

Oppose Rule of Special Interests

Opposition to the interference by special interests in legislative affairs of the state has been emphasized by the entry of several prominent democrats in the primary contest in Nebraska. I. J. Dunn, of Omaha, has filed as democratic candidate for United States senator; Edgar Howard, of Columbus, has filed as a candidate for lieutenant-governor; Andrew Clute, of Hastings, has entered the contest as a candidate for state railway commissioner; Grant L. Shumway, of Scotts Bluff, has filed as a candidate for commissioner of public lands and buildings. These able democrats are all admirably fitted for the public positions to which they aspire. Their democracy can not be questioned, and the platform of principles on which they base their respective candidacies entitles them to the support of all democrats who believe that candidates for positions of public trust should state clearly their position on important questions that are to be considered in the campaign. The announcements, appearing below, of these candidates are entitled to the careful consideration of every voter who expects to take part in the democratic primaries April 18.

HON. I. J. DUNN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR UNITED STATES SENATORSHIP

February 25, 1916.

To the Democrats of Nebraska:

I will be a candidate at the primaries, for the nomination on the democratic ticket, for United States senator. I endorse the principles of democracy, as outlined in the Baltimore platform. I regard the foreign policy of President Wilson with regard to Mexico and the belligerent nations of Europe, as wise, statesmanlike and patriotic. President Wilson ought to be renominated and elected. I am opposed to the increase in the army and navy now being agitated. We ought to wait until the war in Europe has ended before attempting to decide whether additional military armaments are necessary. The government should manufacture all its munitions of war, armor plate, battleships, submarines and other craft, in time of peace, and control such manufacture in time of war. Congress ought to investigate the expenditures for the army and navy during the last fifteen years. If we are unprepared to defend ourselves now, the people who have paid the bills ought to know what has become of the large sums of money spent for the army and navy. Any increase in the appropriations for the army and navy ought to be raised by an additional tax on large incomes, and an inheritance tax on swollen fortunes and a direct tax, for the present at least, on munitions of war. The nation ought to be prepared to meet any probable attack. I believe the country is better prepared now than it has been at any time for fifty years. I am opposed to a large standing army, and to the proposed continental army.

There are, in my judgment certain issues involved in this state which democrats ought to have an opportunity to pass upon at the primaries. Those who differ as to what constitutes progressive democracy ought to have a chance to vote for candidates who represent their views. This also applies to the question of so-called preparedness, and to the methods of taxation to be adopted to meet the additions to our army and navy, if they shall be increased.

I am opposed to the domination of the democratic party in this state by organized special interests, headed by the public service corporations and liquor interests. I object to the democratic party in Nebraska being used as an instrumentality by these selfish interests and their paid lobbyists, to control legislation. I am in favor of driving the special interests out of politics, out of the government business, and particularly out of the business of running the democratic party.

If elected to the United States senate I would be guided by the vote of the people of the state on the question of prohibition. If the amendment prohibiting the liquor traffic should be adopted at the coming election I would not oppose the submission of a national prohibition amendment. If the amendment should be de-

feated I would oppose submitting such an amendment to the national constitution.

I. J. DUNN.

EDGAR HOWARD'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

To the Democrats of Nebraska:

In granting the request of those who have petitioned me to become a candidate for the democratic nomination for the office of lieutenant-governor I deem it proper to submit to the democrats of Nebraska the terms upon which their support may be fairly given to or withheld from me. I solicit the support of no man for personal reasons. I ask for my principles the support of every democrat who holds those principles dear, and for my own candidacy I ask his support only in event that he believes I am best qualified to promote those principles in the public place to which I may be called by the electors of Nebraska. The democrat who shall give me his support at the primaries will be making a mistake if he shall do so under the impression that I shall be less vigorous in support of my principles after donning the robes of high office than I have been through the years in the columns of my newspaper.

In the office of lieutenant-governor I shall not have large part in dealing with national political problems, and yet I believe it best, lest any be deceived, to tell where I may be found in thought and desire with reference to the national campaign. I endorse every plank in the platform of principles promulgated by the last national democratic convention, held in Baltimore. I applaud the whole course of the Wilson administration, save only its present advocacy of a preparedness programme which seems to me to be the forerunner of American militarism, and I shall feel it my duty to continue to plead with our democratic President to abandon a programme which finds so much favor with the beneficiaries of war, and so little favor with the advocates of honorable peace.

With reference to state matters I hold that in this most exclusively agricultural commonwealth the welfare of agriculture should have first consideration above all other interests. I can not be convinced that the great God in His infinite wisdom intended that the people of the prairies should be forever under bondage to the Philistine coal barons of Pennsylvania. I have the testimony of competent civil engineers to support me in the declaration that the rivers of Nebraska carry a volume of water sufficient to generate enough electricity to light every home and barn, whether in town or on the farm, to heat every residence and business building, to turn all the wheels in factories or on farms, and to cook all the food required by all the people, thus rendering unnecessary the burning of a bushel of coal in all Nebraska. Private capital can not and will not harness the rivers and make them work for the people. The harnessing can only be done by the people themselves, and I favor legislation which will enable the people to form water-power districts, and erect and operate public-owned plants to generate electricity and furnish it at low cost to all the people of the state.

I favor legislation to provide a workable warehouse law, wherein the producers could deposit their grain, take a warehouse certificate, and hold the grain until they get ready to sell it, and not be compelled to always sell at a time when the grain trust wants them to sell it.

I favor legislation to curtail the power of public stockyards corporations to rob. If the stockyards corporations are too powerful to be regulated, then I would favor state ownership and operation of all public stockyards.

I favor legislation looking to the relief of the people of this state from the burdens imposed by the old-line fire insurance trust, and to that end I would disbar from practice in this state any insurance company which bears allegiance to any combination of insurance interests outside Nebraska.

I can not assent to the claim of the Missouri Pacific, the Rock Island and other crippled railroad corporations that it is incumbent upon the people of Nebraska to make good the stealings of the financiers who wrecked those railroads, and I will oppose any legislation looking to an increase of railroad passenger fares above the rate now made lawful by the statutes of Nebraska.

I favor the calling of a constitutional conven-

tion to enable the people to enact organic laws in harmony with present day public sentiment.

As a democrat I have often been humiliated by the charge that the democratic party in Nebraska is the creature of the organized liquor interests. The charge is false, but it is unhappily too true that those interests have frequently sought to make the party an instrument for the promotion of evil in a legislative way, working always hand-in-hand with the favor-seeking corporations which maintain legislative lobbies. One of my dearest ambitions is to be able to do my part in taking the hand of such interests from the throat of the democratic party in Nebraska. I am not desirous of dictating the character of liquids or solids which may pass the lips of other people, but I do desire to be listed among the enemies of a combination of traffickers in intoxicants which arrogates to itself the right to dictate the nominees of the democratic party in Nebraska, and to direct the doings of legislatures elected by the people. I favor the complete overthrow of the organized political hierarchy of liquor interests, and I promise to be in the days to come as instant in opposition to their claim of divine right to rule Nebraska as I have been in the past.

EDGAR HOWARD.

PLATFORM OF ANDREW CLUTE, DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR RAILWAY COMMISSIONER

Public service corporations should be accountable to the public for their policies and their acts. Reason: A public service corporation is chartered to serve the people.

I favor a reciprocal demurrage law. The legislature should empower the railway commission to require transportation companies after accepting goods for shipment, to average eight miles per hour from point of starting to point of delivery, and failing to do so, should be compelled to pay demurrage. This would work no hardship upon the transportation companies.

I have long been of the conviction that Nebraska will never get from under legislative corruption and domination by corporate interests, until the political parties in this state are freed from the tyranny of the liquor combine, behind which, monopoly and corporate greed continually mask their operations through legislative agents. Therefore, I shall support the prohibitory amendment.

MAYOR BRYAN MAKES STATEMENT

Mayor Charles W. Bryan has issued the following statement in connection with the platform on which he announced that he would make the race for nomination as democratic candidate for governor:

In presenting to the voters of the state a platform covering some of the more important issues that I believe should be considered by the voters of the state at this time, I think it well to state as briefly as possible my reasons for including certain issues in the platform and for entering the contest as a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor.

A constitutional amendment intended to prevent the manufacture and use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage in Nebraska will be voted on at the coming election. It has been almost impossible during the past four years to pass legislation in the interest of the masses that would affect the public service corporation on account of the interference of the liquor interests in legislative matters. If the party is to represent the masses in Nebraska and is to pledge in its platform progressive legislation, it should take action to prevent the interference of the special interests so that the party can keep faith with the public. It has been demonstrated in a number of other states that the only way that this interference and domination in politics by this particular interest is to be prevented, is to discontinue their financial interest by discontinuing the manufacture of their product.

Nebraska is almost surrounded by states that have already put the liquor interests out of business within their respective domains. The people of Nebraska are divided among the nationalities about the same as they are in the surrounding states. The people of Nebraska are as highly educated and as far advanced along moral lines as the people of any of its neighbor states, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the result of the contest in Nebraska this fall will be the same as it has been in the adjoining states and in a number of other states in the northwest. If the voters of this state expect to vote Nebraska dry next fall, what is to become of the democratic party if it takes its stand on