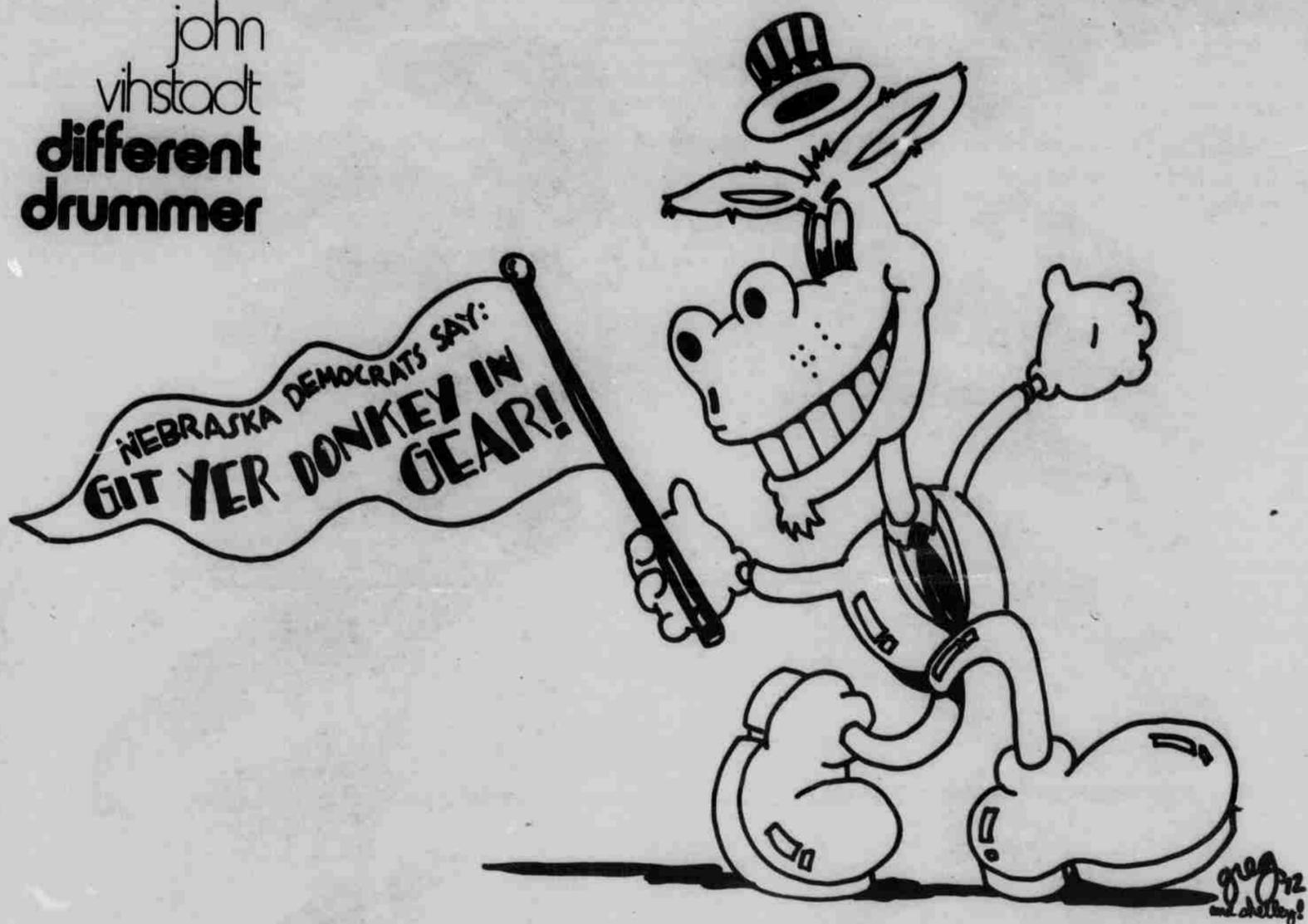


john
vihstadt
**different
drummer**



Nebraska Democrats next Tuesday are likely to do a very strange thing. Not only are they going to give George McGovern a plurality of their delegates to the Democratic National Convention, they will also award 72-year-old Terry Carpenter with their party's nomination for the U.S. Senate.

The big three in the state's Democratic Presidential primary are McGovern, Minnesota's Sen. Hubert Humphrey, and Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty. Henry "Scoop" Jackson of Washington has stopped campaigning in the primaries a la Muskie after his disastrous fourth-place showing in Ohio this week.

McGovern, greatly encouraged by wins in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, plus his better than expected showing in Ohio, has decided to spend a full six days in the Cornhusker state, campaigning by train as did RFK in '68. His chief rival, HHH, can give us no more than four days of his time, considering his head-to-head battle with George Wallace in West Virginia the same day.

But there are other differences between these two men than hours allotted for personal campaigning. McGovern has a highly accomplished, professional campaign staff, plus hordes of zealous young volunteers and store-front headquarters in over 20 Nebraska communities, combined to make by far the most superior grass-roots organization the state has ever seen.

Helping to stump are such show business notables as Dennis Weaver, Shirley MacLaine, Leonard Nimoy and Julie Christie. Humphrey, by contrast, is allowing a handful of faceless advance men do his work out of a single office in Omaha.

While McGovern offers concrete, substantive blueprints and itemized programs for the future, Humphrey seems content to deal in hasty promises and vague generalities. The South Dakotan can use as a talking point the fact that he is a Senator from a neighboring, basically Republican state. Minnesota, further away and with a vastly more liberal political heritage, is not of much consequence in Humphrey's speeches.

McGovern has a fresh face, an energetic family to help him, and is the symbol of a protest vehicle for those disenchanting with the status quo. While Jackson's recent demise and the abrupt switch of 25 or 40 Muskie delegates might help Humphrey, HHH is still regarded by most Nebraskans as a tired relic of the Johnson era.

Sam Yorty, folksy mayor of the only city said to have its own foreign policy due to his frequent foreign junkets, is also devoting a considerable amount of time to Nebraska. Coming in a poor third with seven per cent of the vote in New Hampshire, he now tells us, while touring the plains in his musical ("God Bless America" & "Battle Hymn of the Republic") Yortymobile, that he wishes he had forgotten all about the Granite State and spent all his time here among his native (Yorty was born in Lincoln) Nebraskans. The arch-conservative claims

McGovern is in league with Hanoi and blames the President for spending too much on domestic needs while letting our defense posture rot.

Also on the ballot, but who will be lucky to collect five per cent of the combined vote are, in their probable order of finish, Alabama Gov. George Wallace, New York Rep. Shirley Chisholm, former Sen. "Clean" Gene McCarthy, Arkansas Congressman Wilbur Mills, New York's John Lindsay and Hoosier Sen. Vance Hartke.

The race for the Democratic Senatorial nomination in Nebraska is shaping up as an essentially three-way battle with State Sen. Terry Carpenter, Lincoln professor Wallace Peterson and State Sen. Wayne Ziebarth of Wilcox.

Carpenter's dismal reputation among young people is more than matched with his popularity among their elders, his name recognition is easily the highest of the six, he has the potent backing of State Senators Eugene Mahoney and William Skarda of vote-rich Omaha, he is sure to clean up in the panhandle area and his phenomenal energy and stamina belie his 72 years. These factors, plus the inevitable split of the liberal anti-Carpenter vote among the other 5 contenders make the on-again off-again Democrat the man to beat.

Wally Peterson, the probable runner-up, is focusing on the economy as his major issue. The pedestrian, lackluster professor, who just yesterday had the dubious benefit of inheriting the support of withdrawing fellow liberal John DeCamp, declares that we have "an economy more fully controlled by government than at any time in our history."

State Sen. Wayne Ziebarth is waging a slick and shallow media campaign. Financial reports reveal the "Stand-up Guy" has spent over \$30,000 so far, and is prepared to shell out a hundred grand before next Tuesday.

Still, Ziebarth at least seems to be addressing himself to the things that are troubling Nebraskans, even though his solutions leave much to be desired.

The three others, campaigning in varying degrees of seriousness, have no hope whatsoever of getting the nomination. Don Searcy, a Kearney State geography professor, garnered 63,698 votes (40 per cent) against Republican Congressman Dave Martin in 1970, holding the veteran representative to one of his smallest margins ever.

The most refreshing different candidate is Phyllis Person Lyons, McCook housewife and civic leader. Her pet issues are welfare, Congressional reform and violence on TV. Unfortunately, she has been spending more time campaigning in South Dakota and Wyoming than Nebraska recently, and promises (for reasons as yet unexplained) to resign "for a year" the moment of her improbable election.

The Republican race, of course, is all Carl Curtis and it is testimony to his tremendous stature and capability that no one better—in either party—has sought to oppose him.

The main charges against the Senator, that he doesn't do anything, do not bear up under close scrutiny. Wielding immense power for Nebraska for 18 years of seniority, he is ranking Republican on the Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee, third on the exclusive Finance Committee, including the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, and fourth on the especially vital Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

Curtis has consistently favored federal aid to education, strong civil rights and veterans legislation, vigorous anti-pollution laws, including the Air Quality Act, Clean Rivers Restoration Act, Marine Protection and Research Act, and the establishment of a joint Congressional Committee on the Environment.

Probably the single most important influence on the President with regard to rural concerns, the Senator helped to write the Rural Development Act of 1972, which will greatly assist rural communities in their quest for new economic and social revitalization.

Curtis' stranger-than-fiction trio of Republican opponents consist of a right-wing cattle breeder by the name of Ronald Blauvelt; Christine Millard Kniefel, an ultra-conservative retired school marm from Omaha; and Lincoln's own Otis Glebe.

Blauvelt enjoys getting specific. Witness his pledge to "strongly oppose legislative programs that are harmful to the interests of the people of Nebraska." Kniefel, the most qualified of the three, calls for revision of the 16th amendment to the Constitution to provide for a "reciprocal income tax." Glebe calls for "love, respect, good, prosperity for all," except for poor people, of course.

If First District Republicans are looking for someone to represent them other than the moderate incumbent, Charles Thone, they can choose between liberal Lincolnite Kathy Braeman, and one Lester Lamm, an obscure right-wing Methodist preacher out of Scribner. Braeman, active in many community civic and social organizations including National Organization for Women and Women's Political Caucus, has drawn needed attention to what she considers Thone's "insensitivity" to domestic social issues such as human rights and child care.

The unopposed candidate for the First District Democratic nomination is the leftist Rev. Darrel Berg, who operates his campaign from a vacuum cleaner repair shop in Havelock. The Third District Democratic nomination should rightly go to Ted Reeves, Chairman of the Nebraska Environmental Control Council, over grain farmer Warren Fitzgerald.

Getting down to the strictly local races, incumbent Regent Ed Schwartzkopf deserves the nod over J. James Plant and S.H. Brauer, Jr. For Legislature, Bonnie Hibler is the superior candidate in the 25th district, incumbent William Swanson in the 27th, and challenger Shirley Marsh in the 29th. All constitutional amendments except Amendment 16, which would allow state aid to private and parochial schools, deserve passage. Get out and vote May 9.