Clerk Believes Non-Partisan Election of County Officers Would Weaken System

Election of county officials on a non-partisan basis would mean a partial disenfranchisement of voters, County Clerk Marvin Madden told the Young Democrats club Thursday night.

The county clerk said this came to his attention when former office holders, present office holders and other citizens advocated to the Jackson county home rule committee that county officials be elected on a "non-partisan basis."

"Are we in favor of an abridgment of our rights? And if so in the name of what great ideal; efficiency, economy, and improved standards for public officials?" Madden asked.

"Are we willing to stand by and see our political organizations sterilized and witness their withering to the point of being ineffectual? If we are stripped of our purpose on the local level, will we be able to muster effective strength in district and state elections?", Madden asked.

Not Used Party System

"I believe that if we have not made the best use of the party system opportunity it does not mean that we should abolish the opportunity," the county clerk remarked.

Madden noted that the county clerk's association passed a resolution in 1958 advocating that county clerk be placed on the non-partisan ballot. "And from that date to this I have noticed the trend to non-partisanship develop, augmented by the position of the Medford Mail Tribune and other local supporters."

Interests Satisfied

Political party development means government by consent. Through political parties people have directed their efforts to improve conditions and provide security, Madden pointed out. People have organized to accomplish collectively what they could not accomplish alone.

"For any political party to maintain control of government it is necessary that interests of a majority of the people be satisfied to a certain degree. But, members of political parties must subordinate their main interests in favor of the common good," the county clerk explained.

"This is the characteristic of political parties which gives it greatest stature; the adherence to greater ideals as opposed to the immediate interests of the various component groups and individuals."

"The political party has provided a working organization in which people can apply their efforts to government," he said.

Describing the internal organization generally found within a political party, Madden said the natural organization usually consists of four different individuals — the elected official and professional politicians, the party organizers and workers, the party sympathizer and the independent.

Confinement of Interest

In the independent "there tends to be a confinement of interest and no loyalty to party causes," the county clerk added.

The non-partisan candidate gets his support by developing his own support and good name, or he may be supported by community groups, or municipal and good-government leagues, the county clerk explained.

"It has been pointed out that the non-partisan office holders usually have a real advantage in reelection with the result that the governmental body is composed of a relatively large percentage of experienced members and makes for conservatism," Madden noted.

"It has been pointed out also that newspapers are conservative and the publicity given to conservative candidates is helpful to them. There is a tendency for non-partisan candidates to avoid issues and to rely on name and personality."

Office Holders Secure

"Is it desirable that the office holder secure himself in office?" the county clerk asked. "What can be more productive of effort and concern for the public interest than the prospect of being removed for failure to perform public duties?"

He asked if the newspapers or any other media should be given greater influence in the election of candidates. The news media are not representative and their relationship with the community is mainly economic because they are dependent upon business in the community for their existence. "I do not think any greater influence would be in the public interest," Madden said.

"I believe there are many things we should know about non-partisan elections. I think we should know something of the people who are promoting non-partisanship. Are they people who feel that politics is a 'dirty' business? Are they people who wish for a more conservative and stable government? Are they people how think there is no difference between the philosophies of two major political parties? Or do they just think this sounds like a good idea?

"What special interest groups will be formed to promote the election of county commissioners, a sheriff, an assessor, a clerk and so on? Supporting parties and groups usually expect results from the officials they have helped into office. What are the results these supporting groups will expect?" Madden asked.

Hospital Receives Fund Donations

Several donations for new equipment and additional building fund monies have been received by Sacred Heart hospital, Medford.

A $300 check from the Jackson county unit of the American Cancer society was recently presented to the cancer registry of Sacred Heart hospital to assist in the maintenance of its program.

In addition, the hospital recently received $200 from the Jackson county chapter of the American Heart association. The money is to help finance a $750 "heart pacer" and a "defribillator." The equipment is needed in cases of cardiac arrest and other heart conditions, according to hospital officials.

Patients discharged from Sacred Heart with the diagnosis of cancer are included in the cancer registry, and are followed periodically to determine the results of the treatment administered.

Each year, according to hospital officials, about 10,000 persons in the United States ". . . face unexpected death due to cardiac arrest," showing the need for the new equipment.
ment.

Contributions to the building fund included a $156 check from the Court St. Mary 1800, Catholic Daughters of America, presented by Mrs. Elmer Ness. The Talent Lions club presented a check for $100.

NOW IN GERMANY

Army Pfc. David L. Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert L. Baker, Butte Falls, recently arrived in Germany, and is now a member of the 507th Ordnance company. Baker, a mechanic, entered the Army in August, 1959, and completed basic training at Ft. Ord, Calif. He attended Butte Falls High school.

Third Annual Law Day Scheduled in Oregon on May 1

Portland—The third annual Law Day, USA, will be observed nation-wide May 1, according to William J. Masters, Portland, state Law Day chairman for the Oregon State Bar.

The annual observance is held each year on May 1 under the sponsorship of the American Bar association, and is designed to stress the importance of law in the American society and to advance the idea of settlement of world disputes through law rather than through the use of force.

"Law Day, symbol of the strength of democracy which lives by the rule of law, is observed May 1 as a counteracting influence against the communist's May Day celebration, symbol of fear and force," according to Masters.

Theme of Day

Theme of the 1961 observance is "Liberty Under Law . . . The American Way," which is also the topic for the third annual high shool editorial contest sponsored by the Oregon State Bar in conjunction with Law Day.

The editorial competition is open to any editorial on the theme written by an Oregon high school student and published in an Oregon high school newspaper or any Oregon newspaper of general circulation prior to April 20.

A certificate of merit will be awarded to each county winner, who will then vie for the three state prizes.

Paul W. Haviland, Medford, has been named Law Day chairman for southern Oregon.

ANNIVERSARY—Wilbur Gardner, Medford shoe repairman (above) observed his 30th year of operation in the same location March 10. Gardner, whose initiative in promoting a federal shoe labeling law has recently gained him nationwide recognition, first opened his small shop on East Main st. in 1931. Although the original building has been replaced by a modern structure (the Eastside Market building) his address has remained the same. Gardner worked at Timber Products corporation for 13 years before going into business for himself. He was born in Merrill, Ore. and came to Medford, across the Green Springs, by covered wagon. He and his wife live at 323 South Peach st., Medford.

NOW'S THE TIME

Washington — (UPI) — Democratic Senator John Carroll of Colorado has received a letter from the Washington, D. C., GOP Central Committee asking him not to despair because the Republicans lost the election. They also asked for a donation.

Girl Says Man Pointed Gun at Her

A 16-year-old girl told Medford police Thursday night that a young man pointed a shotgun directly at her while she was sitting alone in a car in front of a Newtown st. address. The girl said the man fled when she honked the horn of the car.

She said that before the man fled, he cocked the gun while it was pointed in her direction. He said nothing but "hey kid," according to the girl. The incident occurred about 8:30 p.m.

The girl described the man as tall, about 25 years of age, and wearing a black jacket.

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