

Platform Man

Little Guy Can Be Heard

By BOUG JOHNSON
Does one man's opinion count? Can it be heard today in the fast-paced, electronic arena of public affairs?
Irving Rozian, of Plymouth Township, veteran member of the Michigan Democratic Party platform committee, thinks so.
Rozian, who is a former chairman of the Plymouth Township Planning Commission, manages a consulting engineering firm. He formerly worked for the University of Michigan finding ways to help industry make use of university research.
As electrical engineer, he brings to the platform committee a knowledge of air, water and land use, and industrial production and research problems.



ROZIAN LABORED round the clock in pre-platform and platform committee sessions last weekend as the Democrats gathered for their state convention in Grand Rapids.
He has served on the pre-platform committee twice before this weekend, and was voted by the 2nd Congressional District caucus as one of the 19 members of the platform committee. His two prior sessions had familiarized him with the issues. He could not vote then, but could this time.
"Once in a while the real business of the convention is the fight over the platform. That's what it was this time," Rozian said.

BASICALLY, it was this: Party Chairman Sander Levin asked the platform committee meeting late Friday night to consider a "dove" Vietnam plank. The committee agreed, but not unanimously. Rozian disagreed with plans to adopt the minority report (McCarthy) on Vietnam from the National Convention.

He was voted down, but did get concessions about protecting American soldiers and other "hawkish" positions added. Rozian also agreed not to file a minority vote, and thus avoided what may have been the fight of the year on the convention floor between the doves and the hawks.

The McCarthy report, with some modifications, was reported out and passed with a voice vote by few dissenters on the floor, largely because the platform committee used choice passages from presidential

IRVING ROZIAN, of Plymouth, was a member of the resolutions committee at last weekend's Democratic State Convention. He was snapped as he made a point on the convention floor.

denial nominee Hubert Humphrey's acceptance speech.
No minority report was filed by Rozian. McCarthy delegates, reported to amount to as much as 40 per cent of the convention, were placated.

ROZIAN DIDN'T let two other matters drop quite as easily. "I've done some study on legislative accomplishments versus previous party platform, and I find a good correlation between what the platform asked for and what finally became law."

Traditional politicians often dismissed platforms as vague excess verbiage with little meaning to the people.
"But they are vital to party workers because they determine the kind of candidate the party will accept," Rozian said. "I've seen it in race relations, open housing, other places. It usually takes two to four years before they appear in legislation and become a reality."

HAS ROZIAN'S voice been heard?
"At Cobo Hall in June, the emphasis on the Vietnam resolutions would have produced a neo-isolationist plank. I introduced what I call alternatives to unilateral action. That now constitutes a strong state plank for the larger role of the United

HE OPPOSED the idea of a national primary as outlined by the committee because it (1) would not permit the familiarity with a party system, now a sort of "study committee of the people"; (2) it would beget a "government of personalities" rather than one of social and economic legislation, and provide no continuity of issues or administration; and (3) the mass media could build a national candidate with ease, giving TV and the press more influence than the party structure.
Rozian opposed the gun control plank because it did not effectively prevent madmen from obtaining guns, and denies the people the right to protect property.
"Merely registering guns would not do it. We have to reduce the number of guns among people, and that would require someone to decide who is unfit and who isn't. The most likely people would be minority groups, the very people who need their own arms the most," he said.

Nations, verging on the idea of a federal, world government.
"In retrospect, I debated the idea of a world government in high school in 1949."

Rozian filed minority reports on the national primary plank and on gun control at the state convention, taking the floor before hundreds of delegates.

GRADUAL WEAR

Toothbrushes wear out gradually, so deterioration is not always immediately apparent. It is recommended that toothbrushes be replaced after a maximum use of four months.

OCC Hires WSU Man As President

Oakland Community College has hired a new president -- Dr. Joseph E. Hill, currently associate dean of graduate studies at Wayne State University.

Hill will replace Dr. John E. Tirrell, who was president of the college during its first three years of life and quit under fire last summer to go into private consulting.
Hill, 49, is scheduled to take office at \$27,000 a year, on Oct. 1, but is expected to join the OCC staff on a consulting basis almost immediately.

OCC has been under attack from a number of sources -- its high turnover rate in top-level administrators, the alleged extravagance of its Orchard Ridge

campus in Farmington, and most recently, a program aimed at helping Detroit inner city youngsters which a trustee contended would have been more fairly aimed at Pontiac's poor.
Hill called the community college the sort of institution that can perform a community service that no other type can perform.

THE COLLEGE must reach out to all segments of people through Oakland County, stressed Hill. "We have to reach the disadvantaged people, both black and white, in such areas as Pontiac, Royal Oak Township, Madison Heights and Hazel Park," he adds.

But helping these people requires "a different kind of opportunity."

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