

Democratic platform plays to empty house

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The people may have a voice in the Democratic platform, but they didn't raise it at Lane County Democratic Party platform hearings Saturday in Harris Hall.

More hearings will be held in Harris Hall this Saturday.

Steve Starkovich, state platform and resolutions committee co-chairer, said his goal is to increase participation in the platform process from the public and Democrat politicians.

Saturday's testimony discussed the preliminary draft of the state Democratic Party platform.

But only six to nine people attended the morning hearing for federal, state and local affairs and party organization and election law, and even fewer attended the afternoon land-use and housing hearing. Other hearings held simultaneously also had poor attendance.

Most people at the sessions were party precinct members. Bill Morrisette, Lane County Democratic Party chairer, said a feeling of public contentment was a cause.

The platform draft and testimony will be considered by the Lane County Platform Committee. A re-drafted platform will then be presented Feb. 2 at the Lane County Democratic Convention. The platform then comes before the state platform committee. The final state platform will be presented to the Democratic National Party at its convention later this year.

Those in attendance at the hearing for federal, state and local affairs strongly disputed a resolution that says programs "should be formulated in closer consultation with party organizations."

Jim Klonoski, state Democratic Party chairer and University political science professor, agreed with this plank and called for loyalty to the platform, whatever its stands.

But three party precinct workers called for politicians to show greater sensitivity to local

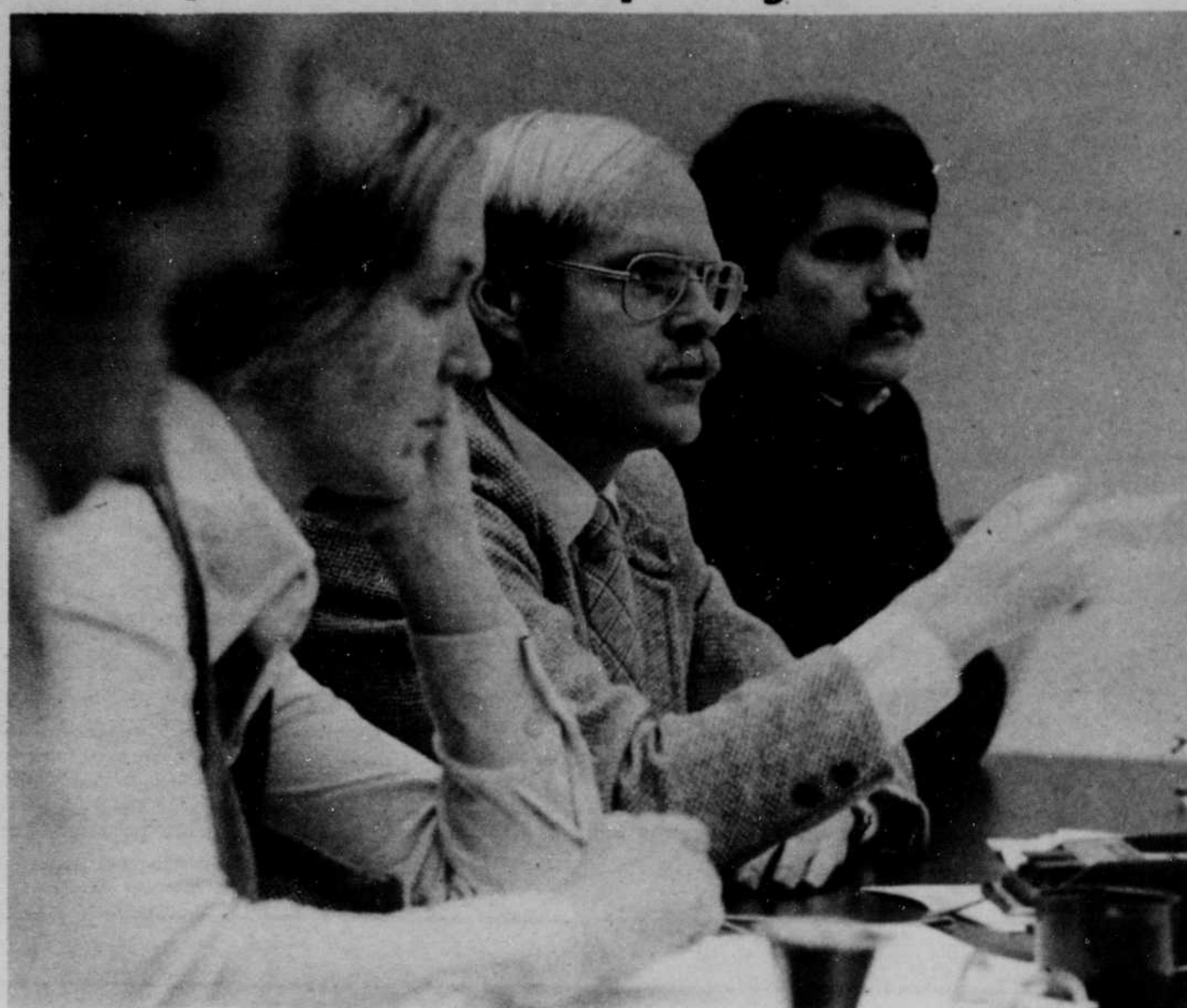


Photo by Jimmi Harris

At the sparsely attended Lane County Democratic Party platform hearing Saturday, representatives

Joan McDonald, Carl Hosticka and Randy Stevens lead the discussion.

voters even if that means divergence from the party platform.

More controversy arose in regard to a plank proposing that elected officials, such as district attorneys and general administrators, should be elected in partisan elections.

Another plank proposes revision of the Hatch Act, which prevents government employees from taking part in party functions. Its purpose is to eliminate the pressure that state and national political parties exert on federal service employees.

The platform calls for federal funding of elections and "the financing of Congressional races through federal dollar check-off by the 1982 election."

Some in attendance said federal check-off money, appropriated to the party on individual federal income tax forms, should go directly to

candidates. Klonoski said federal check-off money should continue going to the party, not to the individual congressmen.

While most people present at a hearing on election law and party structure favored the party platform stand opposed to crossover primaries, one or two favored the crossover system.

The draft platform supports continuance of the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

Timothy Travis, candidate for the Legislature from District 44, called for some kind of compensation for owners of land before 1973, when LCDC was established, and whose land value subsequently dropped.

It was also suggested that a county economic impact statement be required on all housing developments in excess of 100 structures. This would show

current county residents the cost in taxes of a new development.

The party platform also favors construction and renovation of low-cost housing for the low-income elderly. The Lane County Democratic party would like to see this plank extended to include all low-income Oregonians.

In the area of revenue and taxation, criticism that the tentative platform planks are too vague was raised. Among suggested additions to the platform were proposals to tax polluters, to indirectly penalize through taxes timber companies that don't reforest, to give local governments priority for any tax revenues, to tax nuclear plants to provide funds for coping with nuclear emergencies and to make power companies responsible for disposing of their nuclear wastes, to tax gains made

as a result of real estate speculation and to cut the federal income tax.

In business and consumer affairs, major planks already in the draft call for the creation of an independent federal office of consumer representation, the reduction of the regulation of business and the promotion of consumer cooperatives. A suggested amendment to the business section of the platform was the encouragement of stock option plans.

The party's main concern in the area of education is that all Oregonians "regardless of income level or area of geographic residence" have access to "high-quality" education. Local party members supported planks calling for continued increases in the state's share of education costs, including higher education.

Discussion centered on support for preservation of fair dismissal laws. Travis called this a matter of "public-employee rights, not just teacher rights." He said teachers are not different from other public employees and that all employees should have opportunity for fair dismissal.

Travis was also critical of the current minimum competency program, calling it "a fraud." Competency tests are not administered early enough to correct deficiencies students may have, especially in areas of reading, writing and adding, he said, adding that tests should be administered in the fourth grade and not in the twelfth grade, as is done currently.

Discussions in health and welfare centered around the restoration of federal money in addition to the support for continued state funding for abortions.

Also favored were more effective cost controls of medical fees and services, expansion and use of community-based alternatives to institutionalizing of the mentally ill, the handicapped and the aged, expanded use of day care centers and establishment of a guaranteed annual income that would eventually replace the present welfare and social security programs.

Khomeini's Kurdistan chief quits, joins other side

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's chief representative in tense Kurdistan Province has quit and joined Kurdish rebels demanding the central government pull its forces out of Sanandaj, the provincial capital, the Tehran Times reported today.

Hossein Shahvessi, Kurdistan's governor-general, re-

signed after the Khomeini regime refused to honor his pledge to the rebels that the government's Revolutionary Guard would be withdrawn from the city, the English-language newspaper said.

It said Shahvessi joined Kurdish rebels taking part in a six-day-old sit-in to protest the government's refusal to

withdraw the militiamen. Residents of a half-dozen other Kurdish towns demonstrated Sunday in support of the Sanandaj sit-in, the paper said.

The Times quoted informed sources as saying Hashem Sabaghian, a member of a government negotiating team sent to Kurdistan, opposed any guard withdrawal before armed

members of the Kurdish Democratic Party leave the city.

Kurdish rebels, backed by the party, fought a series of bloody battles with guardsmen last summer and fall in a bid for greater autonomy in Kurdistan.

The growing tension in Kurdistan highlighted only one of several areas of minority unrest in Iran.

Tehran radio said 43 persons were killed and 110 injured Sunday in the second day of clashes between Sunni and Shiite Moslems in the Persian Gulf port of Bandar Lengeh about 600 miles south of Tehran. A government official said the fighting started when the city's Shiites became enraged by a comment made by a Sunni clergyman. He did not elaborate.

The daily newspaper Bamdad said "the person responsible for the provocation in the town is Esmailzadeh Qeshmi, who was

an agent of Savak (the deposed shah's secret police). Khomeini's Shiites are the dominant Moslem sect in Iran.

In Baluchistan-Sistan Province in the southeast, insurgents staged two attacks on government troops Monday, killing two guards and two army officers, the official Pars news agency said. Clashes in the same area between rival Baluchis and Sistani tribesmen last month left several dead.

Western reporters were expelled today from Tabriz — escorted from their hotel to the airport by Revolutionary Guardsmen. A Guard spokesman there said half a dozen foreign reporters had been put under house arrest in their hotel to prevent them from reporting on the expected demonstration.

"They report events in such a way as to incite trouble," a guard spokesman said of the foreign correspondents, who were not identified.

Soviets veto U.N. council resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet Union vetoed a Security Council resolution on Monday calling for withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, killing the measure despite its passage by a 13-2 vote of the council.

The resolution, sponsored by five non-aligned members of the council, didn't mention the Soviet Union by name, but Soviet chief delegate, Ambassador Oleg Troyanovsky, still voted against it. Approval by the Soviet Union, as a permanent member of the Security Council, is required for passage of any resolution.

The other negative vote was cast by Mos-

cow-allied East Germany, a new non-permanent member of the council.

The vote came after three days of Security Council debate on Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, condemned by all the nearly 50 speakers except for the Soviet Union and its communist allies.

Troyanovsky, speaking just before the vote, reiterated the Soviet claim that it was asked by Afghan authorities to send military aid. He said the resolution was "a flagrant intervention in the affairs of a sovereign state and should be rejected."