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Democrats meet for 'rap session'

National representatives from the Oregon Democratic Party reported their activities at a meeting of the Lane County Democratic Central Committee, held Thursday night at the Eugene Hotel.

The panel of representatives was composed of Delegation Selection Committee member Lucy Hanks, State Chairman Caroline Wilkins, and National Committeeman Blaine Whipple. Helen Linde reported for her husband, Vice-Presidential Selection Committee member Hans Linde, who was unable to attend.

In introducing the panel, Lane County Democratic Party Chair James Klonoski termed the meeting "a rap session" between the "grass roots" of Lane County and the national party representatives, with give-

and-take between panel and audience.

Delegation Selection Committee member Hanks opened the panel discussion with an account of the recently-formed McKulski Commission. "This commission, based on the McGovern-Fraser guidelines, is trying to open the party to all Democrats," she said. "We're determined to keep the party's ideals going.

"In the guidelines, however," she said, "there is no mention of quotas for women, Blacks, and other minority groups. These quotas are basically advocated by Black party members," Hanks stated.

State Party Chair Wilkins informed the group of a meeting of the Democratic Party's charter commission, held in Ft. Collins, Colorado, last July.

Reading portions of an article

published in The Washington Post, Wilkins said, "the commission was formed to draft the first formal constitution in the history of the Democratic Party, a charter to be submitted for ratification at the party's 1974 mid-term conference.

"Hearings are to be held by this fall in every state on drafting such a charter," Wilkins said.

Linde, reading notes left by her husband, stated, "after the vice-presidential selection problems encountered last year, a commission was appointed to meet last July to discuss different procedures in selection.

"Some proposals were more feasible than others," Linde said, and listed some of the more radical suggestions as elimination of the vice-presidency entirely and a mid-term election of a vice-president to obtain executive leaders "of separate political identities."

"More reasonable were the proposals for open conventions, in which vice-presidential selection is entirely up to the delegates, and the partially open convention, in which the presidential nominee names several choices to be decided upon by the delegates.

"October 16 is the next meeting of the commission," Linde said.

"Affirmative action is being taken to choose minority delegates," National Committeeman Whipple said, and rules specify that the convention chairman in 1976 is not to be of the same sex as was the chairman in 1972.

Solid waste plan adopted by L-COG

Lane County's preliminary solid waste management plan was adopted Thursday by the Lane Council of Governments (L-COG).

The plan, which was previously adopted by the Lane County Board of Commissioners, has been praised by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Environmental Quality. It is the first solid waste management plan to be adopted in Oregon, according to Bruce Bailey, the county's solid waste director.

"Flexibility is the most important aspect of the plan," said Bailey. It will be reviewed and revised every five years, he said.

In other business Thursday, L-COG board members asked L-COG'S Citizen Advisory Committee to study the energy situation.

According to William Rankin, L-COG'S director of economic development, electric utilities plan to impose mandatory curtailment on "major consumers first," or industry, in case of an energy crisis.

An industrial curtailment could push the current unemployment rate of 6.7 per cent to over 10 per cent, said Rankin.

Rankin said Bonneville Power Administration officials are predicting a 20 per cent chance of a serious power shortage during the winter or spring.

The committee is being asked to find possible alternatives to industrial curtailment. One possibility, suggested Rankin, is an area-by-area residential curtailment for two or three hours at a time.

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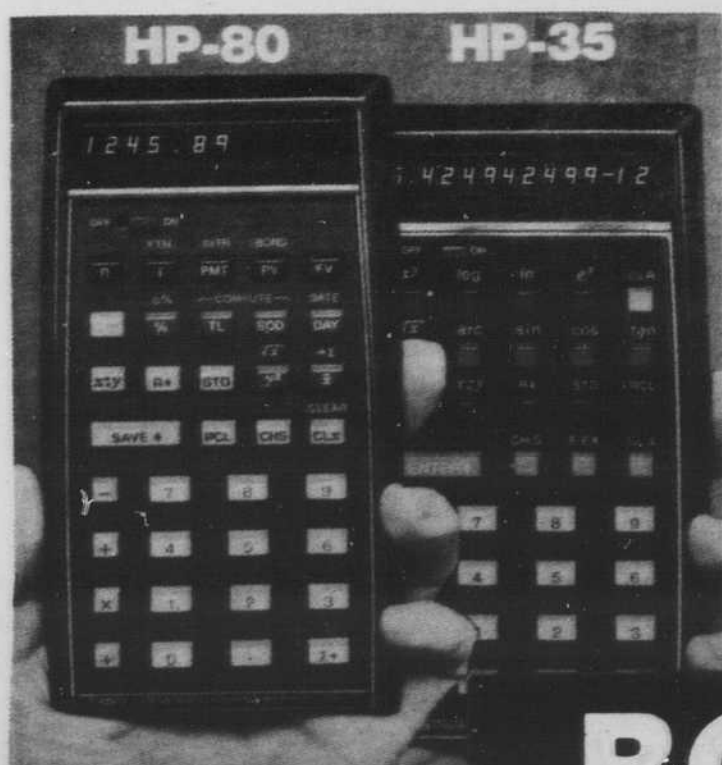


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