



Candidates for the 17th U.S. Congressional District answered questions under fire by a panel of journalists Tuesday night as they expressed their views on the major issues. James Burdick

(left) and C.M. Noves watch Scott Elliott voice his concerns while Arve Bakken and William Brodhead (right) appear off in another world.

Burdick hits hard at Brodhead

By STEVE BARNABY

James Burdick, Republican candidate for the 17th Congressional seat found himself deluged by his opponent's supporters after claiming Democratic incumbent William Brodhead illegally used paid staff members for campaign purposes.

Burdick was unwilling to show whether or not he had proof of such a charge after making the statement at a debate conducted in the North Congregational Church in Southfield, Tuesday evening.

Brodhead instantly refuted Burdick's accusation saying it was an "outright lie."

"You can see many of his paid staff

members handing out literature in this hall tonight," said Burdick.

The accusation brought an outcry from Brodhead campaign workers and other Brodhead supporters who were attending the debate sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the League of Women Voters.

ALTHOUGH BRODHEAD was unable to answer the accusation fully during the public forum, afterwards he told Observer & Eccentric reporters that the charge was false.

"I can't believe he made such a statement. That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," said Brodhead.

Burdick immediately left the debate refusing to show any proof that Brodhead was using his paid staff for campaign purposes.

More than 20 persons from the Farmington area, Redford Township and Southfield came to see the two political candidates spar off in one of the most hotly contested seats in this year's election.

Also attending the debates were the four other candidates from minor political parties. They were Arve Bakken of the American Independent Party, Scott Elliott of the U.S. Labor Party and Libertarian candidate C.M. Noves.

Burdick saved most of his ammunition against Brodhead for his closing statement accusing Brodhead of not being a reformer at all.

"Ask yourself how he can be a reformer when he has voted to put us back in the

dark ages," said Burdick.

Burdick also said that Brodhead should be more responsive to his constituents by returning more often to the district.

"A representative can be more responsive to the people. A representative must listen to what the people have to say. Without that dialogue we don't have a representative government," said Burdick.

Brodhead defended his record for the last two years.

"It's easy for someone to criticize who doesn't know what he's talking about," said Brodhead.

The truth is that I've returned to the district 47 times in the last two years. I also have compiled a 94 per cent attendance record in Congress.

The question is do you want a representative who is a member of Tuesday-Thursday club or one who plays a leadership role in Congress," he said.

Brodhead said his first two years have been dedicated to restoring confidence in the federal government.

"I HAVE WORKED very hard for openness. I've worked hard to reform the seniority system. I've done a big part of the job in making sure the salaries of house employees was made public," he said.

In past years these things were covered up. But I've challenged the old practices in Congress and the old leadership. He concluded.

Staff photos
by Harry Mauthe

Crowd jeers 12th hour attack

By RON GARBINKSI

Tuesday night's candidate debate ended on a sour note for many of the more than 200 17th U.S. Congressional District residents in the audience.

While the majority of those attending were William Brodhead supporters, the crowd sat through the 90-minute debate and departed with mixed reactions to the five candidates' views.

I'm putting partisan politics out of this but when Burdick made those accusations about Brodhead, I think those of us here felt cheated because he (Brodhead) didn't have a chance to reply," one Farmington resident added.

What irritated many residents from the district, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford and parts of Detroit, was that James Burdick, the Republican candidate for the post, waited until his closing comments to make charges against incumbent Brodhead and his campaign workers.

'I was amazed at the low level of Burdick's presentation. This type of thing does more to damage voter response and I'm really concerned about that.'

—Aldo Vagnozzi

The candidates went so far in attacking each other that they failed to leave us with any real answers," she explained.

I'm still thinking about who to vote for. And then these comments from the U.S. Labor Party candidate about the thermo-nuclear war really drew negative reaction from us.

Ibn Scheible of Detroit had never heard Burdick in person, so he came to see what the candidate had to say. "Sure Burdick is a good guy, but it's difficult not to follow Brodhead after what happened here tonight. Brodhead has a track record that seems impeccable."

Most of the candidates gave us vague answers. The U.S. Labor Party candidate

(Scott Elliott) put on a show for the wrong people. I think I've talked with him before and he seems really bright, but he's out to defeat Jimmy Carter and not get elected.

added Joe Vagnozzi, another Detroit resident.

The whole thing bordered on paranoia," said another startled viewer.

Aldo Vagnozzi, president of Farmington's Democratic Club, shared these views.

"I was amazed at the low level of Burdick's presentation. This type of thing does more to damage voter responsibility and I'm really concerned about that. It has nothing to do with partisan votes."

"For that matter, I think the American Independent Party candidate (Arve Bak-

ken of Redford) came out second best. Vagnozzi continued.

"BURDICK RAN after he made those accusations about Brodhead," said Dennis Hutchinson. Burdick's comments about us campaign workers being paid by federal funds was an outright lie. Those comments angered a lot of us because we're not on any federal payroll, we're all volunteers.

But after the so-called debate was over there were few Burdick supporters around to explain the Burdick comments except a group of young high school students who aren't eligible to vote.

"You only heard what you wanted to hear," said one fuming student who apparently favored Burdick.

"Brodhead really didn't answer the questions. Brodhead has done big things in Con-

(Continued on page 6A)



The crowd at North Congregational Church listens intently as the candidates state their views.



They came from all walks of life and all age groups for the debate as Patricia Gusman and her son, Adam of Southfield, listen to the debaters and still have time for a smile.



WILLIAM BRODHEAD



JAMES BURDICK

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