

Gov. Straub toots his Democratic horn

Candidate calls for Democratic support in May

Gov. Bob Straub squeezed reminders of his accomplishments as governor in between reverent references to ghosts of Democrats past in his keynote address to the State Democratic Party's biennial platform convention held Saturday at Springfield's Rode-way Inn.

By MARY BETH ALLEN
Of the Emerald



Photo by Russell Linebarger

Gov. Bob Straub, the keynote speaker Saturday at the Democratic platform convention, sees Democratic lawmakers as essential to the

state's present and future well-being. Straub is campaigning for the Democratic primary May 23.

Straub, who will have to fight for his party's nomination in the May Democratic gubernatorial primary, made a strong bid for fellow party members' votes in his speech, as well as reaffirming his commitment to traditional Democratic philosophies.

"I'm in politics because I care about issues," Straub said. He stressed his willingness to take stands on controversial issues, citing as a recent example his position favoring state financing of welfare abortions.

"I received 12,000 letters against what I did on the abortion issue — so I need your help," said the governor.

Another major issue that Straub has taken by the horns is that of Oregon's numerous state boards and commissions in Oregon that are dominated by the industry that the board is supposed to be regulating," he said.

After paying homage to Kennedy, Truman, Humphrey and especially Roosevelt, Straub said, "The citizens of Oregon helped me set my agenda. I heard their requests and saw their needs, and I found my programs.

"In the last two legislatures, with the help of Democratic majorities, I created programs for school finance reform and property tax relief, aid to the elderly, utility rate

relief, jobs, and the preservation of the beauty and environment of this state."

Land use planning is a major concern of Straub's. "I will be announcing in the coming week Chompoeg II — the Oregon 2000 Program," he said. "This Oregon 2000 commission will have as a mandate the job of fitting together all the pieces and evaluating the impact of present policies that affect growth and growth management in this state."

Unemployment was the problem that Straub considered his "single greatest challenge" upon entering office. When he took over the governorship, Straub said that

unemployment stood at 12.5 percent in Oregon. "It took a lot of effort, but that rate has fallen steadily over the past three years and in February of this year it stood at 6.1 percent, he said.

Straub stressed that one way jobs were created was by recruiting new industry to Oregon. These new, "clean" industries also fit into another aspect of Straub's plan for Oregon's future — diversification of industry. "We're too dependent on the forest product industry," maintains Straub.

Straub quipped, "This old party of ours is a little bit like Trailblazers basketball. When it's good, it's very, very good. And when it's

bad, well, it's still the best game around."

"Our philosophies are as diverse as the people who make up our party," the governor said. He feels that in spite of those differences, Democrats share a "boldness" of vision that still makes party lines very important in Oregon politics.

"Let's put that boldness to work . . . and build . . . an Oregon that will meet the challenges of the future. An Oregon of energy, an Oregon of environment, and an Oregon of enterprise," he concluded.

And if the governor has his way, an Oregon of Bob Straub.

Demo convention (Continued from Page 12)

The delegates then turned to the vote on the various planks.

Some of their more significant votes were to:

- Retain a measure providing for the decommissioning of the Trojan nuclear power plant, and to halt any new construction until there is a means for safely disposing of the waste.
- Retain provisions opposing the hunting of whales.
- Reject a 1980 plan on open field burning until an alternate method is developed.
- Retain a proposal to support ballot measure 3 providing low-cost

housing for the elderly.

- Retain a measure providing for state-funded abortions for "medically indigent women".
- Retain a measure to insure that abortions would be available to all pregnant women without the consent of parents or spouse.
- Keep the measure which protects the right of the gay men and lesbians to teach in public schools.
- Support a person's right to grow up to seven marijuana plants a year for personal use.
- Abolish the CIA and strengthen Congressional oversight on all federal intelligence activities.

- Limits smoking to private use only.

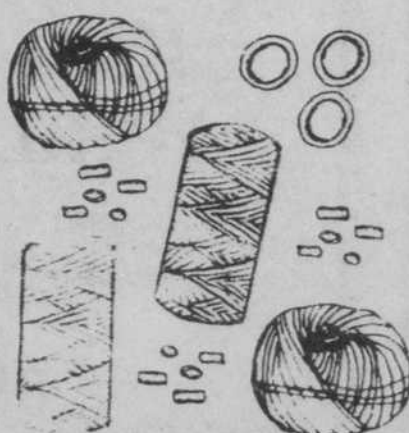
- Retain a measure that would encourage the Public Utilities Commissioner to adopt a rate structure that is equally fair to all customers.

The convention officially ended at 3 p.m. Sunday. The delegates feeling tired, but accomplished.

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