

# Whoever wins, Israel will get a Senate ally

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Southfield's Congregation Shaarey Zedek was the setting, and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East was the topic.

One thing is certain as a result of the meeting—Israel will have a strong ally in whoever is elected to the U.S. Senate from Michigan this fall.

Tuesday evening's gathering at one of metropolitan Detroit's most influential Jewish congregations was the first chance for the major parties' senatorial candidates—all eight of them—to face off against one another.

To the dismay of the program's organizers, two of the candidates didn't show. State Sen. Anthony Derezinski (D-Muskegon) and incumbent U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Traverse City) did not attend.

Griffin, however, sent a member of his Washington staff, Richard Zuckerman. Zuckerman read a prepared text, but did not respond to any of the audience's questions.

WHILE ALL THE candidates favored continued U.S. economic and military aid for Israel, some zeroed in on specific perceived failings in the Carter Administration's handling of Israel and the Middle East.

Carl Levin, former president of the Detroit City Council, took the Carter Administration to task for its "arrogant" foreign policy.

"It's wrong and foolhardy for the United States to think that it can dictate to these parties (Israel and Egypt) what they need," Levin said. He particularly criticized the administration's policy calling for Israel to make concessions to the Egyptian delegation even before the two sides get together for serious peace negotiations.

"There should be no preconditions on the parties just for them to get together," Levin said.

PHIL POWER, publisher of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, kept the heat on President Jimmy Carter and his policies.

He charged that U.S. policies, particularly about the Middle East, were unclear, inconsistent and wishy-washy in response to international developments. Power said, "If we're not clear in our goals, we stand for nothing."

"Without consistency of expression, we run the terrible risk of causing confusion of our intentions and our goals. That's the forerunner to conflict," Power said.

STATE REP. PAUL ROSENBAUM (D-Battle Creek) tied the survival of

Israel not only to a mutually-agreed-upon peace settlement with Egypt, but to America's reaction to Soviet and Cuban "adventures" in Africa.

Painting a scenario in which pro-Soviet Cuban forces moved from Angola north through Kenya, Libya and the Sudan, eventually isolating Israel from other pro-western African and Middle Eastern nations, Rosenbaum predicted tough going for the Jewish state.

While he advocated more U.S. military aid to African nations as an attempt to resist Soviet and Cuban incursions into their territory, Rosenbaum said Israel and Egypt must resolve their differences to counter the threat of Soviet action in northeastern Africa.

"The sooner Israel and Egypt get together to form a mutual defense pact against the Russians, the better off we'll all be," Rosenbaum said.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN Richard VanderVeen of Grand Rapids, in contrast to Rosenbaum's impassioned remarks, favored a moderate, conciliatory approach to the Middle Eastern situation.

Agreeing it is wrong for the United States to try to unilaterally impose a settlement in the Middle East, VanderVeen said America should do all it can to encourage discussion between Egypt and Israel.

He said Israel, at a minimum, needs to retain part of the lands captured in the 1967 "Seven-day War," including the Golan Heights and all of the City of Jerusalem. Prior to 1967, Jerusalem was divided between Israel and Jordan.

He applauded Israel's apparent shift in negotiating positions. Former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan earlier this week made announced that Israel would be willing to negotiate any territorial differences with Egypt.

Maybe now negotiations can proceed more successfully," VanderVeen said.

STATE SEN. JOHN OTTERBACHER (D-Grand Rapids), who said he did not come prepared with a "full, seven-point Middle Eastern plan," said the key to the United States' relations with Israel and the rest of the Middle East was the energy crisis.

All the candidates, however, agreed that the United States must move on a energy policy that will reduce American dependence on Middle Eastern oil.



Senate candidates Tony Derezinski and incumbent Robert Griffin didn't appear at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, but Republican Griffin was represented by aide Richard Zuckerman (left). Other candidates

(from left) are Carl Levin (D), John Otterbacher (D), L. Brooks Patterson (R), Phil Power (D), Paul Rosenbaum (D) and Richard VanderVeen (D). (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

OAKLAND COUNTY Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, who was once again denied a chance to meet fellow Republican Griffin in an open forum, decried what he said was an attempt on the part of the Carter Administration to impose a Middle Eastern settlement by cutting back military and economic aid to Israel.

"Israel is surrounded," Patterson said. "Economic and military aid must be continued. I don't like government dangling carrots in front of my nose."

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