

Harris Rips Foe On Education Veto

Hecker Blasts Seniority System

Fred L. Harris, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 19th District, has charged that Republican incumbent Jack McDonald is responsible for local school districts losing federal aid.

Harris, of Farmington, is a lawyer and union leader. Speaking at a gathering in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Ryan in Farmington, Harris charged that McDonald's vote in support of President Nixon's veto of education funds de-

prived local school districts of needed help.

"I DON'T SEE how McDonald can justify his support of the Nixon veto when the Livonia and Waterford school districts in the 19th are on reduced schedules and other districts face cutbacks in the coming year," Harris said.

"Of course, we can't place education at the top priority level as long as we are spending billions of dollars in Vietnam, the Anti-Ballistics Missile system, and supersonic transport. I favor spending these billions for education and other needs.

"The present congressman uses free mailing privileges for a series of loaded questionnaires which do nothing to

permit the people of the 19th district to express their deep opposition to his anti-education vote.

"I challenge the present congressman to ask the question: 'Do you support my vote to back President Nixon's decision to reduce federal appropriations for education and health programs?'

"The homeowner is the hardest hit by McDonald's anti-education vote," Harris said. "The homeowner is the one who faces higher property taxes and higher assessments to make up for the loss of federal income which resulted from the present congressman's vote.

The 19th District includes Farmington, Livonia and Redford.

Ron Hecker, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. representative in the 19th District, criticized the congressional seniority system in a talk last week.

Speaking in the Livonia home of Peter Havstad, Hecker, a businessman who lives in Livonia, said:

"U.S. congressional powers are disappearing. They're being absorbed by the military bureaucracy in and out of Congress, and are being usurped by the president.

Partly to blame is an entrenched feudal system in the House of Representatives which for the last 60 years has permitted men, largely from one-party states, to become committee chairmen on the basis of seniority. These men are then allowed to rule without any much regard for the majority will of the House, or of the electorate.

"THESE FEUDAL BARONS, together with the House leaders, wield undeserved powers and largely determine the shape of legislation. However, they have lost touch with the mood of the people in this country. They are no longer representative.

"Almost every man who goes to Washington knows what's going on. So, why isn't something done? And it's not even a question of legislation. It's merely party rules and procedures built up in caucuses.

"We, as people, and as voters, are losing confidence in the men that sit in Congress. A Congress that closes committee meetings to the press and the public, that refuses to disclose record votes taken in closed committee; that makes reports and other information about the contents and effects of legislation unavailable; that allows non-record votes on major amendments during floor consideration of bills; that permits closed House-Senate conferences and more off-the-record votes; that calls up conference reports and other measures for a vote before members have had adequate opportunity to study them.

"DEMOCRACY can't work in such a framework. It's time for changing the party rules and ridding Congress of the federal barons that have helped destroy the peoples' faith in the system."



THE BIG WINNER--Michael D. Wolfe, of 14164 Bainbridge, Livonia, displays his photo that took "best of show" in Livonia Mall's third annual Snapshooters Contest. In competition of the mall, Seven Mile and Middle Belt, Wolfe won over 200 other photographers from as far away as Midland, Mich. Other Observerland residents who took prizes were Albert E. Taylor, of 18945 Brentwood, Livonia, second in color; Larry L. Lee, of 27814 W. Six Mile, Livonia, third in color, and Lois Toth, of Livonia Camera Club, category winner.

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Jack Gets A Draw From Tradesmen

U. S. Rep. Jack McDonald, 19th District Republican incumbent, still has friends in the labor union movement despite trading his blue collar for one of white more than 10 years ago.

The Building Trades Council of the AFL-CIO has refused to endorse a challenger of the more union-oriented Democratic Party, despite the UAW Community Action Committee (CAP) having already championed Democrat Fred L. Harris, president of the Electrical Workers Local 58.

McDonald, a former heavy equipment operator, still holds membership in Operating Engineers Local 324, also affiliated with the council.

THE BUILDING Trades Council backed off several other labor choices, including 18th District candidate August Scholle, AFL-CIO retiring president, and gubernatorial candidate Sander Levin.

Nor would the tradesmen accept 1st District Rep. John Conyers Jr. Instead, they endorsed Willie L. Baxter, secretary of the DSR Commission.

About the only endorsement the AFL-CIO and the tradesmen could agree on was U.S. Sen. Philip A. Hart. Both like him.

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