

# Can NDC's Hecker Take Harris In 19th?

By TIM RICHARD

As many as five men will be in the Democratic primary seeking a shot at 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald. As of last week, the race shapes up this way:

• Fred L. Harris will be "the man to beat," assuming he gets the support of the United Auto Workers, as he is hoping.

• Ron Hecker, as the candidate of the liberal New Democratic Coalition, is backed by the most cohesive minority group in the party. If the other candidates cut up each other, Hecker's team, able and enthusiastic though not rich, could carry him in.

• Frank X. Adell, Novi industrialist, appears to have plenty of his own money but has yet even to try to make friends among local party people.

• Daniel Burress, a Livonia attorney, and the off-again, on-again Hugh Patrick O'Neill, Livonia civil defense director, appear to lack support for a serious bid.

McDonald, a two-term incumbent, seems personally to have alienated no one and will be extremely tough to beat. But Democrats are pinning their hopes that the shaky economic situation will hurt the Nixon Administration and those GOP congressmen who have backed its fiscal and social policies.

THAT APPEARED to be the picture during a weekend party for Paul Kadish, a Livonia insurance man who is so far unopposed for the Democratic nomination for the State Senate. Kadish is running in Republican George Kohn's district, which covers about half the 19th Congressional District, including Livonia and Farmington.

Kadish was supposed to be the star of his own party, held in a UAW hall in Westland Saturday evening, but everyone there was his friend, and so all eyes were on the congressional candidates.

Three of them—Hecker, Harris and Burress—showed up. Adell was reported vacationing in California, and his absence hurt him. O'Neill, who was circulating petitions on Memorial Day, dropping out a day later, and circulating them again last Friday, was withdrawn.

THE BIG QUESTION for



FRED L. HARRIS  
Will UAW Aid ...



RON HECKER  
...Overcome NDC?

19th District Democrats will be whether the United Auto Workers, generally referred to with great respect as "The Union," will back a candidate against McDonald.

One line of reasoning was that it wouldn't. "The Union doesn't want to back a two-year congressman," said one party veteran, referring to the probability that Michigan will lose a congressional seat after the next census.

But if The Union backs a candidate, it will almost certainly be Harris, a 40-year-old attorney who moved from Detroit to Farmington Township in December. A one-time electrical worker, Harris is president of an IBEW local and an AFL-CIO board member.

Harris said in an interview that he has "no UAW commitment."

ment. I talked to them and was told to submit a letter" that would be considered by the appropriate political committee.

Yet Harris was hopeful that he would get the nod, if anyone did, and few doubted that possibility.

In 1968, the UAW backed Gary Frink, a well-read Washington attorney who had held several political appointments and had been raised in the Oakland County community of Rochester. Frink registered to vote with his grandfather's Pontiac address and beat Ron Mardiros, Livonia businessman and party leader who backed by the NDC, in a two-man primary.

HECKER is less flamboyant than Mardiros, and he has

now detached himself from his former leader. He ruffles fewer party regular feathers than Mardiros did, and he will surely benefit from the growing experience and political sophistication of the NDC group.

Hecker will run with knowledgeable help. His slogan will be "Give 'em H." A parody on Harry S. Truman's earthy "give 'em hell" theme, and his four issues will be "peace, racial justice, full employment and a healthy environment."

He's getting volunteer help from outside the district and states as one of about 100 "peace" candidates in the nation. Hecker has no illusions about his chances of beating Harris and fewer about his chances of upsetting McDonald. But he figures he's riding the tide of the future.

ADELL is the mystery man.

Few Democrats at Kadish's party said they had ever met him. No one this reporter met in 3½ hours claimed to be supporting him. Rumors about his wealth and his campaign budget floated freely.

Adell is secretary-treasurer

of a plant with the family name located on the 1-96 freeway in Novi. He himself lived in the 18th District until the last couple of months.

He flatly refused to answer any Observer Newspapers reporter's questions over the telephone when it was discovered that he had filed for Congress last week. Instead, he referred a reporter to his formal, written announcement.

That announcement related his age and family background, describing him as a contributor to Democratic causes, but said nothing about such data as his education or political experience, if any.

BURRESS—everyone, refers

to him as "Danny"—is a boyish-looking attorney of 36, a bit shy perhaps.

Burress said he had planned to run only if Pat O'Neill didn't, and O'Neill's decision to get back in the race had crossed Burress up. But he wasn't sure or anything.

He claims a longer Livonia residence (since 1958) than O'Neill and Hecker. Although he's a lawyer, he seems more oriented to economic issues.

"I taught at the Detroit Business Institute—finance and business law—and my wife is a former teacher," he said. "Our priorities in this coun-

try are misplaced. The underprivileged are getting more underprivileged. I can't understand this inflation at the same time as the unemployment."

And that's how the Democratic primary in the 19th Congressional District shapes up at this point.

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## Burress Enters Dem Primary

Daniel A. Burress, Livonia attorney, announced Monday he will be a Democratic candidate for 19th District congressman, giving that party's voters four choices in the Aug. 4 primary.

Incumbent is two-term U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald (R-Farmington).

A fifth Democratic candidate is Hugh Patrick O'Neill, City of Livonia civil defense director, who has filed and is believed ready to announce.

BURRESS, 36, HAS his law office at 2944 Six Mile in Livonia and was formerly a

member of the firm of Ryan and Burress with offices in Redford Township.

He is past president of the Livonia Bar Association, a former director of the Brookwood Estates Association and was an unofficial Livonia City Council candidate in 1964.

He presently lives at 17356 Starnwich in Livonia with his wife, Geraldine, and two daughters. He has lived in Livonia since 1959.

Burress, too, advocates "that we remove ourselves from the Far East as soon as possible and concentrate our energies and resources in satisfying the human and domestic needs of this country and its people."

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