

O'Neill Flays Foe On Viet Position

H. Patrick O'Neill, Democratic candidate for the U.S. representative nomination in the 19th District, told a group of workers that the incumbent congressman has spent most of his time running around the country inspecting other people's sewers.

"As a member of the Public Works Committee, U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald seems to be interested in flood conditions every place but in the 19th District," O'Neill said.

The 19th District includes Farmington, Livonia and Redford Township.

O'Neill repeated the charge that McDonald has given the President "his personal mission to bomb Hanoi," which O'Neill says, "would very likely start World War III."

He called McDonald, "a hawk, who became a dove at the moment of filing for re-election and is the only Congressional dove who is in favor of accelerating the war."

O'NEILL SAID "As the representative of Michigan's 19th Congressional District, I would work vigorously with those in Congress who are attempting to bring an end to military adventuring."

"I would work toward a speedy withdrawal of American forces from Indo-China. I would work to see that Congress re-asserts itself as the final authority on whether the United States commits armed

Candidate Night Set

A candidates night for those seeking the Democratic nomination to run for 19th District U.S. representative will be held Tuesday, July 28, 8 p.m., in the Bloomfield Township Library, Telegraph at Lone Pine.

It is sponsored by the 19th District Democratic organization, which invited candidates Frank Adell, Fred Harris, Ron Hecker and Patrick O'Neill. Aldo Vaganuzzi, district chairman, said the meeting is open to the public and invited anyone interested to attend.

Also at the meeting, said Vaganuzzi, procedures for the upcoming district and state conventions will be explained.

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ABORTION STAND CHALLENGED -- Two unidentified ladies cornered incumbent 14th District State Sen. George Kuhn after a candidates night forum and argued his position opposing an abortion bill this past session. In the background, James Jabara of Plymouth, passes out literature touting Kuhn's main opponent, Carl Pursell, who flatly declares all state control of abortions should be eliminated. (Observer photo by Dennis L. Pappe)

Forum Prompts Tax Criticism

Each of four candidates seeking to become the 14th District State Senator sees different issues as being uppermost in the state.

The incumbent, Republican George Kuhn of West Bloomfield, says it's the need to regain local control of assessments.

The front-running challenger, for the Republican primary nomination, Carl Pursell of Plymouth says "education is the most vital issue in our state today."

Another Republican challenger, Al Smith of Farmington, says it's drug abuse.

The only Democratic candidate, Paul Kadish of Livonia, believes it's abortion reform, followed closely by a need to repeal tax equalization and need to adopt a graduated income tax.

None of the Republicans favored any change in income taxing.

THESE VIEWS were stated by the four during a candidates night forum in West Bloomfield Tuesday attended by about 15 persons, including about 200 buses to the meeting by Pursell and his supporters. A fifth candidate, Republican challenger Donald Von Rat of Pontiac, didn't take part in the forum.

Pursell placed spending and tax reform second. Smith placed it third, after drug abuse and crime controls. Kuhn called for an 18-month freeze on current property tax assessment levels, as proposed in a Senate-passed bill now in the House Taxation Committee.

Pursell proposed a five-point program of spending reform and tax reform, stating that taxes have increased 146 per cent and state spending by 15 per cent in the last 10 years.

HE ADVOCATED a review of priorities for deletion of current earmarked programs in the state budget "because we have new needs," a limited tax reduction program to relieve property owners and those on fixed incomes; a re-

turn of federal tax money to state and local governments; early state financial decisions to allow dependent units of government to plan sound fiscal programs; and said he would appoint a standing committee on taxation of district people to advise him on tax problems of concern.

Kuhn has long been on record arguing a return of two per cent of the federal income taxes to state and local government. He emphasized this Tuesday.

He also is pushing for passage of bills to reduce property assessments from 50 per cent to 45 per cent and to create a governor's tax commission "to analyze in depth, the duties and functions of the local assessor, the local board of review, the state tax allocation board and the state tax commission."

Pursell didn't disagree with the proposals, except to point out the proposed five per cent decrease proposal as meaningless. "The problem is inequitable assessments from community to community. There is a need for greater supervisory powers," he said. "The State Tax

Commission now passes the buck. But four years ago we talked about this, and the problem still remains today."

SMITH SAID, "I think taxes should become static, but they won't because someone will always think we need new services." Smith also called for removal of the four per cent sales tax from food products, a freeze on current taxes for "several years," use of a state lottery, off track betting and "a Little Las Vegas" in the upper peninsula as new tax sources, plus "spending control programs and some means of employment of welfare recipients."

Kadish said, "The problem is that political appointees are assessing homes." He commented that he knows of identical homes with different as-

sessments in the same community. "We must repeal provisions in the state constitution requiring annual equalization, and go to a gradual state income tax."

REPLYING TO A QUESTION on how to improve the quality of education in the state, Kuhn said a "no-string-attached" return of two per cent of the federal income taxes to state, school and local government "would be more than adequate."

He said he supports small class sizes, and elimination of moving students up in grade "unless qualified." He stated, "We're kidding ourselves by pushing them through school without being sure they have proper foundations."

Pursell said two things would boost education quality: coordinated federal and state funding and reform of curriculum development.

He suggested that concentration of counselors at the elementary level rather than at the high school might help avert student problems before they become irreversible.

Smith said he believed it's up to each local school, because "conditions are different in each."

KADISH ADVOCATED equal funding for each child, regardless of where he lives, and decreased class sizes. All four came out against use of public funds to private schools (parochial).

All four endorsed the state teacher tenure law, but Kuhn said he believes the school boards and superintendents need "a balancing factor," and Pursell said the law needs to be "looked at" in light of an increasing supply of teachers.

Still Exists

The Emancipation Proclamation as written by President Lincoln is still in existence. In 1864 the document was sold at a bazaar to benefit wounded soldiers. Later, the New York legislature appropriated funds to buy the proclamation papers in Albany.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

With two incidents in the past three weeks, the question of what constitutes a recall in a harness race has become a major topic at Northville Downs. Especially after a rather large group of patrons jammed into the general offices recently and demanded to see the films of a race in which one of the horses never did get started.

The driver reportedly wheeled the horse way up the track while Starter Elwood McMurray sent the other seven on their way for the mile race.

The irate patrons felt there should have been a recall since the horse was going the other way on the track at the start. The pacer was well within the prescribed eighth pole and, apparently had not sustained any broken equipment — two of the three reasons which would allow a recall as allowed by United States Trotting Association rules.

Then a week ago, an odds-on favorite, starting from the outside No. 8 post, broke his gut and was out of contention from the moment the field went off.

Once again the favorite was well up the track when the starter released the wings of the starting gate. And again there was a loud cry from the crowd for a recall, principally because a sizable sum of money had been wagered on the pacer.

JUST TO LEARN what constitutes a recall, we discussed the matter with State Steward Clay Hulet during a break in the races at Northville Downs.

"Under the rules of the USTA, which are followed in Michigan, the starter was absolutely right in both instances," said Hulet. "The only grounds for recall, and the horses must be inside the eighth pole, are for broken equipment, when a horse goes down or when a horse crosses (crosses the starting line) in front of the starting gate."

Hulet was careful to note that in the two Northville incidents, neither was within the interpretation of the USTA rules.

Neither horse went down, neither scored ahead of the starting gate and neither driver claimed broken equipment, thus as far as Starter McMurray was concerned it was a "go" and that's the way it was.

New York has a different version of the recall. In the first place the state racing commission there doesn't subscribe to the rules of the USTA.

It sends representatives to all USTA meetings but always makes it known that the commission will study USTA recommendations. Sometimes it approves a watered down version of the USTA proposals, most times it prefers to ignore the USTA entirely.

Our information is that the New York Commission has a very strict recall rule. It requires the starter to have all horses on the gate well ahead of the wire, if one happens to drop back there is a recall.

And the commission doesn't appreciate recalls. Inasmuch as all starters are on a daily contract with the commission, it can dismiss at will if one doesn't measure up, then he can be taken off the payroll at once.

"THE NEW YORK Commission wouldn't put up with incidents such as those at Northville Downs," said our informant. "There would have been a riot that would have made some of the recent disturbances look like family quarrels if a horse was left up the track at the start."

"The New York Commission is thinking of those who have money wagered on the horses and they don't want any disturbances if they can be avoided. They did have a couple near riots a few years back when the patrons stormed out on the track and forced cancellation of the remainder of the program after a favorite was left behind...there won't be any such things in the future."

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Perhaps its about time either the USTA or the Michigan Racing Commission took a look at the current recall rules.

After all, harness racing has progressed far beyond the county fair days. It is big business and should be conducted as such.

As long as patrons legally wager on the horses, they should get full value for every dollar they spend...they are not getting full value when horses are left behind and all monies wagered on that particular pacer or trotter goes down the drain.

If there are any rules that need changing in Michigan, they are those covering recalls. And if it means that Michigan withdraws from the USTA, then so be it. The bet is no protection in this instance and they certainly aren't getting it at this time.

FOR THE BENEFIT of those who may be interested in what happened to the driver who reportedly wheeled his horse to try and force a recall, the Racing Commission, after a hearing, fined Jim Curran, of Jackson, a total of \$500 and suspended him from driving for 10 days.

Curran appealed the decision and in a second hearing before the attorney general, the suspension was trimmed to five days but the \$300 fine stood.

By George Maskin

observing sports

Putting one word after another

And, whoever saw a bigger basketball shoe than Bob Lanier will wear when he joins the Pistons in early September?

The shoe carries no size...but the manufacturer says it's a size 20-plus. Each one weighs four pounds and stretches almost two feet.

It's the biggest shoe ever made for a basketball player and there have been some king-sized cagers around like Wilt Chamberlain, Lew Alcindor, etc.

Once upon a time, the company made a similar size for heavyweight boxer Primo Camera.

SURPRISED WE AREN'T that state boxing commissioner Chuck Davey has refused to grant Cassius Clay a license to box Joe Frazier in Detroit next month.

What actually surprised us when we first heard about it was all the hoopla in connection with such a promotion for Detroit's Cobo Arena.

Michigan originally had gone ahead with other states in taking away Clay's title when he was found guilty on a draft-dodging charge.

It struck us that nothing had happened in the case to change matters...so why should Davey alter his stand now?

We suspect that the undercurrent must have been getting pretty swift around Davey's office from those who have sons who have been able to evade the draft...many of these sons have paid the highest price of all — life — in serving their country.

IF YOU HAVEN'T already, may we suggest you hurry and get your tickets to join in next Sunday's (Aug. 2) salute to Al Kaline at Tiger Stadium.

When you talk sports in this community...add you talk about super-stars...you start with Kaline and the Red Wings' Gordie Howe.

Here are two CLASS guys...on the field and off.

Both came to Detroit as kids and made it in the big leagues. They've come a long ways since.

Each knows that the day when he must retire from the active playing days is around the corner...maybe next year, maybe the year after...maybe the year after that.

A salute to Kaline by the fans of Michigan long has been overdue.

IT NOW APPEARS a cinch that horse racing and harness-racing dates in Michigan will be longer than ever starting with next year.

Why it should have taken the state commissioner so long to extend the dates is something few close to sports can understand.

He has stood by and watched the Detroit area fans storm across the river to watch the races...and wager in staggering amounts...at the Windsor Raceway.

Money that could have been used in Michigan for a flock of reasons has been going out of the country.

By no means is this meant as a knock at our friends across the river, or ex-working pal, Fran Smith, who has returned as the PR man at Windsor.

But when you stop to think that something like six or seven cents out of our buck bet in Michigan goes to the state and local communities...and when you realize how desperate every governmental agency is for cash these days...it makes no sense that Michigan should let such huge amount of dough escape.

So, the commissioner finally is to be hailed. Next year the trotters probably will run in Michigan from early March until around Christmas with the running tracks in action about the same length of time.

You can't knock the public. If they want...and it's considered good in April or June or August...why shouldn't it be the same in March or December?