

Candidates for labor commissioner

Dwyer: for the rank and file

An interest in "the rank and file working people" prompted W.J. "Bill" Dwyer to seek the office of labor commissioner.

Dwyer, a Eugene resident, is a newcomer to politics but has taken "a lifelong interest in problems confronting the working man and woman." His past experience includes working for the United AFL-CIO Organizing Committee, political coordinator in the fourth congressional district for the Oregon AFL-CIO in 1966, membership in Retail Clerks local 201 in Eugene and Hotel Restaurant employes union in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dwyer is focusing on pension reform and the backlog in civil rights cases as major issues in his campaign.

He asserts that employees are often cheated on pension plans, and that people are often "locked into their jobs" because of pension plans.

Noting that there is almost always a long wait for civil rights plaintiffs, Dwyer said he would expand this department to give complaints prompt attention. Dwyer also said apprenticeship programs should be more receptive towards women and that he would work actively in behalf of women's labor rights.



Dwyer

Reform of the Labor Commissioner office is another of Dwyer's priorities. He believes the office should be non-partisan and subject to a two-term limitation because "when people get too comfortable (in their office) they're not responsible to the people."

Dwyer agrees with the other candidates in his race that the office needs more publicity to make people aware of its func-

tions. He disagrees with the belief that the office needs expansion now, believing that "we have to strengthen existing resources first." He refutes opponent Bill Stevenson's claim that many reforms should be instituted through the Legislature. Dwyer said "Stevenson should have done these things when he was in the Legislature. The key to being an effective labor commissioner is being a good administrator."

Knudson: says he can save 3 million dollars

Robert Knudson is the only republican candidate running for labor commissioner. His priorities differ from those of the other candidates as Knudson's first act as commissioner would be to move the main offices of the apprenticeship and wage and hour divisions to Portland. He says "60 to 70 per cent of our work is in Portland, and we've got to be where the workload is." Knudson believes that with this switch he would be "better servicing the people."

He also said he can save the state of Oregon \$3 million by giving apprentices 50 percent of a journeyman's pay and then gradually increasing it.

Knudson does agree with the other candidates that too much power



Knudson

No show

Chas Thompson (Dem.-Scio) is also in the race, but we were not able to contact him.

Stevenson: an advocate

"An advocacy role for the Labor Commission and not just enforcement" is the goal of Bill Stevenson, Democratic candidate for Oregon Labor Commissioner.

The functions of Labor Commissioner currently include responsibility for enforcing laws on apprenticeship and training programs, fair labor standards and civil rights.

Stevenson points out that some former areas of the Labor Commission have been removed from its domain, and sees this as a result of passive leadership. He would work for reinstatement of the State Conciliation Service and the right to legal counsel.

Stevenson also believes that because of a breakdown in communication between the Commission and the public, many workers are unaware of their rights or unable to receive help. He says that when workers have a complaint, there is often a delay of up to eight months in processing cases.

Reform of private employment agencies is another goal. Noting the high prices they demand, Stevenson says "We may want to seriously consider establishing a ceiling on the fees that such agencies can charge."

To accomplish his goals, Stevenson hopes to establish a close liaison with the State Legislature. A former State Representative, Field Representative for the AFL-CIO and member of the Ways and Means Committee, Stevenson believes he has the legislative experience to actively provide the leadership and relationship with the legislature he says is lacking.



Stevenson

has been taken away from the labor commission. He sees conciliation as a valuable area that should be returned to the labor division, but says that the electrical and boiler division is "pretty well entrenched where it is at the moment."

In regards to democratic candidate Bill Stevenson's proposals to enlarge the labor commission, Knudson was emphatic. "He was right there in the Legislature and never said a word" when power was taken away from the commission, according to Knudson.

Knudson's qualifications for office include seven years on the labor bureau and five years working for minority and apprentice programs.

Corinne Huffman



JOHN STEWART

Democrat for the people of Oregon

For State Representative (Dist. 41)

I want to express myself as completely, clearly and candidly on several issues. I want there to be no mistake or doubt about where I stand.

NUCLEAR POWER. Plutonium 239, the most poisonous element ever handled by man, is the very heart of the nuclear industry. In the biosphere Plutonium 239 presents a major carcinogenic hazard for the next thousand human generations.

I support the proposed 6 year Moratorium on Nuclear Power Plant construction in Oregon and pledge to fight unsafe nuclear development.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY. Disclosures that Weyerhaeuser Corp. has violated Department of Environmental Quality standards for 10 of the past 15 months demonstrates how corporations bid open defiance to law. Weyerhaeuser, which continues to discharge effluents with excessive biochemical oxygen demand into the McKenzie River, could have been fined about \$1 million for these violations, but instead the government bends over backwards to meet Weyerhaeuser's needs.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCE. Special interests have obtained undue influence over governmental bodies by contributing heavily to campaigns. We need public campaign financing to take the "for sale" sign off of public offices and policy.

TAX REFORM. Our tax structure continues the concentration of resources in a small portion of our society. We need comprehensive tax reform designed to fairly distribute the tax burden and thereby create a more equitable distribution of resources.

HUMAN RIGHTS. A most urgent need is to ensure equality under law for both sexes. I have proposed that Oregon revise all laws to standards prescribed by the Equal Rights Amendment as an interim measure until ratification of the national Equal Rights Amendment occurs.

HEALTH CARE. The right to adequate health care should be guaranteed every Oregonian. This includes a comprehensive preventive medical program. During the 1973 Legislative Session I worked with Rep. Vera Katz on Health Care Reform.

NEW ENERGY SOURCES. Solar Energy must be developed as a power source. It is practical-even for Oregon.

Mass Transit, Wilderness Preservation, Lane-Use Planning, Daycare, Drug Law Reform and other issues can't be covered here. Please, examine the candidates and their positions in this important primary. Then cast an intelligent vote - be it for me or my opponent.

Beyond campaign issues we all must examine candidates underlying philosophical values. Because the real challenge we face is building a society where we have the assurance that we care about each other. We must end our worship of more and more material goods and begin to cherish the undeniable worth of our fellow human beings living in harmony with our planet.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate your vote.

John Stewart