington.

Bob Nederlander of Bloomfield Hills announced that the \$135,000 collected "makes this the largest fund-raiser in the history of the Michigan Democratic Party." Nederlander is on the state party's finance committee.

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young introduced Strauss as "a politician's politician. Jimmy Carter's in good hands as long as Bob Strauss is at the wheel," Young said.

IN PREDICTING victory in November, Strauss said the Democrats will carry Michigan, where a lot of Carter-Mondale campaign manpower and money are targeted. He said Detroit and suburban residents, hard hit by the recession, will vote for Carter even though "Jimmy Carter hasn't had an A-plus presidency.

"I've disagreed with Carter strongly at times," Strauss said. "But, on balance, where this president stands on the guts of the issues (conforms) to certain basic values of this nation. On those questions, Carter passes and Reagan fails.

"Without the Anderson candidacy, we'd win big," he stated. "The Anderson candidacy really murders us." The thrust of the Carter-Mondale campaign, he said, is to convince voters that a vote for Anderson is a vote for Reagan.

U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and Henry Jackson of Washington state are out stumping for Carter, "because the alternatives are a luxury we can't afford," he said.

TV preacher Jerry Falwell's executive director is in the Reagan campaign as religious chairman, Strauss asserted. "There's a confluence of influence there which concerns me — not just as chairman of the Democratic party, but for the country.

As a result, "Kennedy's into it right up to his ears."

HE ACKNOWLEDGES the Democratic national campaign hasn't successfully spelled out the differences between Carter and Reagan. But he said the Carter forces won't budge on their stand on the debates: a head-to-head debate between the Republican and Democratic candidates must precede a debate which includes Anderson.

Strauss was verbally appreciative of the local fund-raising effort which goes directly into state party coffers. It is up to state party leaders to determine how much is used to promote the Carter-Mondale ticket.

But he also asked donors to give their time. "I know in this room there is enough influence, prestige, energy and money that if each of you would go home and give two to three hours for each of the next weeks, we would carry Michigan," he said.

"This is primarily a football town these days, I understand," Strauss said. Your Billy (Sims), Mr. Mayor, is helping you more than the president's Bill is helping him."



Among the president's backers at the fund-raising event held Wednesday at the Renaissance Center was Sylvia Richman of Bloomfield Hills. (Photos by Bill Bressler)

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