

Both Convention Parties Attack Pre-Primary Convention Law

LINCOLN — Nebraska's political fever was down a few points this week after reaching a seasonal high during the recent pre-primary conventions in Omaha. Another upsurge is likely in the days preceding August 8 when Cornhusker voters will go to the polls for the 1950 primary election.

Both parties at Omaha attacked the law under which they met—the much-amended pre-primary law.

The Republicans nailed a plank in their platform calling for its overhauling and while the Democrats didn't go on the record as a party they were almost unanimous that there wasn't much good in the law.

People who disagree with this position could point to the fact that in only 1 Republican and in 2 Democratic races were more than 1 candidate endorsed.

The Republicans refused endorsement to 8 men while the Democrats spurned 3. Know-it-alls had said before the convention "everybody'll be endorsed."

No one could deny that some undesirable candidates had been eliminated by the process.

Here are the candidates endorsed by the 2 parties:

Republican

Governor — Val Peterson; lieutenant governor — Charles Warner; secretary of state — Frank Marsh; treasurer — Frank Heinze; auditor — Ray C. Johnson; attorney general — Clarence S. Beck.

Railway commissioners — John Knickrehm and Harold Palmer.

First congressional district — Carl T. Curtis. Second — Howard Buffett; Third — Karl Steffan; Fourth — A. L. Miller.

Democrat

Governor — Walter Raecke and Frank Morrison; lieutenant governor — Ed Dosek; attorney general — Michael McLaughlin; secretary of state — Foster May; auditor — George D. Richardson; treasurer — William T. Thompson; railway commissioners — J. C. Slater and J. C. McReynolds.

First district congress — Clarence G. Miles; Second — Eugene D. O'Sullivan; Third — Duane K. Peterson; Fourth — Hans J. Holtzer, Jr.

Flood Damage Great

The soil conservation service has hung a price tag of \$53,000,000 on damage to land, agricultural establishments and county road systems in the May 8 floods in southeastern Nebraska.

A. E. McClymonds, of Lincoln, regional director for the SOS, said the total does not include damage to industrial, municipal, and urban property, state and federal highway systems, railroads and communications systems, or reservoirs.

Ninety percent of the loss was

on bottomland farms, the report showed.

Val to West Virginia

Gov. Val Peterson this week is attending the national governors' conference at White Sulphur Spring, W. Va. But before he left, he tossed punches at the Democrats. He led with a jab at "some" Democrats who have been caught with gambling jam on their faces." He slapped Demo State Chairman Clayton Shroud for suggesting the Democrats could win this year because of resentment to the gambling crackdown launched last fall by Republican Attorney-General James H. Anderson.

Then the governor followed with a poke at Democratic criticism of high taxes in Nebraska. "It's a matter of public record," said the governor, "that this administration holds the national championship for low taxes."

Nebraska last year had the lowest per capita tax rate in the nation.

Rail Squabble Continues

The long drawn out argument over whether the Burlington railroad should be allowed to curtail service on its Lincoln-Table Rock-Wymore line is going to be longer and more drawn out.

Protestants to cutting the service, principally the League of Nebraska Municipalities, were given by the state railway commission until July 1 to file briefs to support their contention that the application should be denied.

The Burlington says it's losing \$100,000 a year on the routes and the League says that if the application is granted the railroad may eventually remove all service on the line.

Oil Regulation?

Regulation and taxation of one of Nebraska's newest industries—oil and gas—was discussed at a meeting here of the legislative council's committee on the subject.

Research Director Roger Shuman said testimony, including that of oil company representatives, indicated some type of conservation legislation may be required. They also agree, he said, that some state agency should administer the program.

Quotes from the Statehouse Beat

Fred Klietsch, state engineer: Nebraska's motorists last month traveled 209,000 more miles daily on rural roads than in May, 1949. This year's figure was 8,691,000 compared to 8,482,000 a year ago. Daily travel is up 15 percent over last year.

Dr. Frank D. Rydell, state health director: "All federal funds now available for construction of hospitals in Nebraska have been allocated.

Communities desiring to apply for federal funds may do so after

Other Page News

An opponent of the governor's road program asked a question recently — and got an answer.

Willard Wilson, of Holdrege, a former state senator, is now Nebraska secretary of the Petroleum Industries committee, an organization fighting the highway revenue measures passed by the last session. He voted for the increased gas tax and higher registration fees. When he took his present job, he charged the highway department had given the legislature and the public false information.

Wilson's office is circulating reprints of clippings from newspapers published while the legislature was in session. They quote Gov. Val Peterson and State Engineer Fred Klietsch as saying that the state could build few, if any roads during 1949.

Below these clippings is one, dated January 23, 1950, reporting that the highway department built \$11½ million dollars worth of roads last year.

Wilson wanted to know how,

with only \$2½ million additional revenue (from the gas tax boost), the state could build \$11½ million worth of highways.

The highway department's record produced the answer:

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Donald P. Miller, state labor commissioner: "Nebraska's labor picture brightened last month with a seasonal increase in the jobs available. There was a 21 percent drop from the previous month in the number of registered jobless."

A former state official, Harold Woten, of Lincoln, has paid the state \$535. That is the amount a preliminary report by State Auditor Ray C. Johnson shows unaccounted for in an audit of Woten's accounts when he was corporation clerk in the secretary of state's office.

The report contained photostatic copies of receipts allegedly issued by Woten for payment of corporation fees. The amounts differed from those in Woten's records, Johnson said.

Woten resigned recently. Johnson said it was impossible to tell when a complete report could be made.

The Geneva training school for girls and its superintendent, Mrs. Blanch Clouse, won plaudits recently from Governor Peterson, after he had delivered the commencement address for 21 girls finishing the accredited high school course at the institution.

"I was extremely well pleased with the fine condition of the plant and the evidence of excellent work being done at the institution," he said. "You can't measure in terms of money the good coming from Geneva. Every Nebraskan can be proud of the job of character-building and education going on there."

To frequently we measure all government in terms of tax receipts. At Geneva, and many other places in Nebraska, citizens can view accomplishments for dollars spent and realize the tremendous good that Nebraska is doing.

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Gets Prompt Answer

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Received from federal government \$ 5,508,196 Received from counties, cities, etc. 639,043 Cash Balance, Jan. 1, 1949 298,217 1948 obligations 1,793,414 Gas tax increase revenue 2,683,695 Additional for 1949 construction 270,644 Audited vouchers payable 14,985 Total \$11,208,197

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Another Inning

The famous illegal gambling, headline material in Nebraska since James H. Anderson issued a statewide crackdown order in September, 1949, had another inning recently.

Clarence Sherman Beck, who succeeded Anderson as attorney-general, warned the state's county attorneys to expect an upturn in slot machine activity between now and July 1, when the federal tax on the machines is due.

"This office has had reports of recent slot machine activity in various parts of the state," Beck wrote. He was referring to a club at Lexington.

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Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lamason returned home Monday, June 19, after a 2-weeks' trip to Tampa, Fla., where they visited their son and wife, Lt. and Mrs. J. L. Lamason. Lt. Lamason left for New York June 21 and from there will go to England. Mrs. Lamason expects to go to England in about 2 months.

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