

Choate: Candidate discussed a new optimism in the Reform Party

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ferring to his point that government represents special interests.

"Our elected officials are serving those who put up the money to get them into office and to keep them in office," he said.

Choate, who earned a Ph.D. in economics and has written six books, is visiting colleges for the next two weeks. He also teaches at the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University and hosts a weekly radio show talk show carried by 300 stations.

Optimism around the Reform

Party campaign has strengthened in recent days after Dole asked Perot to drop out of the race. Perot responded by saying he was in the race until the end.

"Bob Dole just told the Republicans that a vote for Bob Dole is a throw-away vote," Choate said.

He said Perot showed 7 percent in the polls in 1992 before gaining 19 percent of the vote. This year Perot is showing 7 to 8 percent in the polls.

Choate said he thinks the Reform Party can win, but the ultimate goal is to establish a perma-

nent party. If Perot receives 25 percent of the vote in the Nov. 5 election, then the Reform Party will be federally funded for the next four years.

Perot and Choate are on ballots for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Seventy-six percent of Americans wanted the fairness of an open presidential debate, said Choate. He said the people are being treated as though they don't own the country.

"Our country is increasingly bought and sold by monies outside our country," he said.

He said the loopholes that exist in campaign finance and the contribution of foreign money need to be put to an end.

"The real crime is not what is done illegally in Washington," Choate said. "The real crime is what is done legally."

Although campaign finance reform is the major message of Choate and the Reform Party, he also talked about the North America Free Trade Agreement, child labor in foreign countries and the social security system.

Choate said more than 200 million children in the world are

bought and sold as chattel property. He said until 1994 our country had the right to keep out products made by child labor.

"In effect, we said, 'no you can't do that to our children, but we really don't care if you do it to the children of other countries,'" he said.

The moral values and sensitivities of the American people are not being represented, he said.

"If Bill Clinton wins, by the time we come to the next election, everybody in America will want the Reform Party," Choate said.

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