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Walsh: Reganomics like Robin Hood in reverse

By Chuck Jagoda

"I charge the Reagan administration with moral malfeasance," Virginia Walsh, petition candidate for U.S. Senator from Nebraska, said Thursday. The candidate was on East Campus addressing students at the invitation of the UNL Women's Law Caucus. Walsh was not on the May primary ballot, but will be listed as a candidate in November as the result of a successful petition drive.

Walsh criticized the Reagan administration's philosophy that government shouldn't interfere.

"When there are rocks below, I want interference... We need help with the problem-solving that government was invented for," she said.

Walsh cited Reagan's calling the Russians "liars and cheats" and threatening to "bury the Russians in the dust bin of history" as examples of the "bully boy, obsolete language out of 'Gunfight at the OK Corral.'"

She said "we have to get to the point where we say we can't afford the provocative language that comes from this and other administrations."

Needs campaign help

Walsh told an audience of about 25 that her campaign, financed so far by savings from her husband and herself, is in great need of contributions and in greater need of volunteers.

She said she is running against what she sees as "one of the chapters of George Orwell's '1984.'" As Walsh sees it, "Reaganomics is like Robin Hood in reverse."

She faults military spending for the anemic condition of the economy.

"We have been cutting domestic government costs (and, escalating military government expenditures," she said.

Walsh compares the situation to two patients in a medical setting, one giving a transfusion to the other. The one giving is the domestic economy and the other is the military economy, bloated and full.

"I want to find people who share the sense that this is counterproductive," Walsh said.

Walsh said her solution for the economy is a simplified and progressive tax base. She also said she believes the country needs a strong domestic economy, and that it could have one if a lid were put on military spending.

Low rates won't last

The candidate said she doubts the current lowering of interest rates will last after the election. She also doubts that thrift institutions will make loans less expensive than



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Senate candidate Virginia Walsh states her case before an audience on East Campus.

in the past because of the recently lowered prime-interest rate. The rate will rise again after the election, she said.

In addition to a different tax structure, Walsh called for a more positive attitude toward world peace.

"We have to stop looking at the (world) as good guys and bad guys. I want to see us move toward an exploration of what it takes to make peace."

Walsh called the 1964 Civil Rights Act "a wonderful response to rage and despair after... centuries of oppression." She said the act was the result of a "grass roots commitment" that, along with late 1960s commitment to "no more war" are "part of my fabric - part of my consent to being governed."

Walsh accused Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin of "the same kind of aggressive language I complain about from Ronald Reagan." In reference to the recent massacres of Palestinian refugees, Walsh said; "Israel has been excessive and aggressive, and I hope the Knesset (Israeli parliament) replaces its leadership."

'Winnable'

Although she has no support from either major party, Walsh said her campaign is "winnable." She looks for Republican challenger James Keck and Democratic incumbent Edward Zorinsky to divide the constituency.

Search committee list finished

By Bill Allen

Chancellor Martin Massengale has a list of candidates to be on an advisory and search committee that will be in charge of finding a permanent dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Larry Walklin, journalism professor and president of the UNL Faculty Senate, said he gave the 12-candidate list to Massengale, who will choose a search committee from those names.

Rudy Lewis, director of university relations and assistant to the chancellor, said Massengale will start "moving expeditiously" on the matter early next week.

The chancellor is anxious to get the committee started, he said.

The College of Arts and Sciences, one of UNL's largest, has been without a permanent dean since Max Larsen left the position last year. Gerhard Meisels, chemistry professor, is the interim dean.

A previous search committee failed last spring to provide Massengale with a suitable candidate for the position. He rejected all five names the committee suggested and dissolved the group.

Walklin said the new committee is being set up according to a new bylaw passed by the NU Board of Regents six months ago. The earlier committee was convened before the new bylaw went into effect.

Walklin said the bylaw includes the position of dean as a major administrative office.

"There are a lot of moderate Republicans and Democrats (as well as) those who never vote who agree (with my program and value system). They could add up to one-third of the vote cast. They can make this a horse race," she said.

"If Keck comes up a little and erodes Zorinsky's support, and if Zorinsky continues to support Reagan, enough people may say the emperor has no cloths," she said.

Walsh cited the anguish of farmers over the state of the economy, the lack of good leaders to help the farmer analyze and understand the forces at work, government's reluctance to interfere and depressed prices as causes of the "ravishing" of the land.

"Farmers are pouring on the artificial fertilizer to get a little bit more out of their land," she said.

She quoted a farm wife who said: "We are in farming because it is a contribution. We deserve to make a living."

Walsh also emphasized that the need for social and economic justice and a healthy environment are parts of her program.

As for those who don't agree with her solutions, she said she suggests they choose between the two candidates they've already got.

Students might ride buses free

UNL students might someday ride the city buses free or at low cost.

Monica Frank, chairperson of ASUN's Student Life Commission, said the idea developed the summer before last, and soon students were talking with the Lincoln Transportation System about how well the idea would work.

According to ASUN President Dan Wedekind, the proposal LTS presented to the senate last spring was that a \$10 fee would be assessed to students on the refundable Fund A section of their student fees.

In return, students would be requested to pay 25 cents during peak bus hours, but they could ride free the rest of the time. Frank said there is a possibility that another deal with LTS can be negotiated, but the bus service will probably raise the fee amount.

"It's pretty definite that the bus company is pretty sure it will be more than the \$10," she said.

A further problem is that the refundability of the bus fare fee could damage both the student fees and LTS budget schedule, Wedekind said.

He said the possible service hinges on how much students want it. Frank is working on a survey that planned to be finished this month. However, it is hoped the survey will be done by mid-October, she said.

ASUN plans to get in touch with specialists in marketing or sociology to find out the best way to do the survey on the bus question, Frank said. Wedekind also mentioned the possibility of a referendum vote on the subject this spring.