

A More Sophisticated NDC Tries Again

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

With five candidates for state and national offices receiving the endorsement of the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia (NDC), that group is making its broadest thrust ever for political influence.

Its chairman, Cornelius DeStigter, believes the group and the national liberal movement of which it is a part is "more sophisticated and more knowledgeable" today about the mechanics of politics than in previous campaigns.

"Our rallying strength will be much greater... possibly more than double what it was in 1968. The frustration of the voter has increased. I think 1970 is going to be a very right time," he said.

Previously the Livonia NDC

was part of a nationwide effort for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Eugene McCarthy, part of state NDC moves to liberalize policies of the state Democratic party in last fall's reform convention, and supported two candidates for Schoolcraft Community College trustees in June 1969.

ONE of THEIR Schoolcraft choices won a seat, Livonian John LaRue, who has since risen to such prominence that the other board members selected him to chair the presidential search committee.

The NDC of Livonia is backing incumbent U.S. Sen. Philip Hart, gubernatorial candidate Zoltan Ferency, 18th District congressional candidate Ronald Hecker, 14th District State Senate candidate Paul Kadish and Wayne County commissioner candidate Larry VanDerVolken for the Democratic nominations in the Aug. 4 primary.

Hart and Kadish are unpopular.

WHAT DOES a Livonia NDC endorsement mean? It means success, it means strength, because NDC successfully boosted LaRue locally, and their voices in concert with others across the state had some impact, though not complete way, in the party reform movement.

Formal NDC membership rolls are non-existent but DeStigter says many "non-members" join in the work "when we have something to do."

He theorizes: "Whenever we're active and get people out and are visible, it is magnified many, many times."

Obviously, too, it means the candidates "are right on the issue" of withdrawal now of U.S. military forces from Viet-

nam. On this issue, if no other, the NDC advocates agree.

Ferency and Hecker are explicitly campaigning on the issue.

Ferency and Hecker assert that the war is taking funds that could better be used for state and national domestic programs.

Hecker said in a recent statement to his NDC supporters: "The war continues, and widens, while the Nixon administration looks for peace with honor. Well, I don't give a damn about saving face. I'm more interested in saving people."

IN THE SAME newsletter, the Livonia NDC announced a five-point list of its objectives:

"1. Take on the responsibility of educating the electorate with respect to local, state, national and world issues to those in the community who have made an informed judgment rather than one based on misinformation."

"2. Seek candidates for local, state and national offices, who will set an example of dedication to the needs of their community, state or country as a whole, those more interested in moral power as opposed to political power; those more receptive to the frustrations and mood of the people they would serve."

"3. Embrace youth of our community. To eliminate their disenchantment and to build a renewed trust in adults and their motives. To give them a

chance to participate in the improvement of the society in which they live."

"4. Influence the affairs of the Democratic party at all levels."

"5. Change the internal structures of the Democratic Party and seek those statutory changes which may be required to make it a truly democratic instrument of the country's people."

CHAIRMAN DeStigter told Observer Newspapers: "Our biggest overall interest is citizen participation in government, in the grand tradition of progressives and any others who believe government belongs to the people. We

choose to honor the tradition that Americans are friends of the peoples of the world rather than the enemy, and the peacemaker rather than the warmonger."

"We're constitutionalists with regard to the roles of the national president and the Congress... We believe it's the job of the congressmen to do the damage of the executive voice (a more creative point of view... No longer can we accept the notion that a congressman or senator is helpless."

"WHAT THE NDC STANDS for, at a very minimum, is a vigorous and free discussion of issues... We've found, looking at the Democratic Party, that what's lacking is a vigorous discussion of issues."

"We're tired of the state central committee and conventions, which everybody knows are rigged, dictating the party stands... Somehow we concentrate on the personalities, then discover we've really had no part in the making of the position," said chairman DeStigter.

OTHER LIVONIA NDC officers are Vice Chairman Angelo Chini, philosophy teacher at Schoolcraft College, Secretary Paul Endicott, a Southfield lawyer, and Treasurer Adrienne Hecker, wife of the congressional candidate.

DeStigter is a government and American history teacher in Dearborn Heights public schools. His name "spelled with a small d" means "the organizer" in Dutch.

DeStigter is an ordained minister with a master of divinity degree in addition to his master's in government and history, and he is the church moderator (lay minister) of the Pilgrim United Church.

HIS INVOLVEMENT in politics goes back to "the school of precinct politics of Alderman Merriam" in Chicago.

"I was mightily impressed with the clout of the party organization there," he said, explaining that as a student and youthful employee then he had been "on into the infamous machine politics of the pre-Daley era."

He was active in the Michigan Committee of Concerned Democrats, the liberal group that preceded the "McCarthy

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Eight Observerland residents have received recognition from Detroit College of Business, in Dearborn, for achieving superior academic records in the spring quarter.

Their names, addresses and grade-point averages earned are:

Livonia—Raymond W. Poulin, 1498 Arcola, 4.0; Deborah A. Tilley, 30323 W. Chicago, 3.87; and Laurence A. Skotzke, 9961 Cardwell, 3.8.

Westland—Thomas K. Rae, 7818 Merriman, 4.0; Pankaj R. Mehta, 7382 Central, 3.83; Roger A. Royer, 32732 Commanche, 3.75; Gary L. Kell, 7821 Randy Dr., 3.5; and Robert J. Wlasek, 29184 Brody, 3.5.

Dr. Douglas J. Collins of Farmington was elected vice chairman, replacing Mrs. Lila R. Johnson, who has served as vice chairman since 1964. She will continue to be the board secretary.

At the same meeting, newly-elected member Eugene L. Johnson, 2434 Garland, Pontiac, former Bloomfield Hills School superintendent, and re-elected member Earl M. Anderson, 30159 Palmer, Madison Heights, were sworn in for six-year terms.

8 In Area Placed On Honor Roll

Effective Sept. 1, Michigan residents may buy a sportsman's license for \$18.50 covering privileges of gun and archery deer licenses, bear, small game, trapping (except beaver and otter), and fishing licenses including special trout and salmon stamps.

The sportsman's license approved by the Legislature permits a savings of \$8.75 when compared with the combined total licenses as in the past, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Each sportsman's license will be valid from Sept. 1 through the following Aug. 31, except the fishing license which will not expire until Sept. 30.

Dealers throughout the state who sell individual licenses also will have sportsman's licenses for sale.

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—de Stigter

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Henderson Heads OCC Trustees

Gordon C. Henderson will serve as chairman of the Oakland County Community College Board of Trustees for the coming two years.

He succeeds six-year chairman George R. Mosher, who withdrew himself from consideration at the July 6 board reorganization meeting.

Dr. Douglas J. Collins of Farmington was elected vice chairman, replacing Mrs. Lila R. Johnson, who has served as vice chairman since 1964. She will continue to be the board secretary.

At the same meeting, newly-elected member Eugene L. Johnson, 2434 Garland, Pontiac, former Bloomfield Hills School superintendent, and re-elected member Earl M. Anderson, 30159 Palmer, Madison Heights, were sworn in for six-year terms.

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