

McCarthy attacks two-party system

By MIKE McLAIN
and
TODD JOHNSTONE
Of the Emerald

Independent presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy denied the role of "spoiler" in this year's race Wednesday and also attacked the two party system which he feels violates the spirit of the First Amendment.

During a brief campaign stop in Salem, which included a rally on the steps of the Marion County Courthouse before approximately 500 persons and a press conference, McCarthy accused Pres. Ford and Jimmy Carter of being "spoilers to my campaign," not the other way around.

"If Ford pulled out of the race," he said, "then I'd probably win, and the same goes for Carter."

At the rally, where there was a noticeable absence of the local dignitaries who usually surround a presidential aspirant, McCarthy rapped the Federal Campaign Finance Act, saying "Our freedom is threatened by the fact that the Democrats and Republicans voted \$20 million apiece for their own campaigns."

This, he said, "puts a limit on the campaigns of independent candidates," and could be a violation of First Amendment guarantees, a notion which he is pushing to a Supreme Court test.

McCarthy said his candidacy offers an alternative to the "indistinguishable differences" between Ford and Carter. According to him, their battle is a "non-debate on the issue of defense spending and our belligerence in foreign affairs."

On domestic affairs, he chided both candidates for not recognizing the structural changes necessary to solve inflation and unemployment. Both men, he said, are promising small reductions in both — with the Democrats quicker to offer "liniment and plaster cures," — while he envisions the elimination of both problems with the concept of "work distribution."

He cited the Ford Motor Co. workers' desire to shorten their work year, in an effort to provide jobs to more employees, as a policy the whole country should emulate. "In this case," he quipped, "what's good for Ford Motors, is good for the whole country."

"Both parties," he said, "have become warped in an effort to get the Wallace vote." In his opinion, the Democrats have pursued it outright while the Republicans sought it in the Ford-Reagan nomination battle.

McCarthy said his own campaign has not had significant effect on the positions of either major candidate, although it has pushed the Democrats to try and keep him off the ballot in a number of states. At present, he has been

successful in getting his name on the ballot in 30 states, he said.

Contrary to a statement released earlier by state campaign workers, McCarthy said he has not endorsed Oregon's Nuclear Safeguards Act. "I think we are

going to have nuclear plants," he said, adding that he doesn't see them as a major concern.

"I think we are within a reasonable range safety," he said. "I buy the statistics that say there is more danger from automobiles."

He also made a strong attack against the television news media for paying too much attention to the major party candidates and not enough to the others, including his own, thus helping to perpetuate the two-party system.

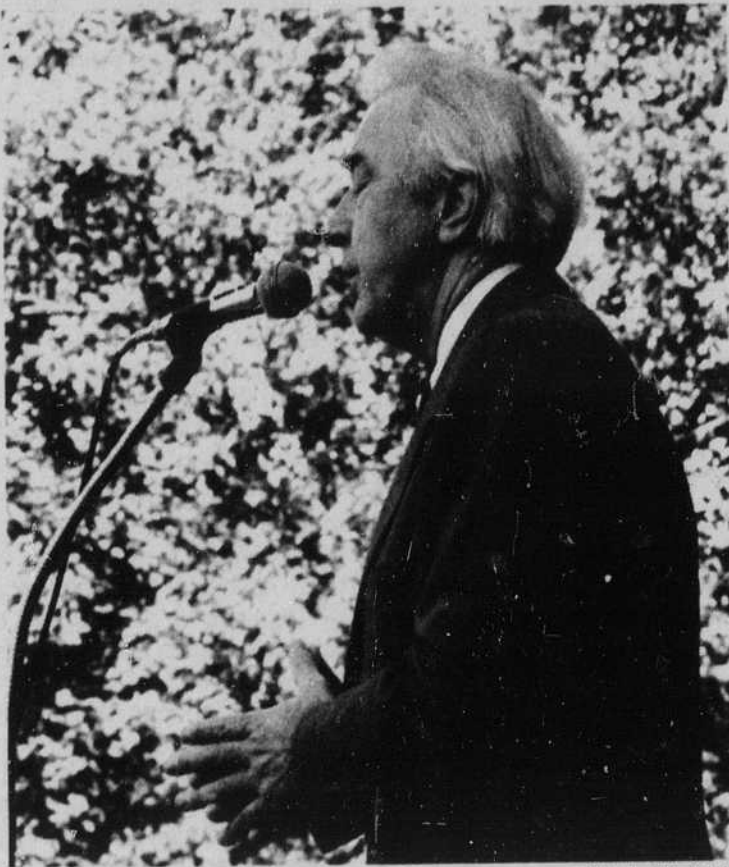


Photo by Mike McLain

Independent presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy called his candidacy an alternative to the "indistinguishable differences" between Pres. Ford and Jimmy Carter at a Wednesday campaign stop at the Marion County Courthouse in Salem.

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