

Dyas attacks Bereuter's proposed lid as impractical

Democratic Congressional candidate Hess Dyas attacked his opponent's proposed constitutional limit on federal spending as impractical and dangerous at a meeting of Dyas supporters Thursday night.

"It is the catchy thing to talk about, lids are in vogue these days," Dyas said.

He said Republican Douglas Bereuter's proposal was impractical because it did not consider the congressional environment in which it would have to be passed.

"What these people are in essence saying is they have given up on Congress' ability to discipline itself," Dyas said.

"If we can't get a majority to favor slow restraint, how are we going to get two-thirds to pass a constitutional amendment and three-fourths of the states to ratify it."

If the amendment was passed it would place the country in a dangerous situation, Dyas said.

"In a time of recession it would make economic sense to spend more, the 23 percent (of the Gross National Product) limit would place us in a strait jacket," he said.

"When we don't need to spend 23 percent, what is a ceiling becomes a floor and we have pressure to spend up to it.

"The 23 percent lid doesn't guarantee a balanced budget or that the dollars are spent wisely."

Dyas said he would work to make Congress a responsible institution and would take steps toward balancing the federal budget as a means of controlling inflation.

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He said the decision was made because there was substantial doubt that a sitting President could be indicted, especially on an obstruction of justice charge while the House Judiciary Committee was conducting impeachment proceedings.

The grand jury's findings were transmitted to the House committee by Jaworski and committee counsel John Doar was "coached" by the special prosecutor's office on the evidence, he said.

The publicity surrounding the impeachment hearings, the "smoking gun" tape and Nixon's resignation raised a possible clash between fair trial and a free press, Jaworski said.

"The press had a right to exercise their constitutional guarantee and Nixon had a right to stand on his constitutional guarantees", he said.

If President Ford had not pardoned Nixon, Jaworski said, the "unprecedented news coverage might have so subjugated and influenced the minds of jurors "that it could have taken one to three years for Nixon to get a fair trial.

Jaworski also said he knows what was on the famous 18½ minute gap in the Presidential tapes.

"I do know the gap was a conversation between former Attorney General John Mitchell and Nixon in which Mitchell told Nixon about the Committee to Reelect the President's involvement in the Watergate break-in," he said.

Jaworski spoke as a part of the biennial Cline, Williams Memorial Lectureship and was paid a \$500 honorarium for the speech.

"Inflation is tearing this country apart," Dyas said. "We can't stand that as individuals or as institutions."

He said inflation could be slowed by balancing the budget, easing off our national dependence on imported energy and stimulating shrinking productivity.

Dyas said two polls released this week which showed him trailing Bereuter had a positive impact on his campaign, but he had been doing his own polling which indicated he had a "good lead."

The polls made the campaign "aware of the reality that this is going to be a close race," Dyas said. "They provided the sharp edge we need as we go into the last few weeks of the campaign."

"Those polls show that at worst we're even, at best we're a little ahead," he said.

Dyas also repeated his opposition to the Norden Dam project because of environmental concerns, exaggerated cost benefit ratios and high payback rates.

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