

Presidential Forum

Candidate's wife stresses goals

What was your response when Pat Schroeder withdrew her candidacy?

I had mixed emotions. I've been a Pat Schroeder fan for a long time; I admire her as a congresswoman. But, boy, when my husband was out there as a candidate I realized that... Well it went like this: People would say we like your husband, but we're waiting to see what Pat Schroeder does. Well, I thought, 'Golly she's just drawing from Paul's constituency.' So when she withdrew I felt a sigh of relief. I am glad that she did withdraw. We have those people who would have been supporting her.

What she's failed to do, however, is to push for more appropriations for the drug enforcement administration. It's grand to be able to talk to young people — I've talked to them as well about drug abuse — but what we need to have is a more effective drug enforcement administration: more money in the Coast Guard, more money for people patrolling along the Mexican border. All these things take a lot of money, and Nancy has to work harder to get the appropriations to fund these things.

But yes I'd continue that. I'd also continue an interest in libraries that I have. I'm not a

fine yourself to one.

What are your husband's plans for the educational system? What are his views on financial aid and minority education?

In terms of what he's already done: He's tried to keep the college loan program going. He's tried to restore the 28 percent cut that the present administration had proposed for the educational budget. Paul's been trying to put more money into preschool education. He's really strongly interested in foreign language study in high schools and universities — he's written a book about it called "The Tongue Tied American." He's put a program into action for that. He has worked with the Library Services and Construction Act and has done something to provide for adult illiteracy programs in libraries.

You were talking about minorities. He was the author a Challenge Grant Act when he was in Congress, which guarantees for historically black institutions, if they raise a certain amount of money, it will be matched by the federal government. So that they get the funding, which is what a lot of historically black institutions and a lot of other institutions don't necessarily have...

Paul also has worked for tribally controlled Indian colleges to see that they stay around. Like the black colleges, they too are in grave danger of zeroing out. He's worked for women's colleges. He has a great sense of encouraging minority people, and fairness.

He's going to make education a priority in his administration, in a way it has never been in the last eight years — really a priority because he's always served on an education committee whether it's the Illinois State Legislature or Congress or now the Senate. He's the only candidate who has consistently been on an education committee.

Jeanne Simon, wife of democratic presidential candidate Paul Simon, discussed her goals and concerns of the presidential campaign during a short interview. She was in Eugene Thursday for a brief luncheon.

But I hope she doesn't give up. I think there's still time for Pat Schroeder. There's still time for a woman to seriously consider running for the presidency.

What are views on Elizabeth Dole? Do you think it was appropriate for her to quit her job in order to work on her husband's campaign?

I think that must have been a tough decision for Elizabeth Dole, but I think it was a necessary one. She's a very important part of his campaign. She couldn't campaign as a cabinet officer, and I think she realizes that if there is one goal the two of them have as a husband and wife team it's to see him elected president. I think she did the right thing.

It's tough that she was asked to make that sacrifice, but she did it willingly and cheerfully, and who knows she may have an even greater role in this campaign. And should her husband be elected, which God forbid I hope doesn't happen, she would be in an even greater position in the White House to affect policy. So she knows what she is doing. She's a smart woman.

Nancy Reagan, as the president's wife, has fought against drug abuse. If your husband was elected would you continue this fight? What other goals would you work toward?

Sure. Absolutely. What Nancy Reagan has done in drug abuse is phenomenal. What she has done for herself, of course, is even more phenomenal. If you recall when she started out in 1980 the only thing we heard about Nancy Reagan were her designer dresses and getting new china for the White House. She's turned that image around. She's done a good job.

librarian, but I feel very strongly about libraries — small-town libraries mainly.

I'd also like to work for adult illiteracy — total elimination of adult illiteracy by 1990. Twenty-three million adult Americans don't know how to read and write. It's a terrible thing.

Mine workers' health and safety. What I probably should have mentioned in the lecture was the civil rights act — the Civil Rights Restoration Act — which guarantees... It goes back to Title Nine, where it sort of originated from. In 1968, the Group City College case sort of eliminated education opportunities. So we want to get that back to the original legislation.

I'd work for that. I'd work for pay equity. I'd work for parental leave. I'd work for more day care for working mothers. There's a lot of good causes out there, so you shouldn't just con-

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By GARY LARSON



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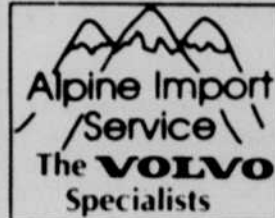
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