

Lenore Dazzles When Film Fizzles

Mrs. Lenore Romney, public candidate for the U.S. Senate, wowed 80 persons in Plymouth Tuesday with her prompt personal bravery.

The projector scheduled to screen her campaign stunner "Lenore" broke down and she filled in by fielding questions while a replacement machine was rounded up.

Most of those in attendance were admittedly the party faithful, with women in equal proportion to men and a noticeable cadre of youths under 21.

But the first question rock in the group: "If your name were not Romney, what would your qualifications be?"

SHE ACCEPTED IT as a

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welcome challenge and launched a breathless rapid fire.

The slender, perky grandmother of 15 listed her works in volunteer groups, her caring for mentally retarded children in her home, her campaign efforts for the 1964 state constitution, her national chairmanships of the YWCA, the American Field Service and the Brotherhood Council of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, her associations with nationally prominent persons.

She said it would be foolish of her to expect she could win if she didn't have a record of service.

Her entry into the room was without fanfare. Now most

roared to their feet in applause as she exhibited the half-smile, half-laugh with the darting eyes that seems to suggest that she's delighted but surprised.

The smile-laugh is a winner. It is so much a winner that it appears and reappears constantly in the slickly produced movie as she expounds for an unseen interviewer, as she greets applause from the rostrum of a political rally, as she frolics with children.

MRS. ROMNEY continued fielding questions, most bearing in bluntly in search of her views on prominent national issues. She hesitated only once.

A middle-aged woman asked: "Does the President, does the cabinet know that we of the 'silent majority' are concerned... as much as the demonstrating students?"

"I... I don't know," was Mrs. Romney's first reply. Then she said, "Yes, they know."

On Vietnam, inflation, crime, environmental control, youth she stated firm and considered positions. These were the five top priority items in the campaign, by her own identification.

Two things became obvious as she engaged in the repartee here. Never did she play up the "Mrs. Romney" identity. Never did she mention her Republican opponent.

Like the movie title implies, the emphasis is on "Lenore" in this campaign.

Like a track runner in a preliminary race, her sights were coolly set on the main event.

"I'M IN THIS RACE to win," she exclaimed. "I feel Sen. Philip Hart is vulnerable on his record."

It was left to another Republican office seeker, who also faces a primary contest, to remind the group that the race is indeed complete with "Nurdies" Carl Pursell, candidate for the state Senate urged the audience to rally the vote in the Aug. 4 primary.

By his appearance at the "Lenore" meeting and at the microphone there he identified with her. Otherwise he followed his self-imposed posture of separateness from campaigns other than his own. He conspicuously refrained from pinning a Lenore button in his lapel.

Mrs. Romney, nonetheless

must triumph over Huber, state senator from Troy, for the Republican nod to face Sen. Hart, the Democratic incumbent, this fall.

Pursell is seeking to dislodge Huber ally George Kuhn as 14th District state senator, in which the primary contest will be crucial. The Democratic opponent in the general election will be Paul Kishish of Livonia.

BUD WEBER, chairman of the 2nd Congressional District Republican Party organization, in whose district Mrs. Romney was appearing, works the usual non-favoritism role of such party leaders.



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