

# Oregon Democrats Hope To Capture Control of Senate

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On the legislative level, Democrats hope to gain control of the state Senate, which was evenly split two years ago, and retain control of the House.

But most of the 11th-hour talk was about Morse's reference late last week to the death of a seven-year-old girl who was struck by a car driven by Hatfield when the latter was 17 years old.

Morse pointed to a State Supreme Court opinion which upheld a \$5,000 judgment against Hatfield in connection with the accident and said it showed Hatfield was and is "unreliable." Morse assumed full responsibility for the attack, which Gov. Holmes said he "sincerely regretted."

The Oregon senator, who has come under some of the greatest fire of his political life since issuing the blast, said he did not want to stress the fatal accident. "It was his ethical, moral and honest responsibility to tell the jury the truth and Hatfield did not... that's what the Supreme Court said. That is my complaint against Hatfield."

Some Democrats feared the blast would have a reverse effect and cost Holmes votes.

**Holmes' Statement**  
Holmes issued a statement late Saturday in which he said: "I want the people to know that I sincerely regret Senator Morse's use of a tragic incident in Mark Hatfield's life in the campaign. Never in my entire career in public service have I used reference to the personal life of an opponent."

"Senator Morse has been campaigning for me, and I appreciate his efforts. But I deplore his reference to this tragic incident for all parties involved. I had no knowledge that he planned to discuss the matter, and it came to me as a surprise, as it did to other Oregonians."

Dave Epps, state Democratic chairman, stuck with Morse by saying "I fail to see what is wrong with letting the people know about a Supreme Court decision."

Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said he regretted Morse bringing up the matter and said he was the object of a similar type attack by Republicans in 1954. "I doubt," Neuberger said, "if the leaders of the Republican party have a right to be quite so shocked as they proclaim themselves to be."

## Marine Slain By Policeman In Squad Room

An ex-justice of the Oregon Supreme Court who was chief justice at the time of the fatal accident came forth in Hatfield's behalf. Retired Justice J. O. Bailey issued a statement in which he said "the question of whether or not Mr. Hatfield had committed perjury was not involved in the case. Had he committed perjury, as contended by Sen. Morse, he certainly would have been prosecuted."

"What Senator Morse is trying to say, in effect, is that every litigant and every witness on the losing side in any court action has lied, and should, therefore, be denied full citizenship rights."

"This simply is not true. In every lawsuit there are two sides. No two witnesses see the same situation exactly alike. The fact that testimony differs does not, in itself, indicate that witnesses have been untruthful."

Hatfield issued a brief statement Saturday in which he said the entire case was a matter of public record. "To have it brought up again in an effort to shatter a reputation at this particular time will bring on a recurrence of great grief to all who were involved in the regrettable accident 18 years ago."

In the congressional battles, Rep. Porter answered a charge by Geddes that Porter had refused to file a preliminary report of his campaign expenditures by saying he had filed the reports as required by law. He said that as of Oct. 25, Geddes' contributions were almost twice his own.

Norblad, seeking election for the eighth time, demanded to know what Thornton

"stands for." He said "Thornton has been criticizing me, the Oregonian, the Multnomah grand jury and others during this campaign but he hasn't yet told the people of my district what he would do if he is chosen to succeed me."

In Portland, Johnston a reserve naval officer, charged Mrs. Green with "not being frank" in telling how much money "is being spent by her or on her behalf" in the campaign. Mrs. Green said she has accounted for all the money contributed to her personally.

The capital punishment issue heads the list of ballot propositions. It would not "abolish" capital punishment in a strict sense. It would remove the mandatory provision for death as the penalty for first degree murder from the constitution and leave the penalty up to the Legislature. Both candidates for governor favor this measure.

Other top measures include one to increase funds for veterans' loans, one to establish a State Power Commission and another to allow employees of school boards to serve in the Legislature. Another would raise salaries of legislators from \$600 to \$1200 per year.

Other ballot propositions would permit the Legislature to change use of any state institution outside Marion county after 12 years; permit the Board of Control to discontinue using one of two TB hospitals and use it for another purpose; make it possible in urban redevelopment or renewal areas to use any increase in property taxes resulting from the renewal to apply to costs of the renewal project itself; change the constitution to allow counties to issue bonds for purposes such as building a new courthouse; provide for a definite boundary between Oregon and Washington; allow laws to permit calling of special grand juries; allow appointment of temporary Supreme Court justices; and bring about a county home rule amendment which would let voters in any county adopt a charter, choosing their form of government.

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