

Abortion, field burning plank topics

Demos caucus on issues, display unity and division

Stories and Photo
By RUSSELL LINEBARGER
Of the Emerald

Democratic delegates from all over the state met at the Rodeway Inn this weekend to crank out planks for the State Democratic Platform.

Jim Klonoski, State Party Chairperson, welcomed about 500 registered delegates to the 1978 State Democratic Platform Convention, saying: "This convention represents a real exercise in self-government."

Klonoski explained, "Democracy inevitably and ultimately depends on participation by the people at the 'grass roots' . . . (but) that's drying up."

"There's a feeling among people that their vote or their participation doesn't count that much anymore," but, he continued, "you are the heroes . . . you people are the ones who care about the issues."

Bill Dwyer, Lane County Party Chairperson, addressed the group saying, "I'm proud to be a

Democrat — a party for the 'common' people."

Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust told the delegates they represented the "cutting edge of social and political idealism (for) change, and social and political justice."

Springfield Mayor Vern Meyers defined a plank as "anything which supports or saves in a time of need." The mayor expressed his confidence that the delegates would indeed adopt measure to "support" and "save" the democratic process.

Following opening remarks, nominations were held for permanent chairperson. Dick Eyman from Lane County, and Bob Vian from Marion County were nominated to the position. When the votes were counted, Bob Vian was the new chairperson for the 1978 Convention. Vian's first action was to call for nominations for vice-chairperson. Dick Eyman was again nominated, as was Marie Williams from Multnomah



Democrats from all over the state came to politic and air opinions on state and national issues at the State Democratic Party platform convention held this past weekend in Springfield.

County, and Mike Jeski from Josephine County. Williams won the position.

A challenge to the chair came from a group of delegates supporting Emily Ashworth for Governor.

The contingent felt that Governor Bob Straub's scheduled address was a campaign speech rather than a "keynote" address to the convention, and sought to have the agenda altered. Vian, how-

ever, ruled that the agenda would stand, and that the challenge was out of order. The convention overwhelmingly concurred.

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Richards blasts Oregon nukes

Most freshmen legislatures keep a "low profile" their first term in office. But not Sandy Richards.

Richards, the state Representative from house District 22 (East Multnomah County), delivered a searing and succinct rebuttle to the proponents of nuclear power at Saturday's State Democratic Platform Convention.

Speaking within the allotted minute time-limit, Richards told some 500 delegates that she realized the issue was "complex and technical", but, "the very fact of the matter is, there are 30,000 metric tons of commercially generated nuclear waste sitting around the country with no permanent means of waste disposal."

She continued, saying the government claimed in 1960 that they planned to reprocess the waste. But,

Richards points out, "there are three reprocessing plants sitting idle in this country that have already cost us \$3 billion dollars — and they don't work." The audience caught their collective breath and then applauded more enthusiastically than they had all day.

Richard isn't new to tackling tough, controversial matters. She got involved with the legislature when she took up the fight against utility rates in her district. Since that time, she has introduced numerous pieces of legislation directed at energy reform.

Richards is now taking the fight against nuclear power into her campaign corner. She will concentrate her efforts towards the decommissioning of nuclear facilities when she returns to the legislature — no longer a "freshman" legislator.



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