

After bloody primary Patterson spurns olive branch

By Tim Richard
staff writer

After winning the Republican gubernatorial primary with a slashing, cut-and-run campaign, Rick Headlee faces the problem of patching up the party into a unit that can elect a team.

Headlee moved quickly to hold out an olive branch to Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, who was third in a three-way battle where no one got more than 34 percent or less than 28.

Would he consider having Patterson on the fall ticket as the attorney general candidate?

"Oh, sure," said the Farmington Hills insurance executive Tuesday night as the election results trickled into the Michigan Inn in Southfield. A pause. "I'd like to have him change his style on TV ads just a little," he added.

HEADLEE'S REMARK was read to Patterson an hour later at his party in Roma Hall in Bloomfield. Patterson spotted a split second and then said:

"I have one regret — I didn't pour it on more."

The 10-year veteran of the Oakland County prosecutor's office cooled a little and added: "I'll campaign for any Republican nominee who is for less government, less taxes, compared to Democratic nominee James Blachard."

Patterson talked on, then said, "I don't want to close any doors. I'm not bitter. It's premature to make any statement."

Many Republican politicians have talked to Patterson over the years about taking on Democratic Attorney General Frank Kelley. Patterson might have had the nomination in 1978 but chose instead to stay in a losing primary battle against U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin. He wanted to be a senator

analysis

Instead, he might have been in a position to ask for the attorney general nomination this year, but chose to conduct a nearly fratricidal campaign against Headlee, Lt. Gov. James Brickley and state Sen. Jack Welborn.

HOW BITTER Patterson — and other Republicans — are or aren't may be seen at this weekend's Republican state convention in Grand Rapids.

Since 1970, the gubernatorial nominee has hand-picked his running mate for lieutenant governor, but the other ballot slots usually have been up for grabs. The unwritten rule is that delegates try to balance the ticket by sections of the state, by race and by gender.

The 1982 GOP convention is pretty much an open book. There are few Republican incumbents to seek re-election.

The state ticket will be rounded out by candidates for secretary of state and attorney general.

One incumbent, State Supreme Court Justice John Fitzgerald, has decided to step down. Two candidates will be nominated — one to replace him and one to take on Justice Blair Moody Jr.

EIGHT PEOPLE will be nominated for education posts — two each for the State Board of Education and the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

Only one Republican presently holds any of those jobs. Paul B. Henry has been on the State Board of Education since he was appointed in 1975 by Gov.

'I'll campaign for any Republican nominee who is for less government, less taxes, compared to Blachard.'

— L. Brooks Patterson

Milliken. Henry, 40, is associate professor of political science at Calvin College, Grand Rapids.

Typically GOP conventions feature three or four fights between conservatives and mainstream moderate supporters of Milliken. Under Headlee, the main stream may have shifted to the right. If so, a different brand of state ticket could emerge.

MEANWHILE, the bitterness of the primary won't fade when the TV set is turned off. The candidates have put their disdain for each other in writing.

The Headlee Headliner: "Take a look at the two sides of Brooks Patterson . . . Patterson says he will take no PAC or special interest money in this campaign. But he has accepted over \$10,000 from one special interest lobbying group."

Patterson news release: "Headlee allegation. That Brooks Patterson has accepted some \$14,000 in special interest money. Fact . . . Patterson has not accepted any special interest, union or political action committee donations during the course of this campaign. In fact, donations from special interests have been returned."

Gubernatorial nominee Headlee may need to carry a lot of bandages next week.

Invalid 'split' ballots is minor problem

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Split tickets only account for a small portion of the primary electorate's votes, but they could have an impact in a close race.

With the advent of punch card voting, it appears that more voters are inadvertently splitting their tickets in party primaries, invalidating their ballots.

"We had 9,036 votes cast and 1,447 split tickets. That's only 1.6 percent, which really isn't bad," said West

Bloomfield Clerk Betty Sue Dupree.

"But I think a lot of people were torn between candidates when they had to split tickets. Our people vote, but it would have been a higher percentage if people could vote their choice, not just by party," she added.

Although the "Michigan" law for straight-party primaries has been in effect for at least 50 years, every time there's a primary, voters complain.

We get complaints from people who couldn't split their tickets," said Esther Hulsing, Plymouth Township Clerk.

"It's been that way since that one, so

I don't know why it's a surprise to people but it is. I guess they forget," she added.

In Livonia, City Clerk Bob Nash said it was too soon to tell how many Livonia voters spoiled their ballots because he hasn't studied the votes yet.

After about three weeks, after the Board of Canvassers gives the OK, I can open the boxes and take a look, but right now I can't," he explained.

In Troy, City Clerk Kenneth Courtney said about 2.9 percent of the punch-card ballots were spoiled. Of the 1,924 voters who cast punch-card ballots, 55

split their tickets.

"Most people are independents and don't think they should be stuck to party lines," Courtney said. "We tell people how to use the punch cards and instructions are written on the ballots, but most people don't listen."

Bradley Wittman at the State Elections Commissions office said the state tries to educate voters against splitting their tickets by posting signs in each precinct explaining the procedure.

"But people don't read. They think they know what they're doing."

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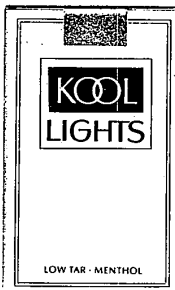
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