

How And Why Pursell Beat Sen. Kuhn

By W. W. EDGAR

It was nearing the witching hour of midnight. The votes had been counted assuring him the Republican nomination for the role of state senator from the 14th District. The many well wishers had departed, and Carl Pursell, at last, had his first chance to relax in several months.

Slumping into a chair he quietly remarked, "It sure was a long, hard fight. But it is a wonderful feeling to realize that you reached your goal."

There, in the quiet, far from the wild cheering through in Botsford Inn that has listened to his words of thanks for their help, Pursell calmly reviewed the campaign that brought him success and evened the score for a humiliating defeat of four years ago.

"NO ONE LIKES to lose," he said, "and when George Kuhn beat me by a mere 1,000 votes in 1966, I vowed that if ever I got the chance to face him again at

the polls, I'd beat him. And tonight it happened... thanks to one of the finest groups of volunteer workers any candidate ever had."

As he sat there recounting his burning desire and the moves he made to achieve the success he had just attained, there came memories of a similar scene in the boring industry-right after Joe Louis had suffered his surprise knockout at the hands of Max Baer.

The night of that beating, Joe's handlers vowed that if the Brown Bomber ever got the chance for a return battle, the result would be different.

Finally, that chance came. Coldly and thoroughly they came to the conclusion that Joe was the harder puncher of the two and that he had the speediest hands of any heavyweight at that time (or since).

"Faster and harder" became the slogan of the training camp and each day Joe was subjected

to the theme until his confidence was built to its peak again.

Came the night of the return match with Schmeling and Joe, with that theme ringing in his ears, hastened across the ring at the opening bell and let go with the best punch he had. In little more than two minutes, it was all over. Joe had been vindicated.

NOW, HERE sat Pursell, glowing in the knowledge of his victory. And he recalled each step he had taken to the triumph.

"I followed every move George made after he took his seat in the senate," Carl recalled, "and made mental notes of his actions. I determined what I thought were his weaknesses and then waited my chance."

"This came two years ago when the Supreme Court ruled that the County Board of Supervisors should be an elective body.

"When that happened, I decided to run-to test my strength at the polls again after my defeat of two years before.

"When I won, I knew then that I was ready to make another bid for the State Senate and face the man who had beaten me in 1966."

ASKED WHAT he thought would be the move that turned the tide in his favor, Pursell replied:

"When the Senator blocked my appointment by Gov. Milliken to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority. This move, almost unprecedented for one Republican to block another, just made me that much more determined. I decided to fight harder than ever."

"Faster and harder," Joe Louis would have said.

Pursell continued: "I travelled the length and breadth of the district-the largest and fastest growing in the state-and carried my fight to the people."

"Along with my helpers we travelled more than 21,000 miles since last March and there wasn't a portion of the district we missed."

CAREFULLY, Pursell cultivated local officials-city councilmen and township trustees-to get their coopera-

tion on regional projects and their points of view on crumby and state legislation. He offered the opinion many times that Kuhn failed to keep in touch with those local officials.

Like Joe Louis some years before, Pursell started delivering his political punches harder and faster.

Calling attention to the issues and every slip of his incumbent opponent, Pursell never rested, and he didn't allow any of his 1,000 young helpers to slacken the pace, either.

"It helped some," he recounted, "when Senator Kuhn took his stand on abortion. I think I picked up considerable strength there. And the same was true of the various tax bills."

THEN, WITH a smile that spread across his tired looking face after the long campaign, he said:

"Four years ago I vowed I'd do it. So, I prepared myself with all the political tools I had.



CARL PURSELL
Revenge Is Sweet

	Total	Wayne	Oakland	Observer-Land	Livonia	Clinton	Clinton Top	Ply	Fly	West
Kuhn (R)	10,341	3,268	7,073	3,902	2,411	484	2,065	169	366	1,304
PURSELL (R)	13,773	6,682	7,091	9,277	3,370	536	2,511	832	1,834	1,537
Smith (R)	806	288	518	518	173	36	189	11	39	67
Von Rose (R)	460	177	283	253	124	13	63	8	29	12
KADISH (D)	9,541	4,749	4,792	5,533	3,112	242	1,169	285	424	1,104

Kuhn Lost Own Town

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

Carl Pursell's upset of incumbent State Sen. George Kuhn for the Republican 14th District nomination was especially stunning because he did more than pile up wide margins in his home territory of Wayne County.

Even Kuhn's home-county of West Bloomfield Township added 446 to the Pursell margin, 2,511-2,065.

The City of Farmington Township added 446 to the Pursell margin, 2,511-2,065.

field returns became known. Pursell was being congratulated by his campaign staff and friends at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday night. Kuhn conceded a few minutes later, making the following statement to Observer Newspapers:

"I THINK WE GOT a little bit beat down in your territory. We've lost the Livonia and Plymouth returns decisively enough to lose the primary. There's no chance to overcome it."

"My opponent carried on an insidious type of smear type campaign, but I'm not complaining. We have no regrets. We've done our best. We've served our people well. I can sleep with myself every night."

"The people decided, and that's what this democracy is all about."

Pursell couldn't be dragged from exultant well-wishers for a statement until the wee hours of the morning, by then exhausted. He told Observer Newspapers then:

"It's a great victory for the people of the 14th District. Volunteers pulled us through. I think this was a positive campaign. It was my responsibility

to pay more attention to district record and local issues. Pursell's campaign carried forward a stance on just about every current state issue, but particularly hit at Kuhn for not

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MEANWHILE, EXPECTEDLY, Livonia heaped on a 3-1 Pursell total. The City of Plymouth 5-1, Plymouth Township 4-1, Northville City 2-1 and Northville Township 2-1. Only a few of the smaller communities in northern Oakland County were carried by Kuhn.

PURSELL RAN UP a larger plurality in Wayne County, 3,685 votes, than his total plurality, 3,432 votes, but seems to be in no danger of unpopularity in Oakland. The total unofficial returns showed Pursell with 13,773 and Kuhn with 10,341.

Pursell's victory was apparent even before West Bloom-

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