

### Capitol News

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** While Melvin Paul, the Nebraska Press Association's Capitol Correspondent, is vacationing, this column is being conducted by guest writers. Today's is Walter R. Raecke of Central City, the Democratic candidate for Governor. Last week's was Mr. Raecke's opponent, Republican Robert B. Crosby of North Platte.

By WALTER R. RAECKE  
Democratic Candidate for Governor

These words are being written a few days before the opening of the first of our two great national conventions. The pre-convention presidential campaign this year has been the most interesting one of many years. One of the most encouraging features has been the surge of interest shown by the voters. They have stepped forward by the hundreds of thousands to participate in the primaries and have made it known that they want a voice in the selection of the candidates. The write-in votes have been most significant and have clearly demonstrated that the people are not always satisfied with the choices of the regular politicians. This is a healthy sign of democracy.

The recent Nebraska Primary has shown the need of some changes in our election laws. The second choice presidential preference vote and the vice-presidential preference vote have served no purpose except to lengthen the hours of labor for the election counting boards. The pre-primary convention endorsement of candidates for state office is largely meaningless when the same delegates are permitted to endorse as many candidates as they wish for the same office.

As the result of the filing of petitions to place my name on the ballot, the splendid unsolicited vote given me in the Primary, and the encouragement offered by so many Nebraskans, both Democrats and Republicans, I am now a candidate for the office of Governor. I shall try not to disappoint you.

#### Industry

Nebraska is primarily agricultural and without a prosperous agriculture all of us will suffer. However, a humming industry and good wages to labor are necessary to provide a market for farm products.

The lack of new land to settle and till has impressed upon our people the necessity for the proper use and conservation of our soil and water. Greater progress has been made along this line in the last 20 years than in all our previous history. The cooperation and public spirited assistance of the people of each community is necessary to successfully make the most beneficial use of our water and to keep it under proper control. The rights and wishes of the people in each locality effected must be given fair consideration.

#### Roads

Nebraska people are keenly conscious of their road problem. It is not confined to any one county or area, but is one of the chief subjects of conversation in every locality. The amount of roads which can be constructed and maintained depends primarily on two things.

First, the wise and efficient allocation, use and expenditure of whatever money is available; and second, the amount of money available. The first consideration, under existing laws, is the direct responsibility of the Governor and the Highway Department.

The second consideration is purely and simply economic. There is a limit to what can be done with whatever funds are available. Assuming that the money is to be spent efficiently, the fact still remains that only a certain number of miles can be built or maintained with a given amount of money. If the people are unwilling to provide more, the highway program cannot be substantially expanded. This is finally within the complete control of the voters under the initiative and referendum, and they can, if they wish, override any action of the Governor and Legislature on the subject, as has already been demonstrated.

Two years ago I repeatedly advocated the formation of a long range program, including the scientific classification of roads according to proper standards and a system of priorities for construction and development. Some work has been commenced along this line and it must be successfully completed.

#### Responsibility

The space allotted for this article will not permit the discussion of a proposed State Highway Commission, nor problems connected with education assistance and other matters of state concern, but they will be discussed during my campaign. The Governor has general charge of the administration of state affairs and it is his responsibility to see that the various departments operate efficiently and economically.

Expenditures for state government in Nebraska have tripled in the last ten years. This is sufficient warning that the Governor has a full time job, which must be accepted in all seriousness and with a firm determination to serve the people well.

With such determination I enter upon the campaign, which I intend to conduct in a clean and dignified manner in keeping with the importance of the office involved.

#### DEFICIT

The Government closed the 1952 fiscal year with a deficit of \$4,016,640,371. This figure compared with a surplus of \$3,000,000,000 last year but was considerably below the deficit predicted by President Truman last January. Budget receipts amounted to \$62,120,000,000 last year. Expenditures totaled \$66,145,000,000, compared with \$44,633,000,000 in the 1951 fiscal year.

#### SARATOGA Springs, N. Y. —

Three and a half hours after Crawford Darling, 26, escaped death in an automobile accident, he suffered fatal injuries when a car driven by his brother went off the road and struck a tree. His brother and another man, riding in the car, were seriously injured.

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