

Idaho Republicans adopt conservative platform, resolutions

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BOISE — The Idaho Republican delegates were back home Monday after adopting a platform and resolutions that generally following a strong conservative stance.

Among the resolutions approved was one supporting development of nuclear breeder reactors, but it occasioned a sharp floor fight. The original resolution calling for such a commercial reactor at the INEL was defeated on a strong voice vote, but John Scoresby, Bonneville County Party chairman, and Blake Hall, Idaho Falls attorney, led the fight for reconsideration.

They were successful in adopting a resolution that called for construction of the breeder nuclear reactor by private enterprise to produce electrical energy in commercial quantities for wholesale to utilities in the Intermountain West and the Pacific Northwest, but the INEL location was deleted.

Scoresby noted the National Democratic Party platform proposed opposition to nuclear power while Hall pointed out Sen. James A. McClure solidly backed the breeder reactor. It then passed by an overwhelming voice vote.

Development of a commercial breeder reactor at the INEL was favored by the Idaho Democrats and a memorial to this effect also passed the Legislature, in the Senate unanimously and in the House with only few dissenting votes.

Sagebrush

Another resolution warmly backed the Sagebrush Rebellion which would turn over federal lands to state control.

The party also tabled a resolution chiding Idaho Democrats for violating Idaho election laws by picking their national convention delegates by caucuses rather than through the presidential preference primary.

Economic planks

Another resolution rejected by the Republican convention would have put the party on record against bailing out big companies which are in financial troubles. A proposed amendment to include "big cities" in that ban was also turned down.

Ray Robbins, Idaho Falls auto dealer, led the fight against the resolution by taking objection to

Mon. June 30, 1980

the provision which mentioned bailing out companies, such as the auto industry with obvious reference to the Chrysler Corporation. This is the company Robbins represents. After the debate was finished the entire resolution was tabled and efforts for reconsideration beaten back.

A party platform plank that the party "urge the acceptance of nuclear energy as a safe and viable energy source" passed with no debate. It also said the research on use of nuclear energy should be expanded to include perfecting a long-term solution to the nuclear waste problem.

Another party platform plank which drew no opposition said, "It is the goal of the Republican party to stimulate and encourage a healthy economy by maintaining a balanced state and federal budget with no increase in taxes and to urge Congress to take the necessary steps to require a federal budget." The Idaho Legislature has urged Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget.

A Madison County delegate, Steve Parkinson, sought to amend the federal budget resolution by inserting the provision that no federal money be spent except that authorized by the Constitution. This is substantially what is asked by the Liberty Amendment. The amendment was resoundingly defeated on a voice vote.

Other planks

In other party platform planks or resolutions, the Republican convention:

—Urged exemption of interest earnings as taxable income.

—Urged repeal of state and federal inheritance taxes.

—Urged adoption of a program which would require able-bodied welfare and food stamp recipients to perform public service work for governmental agencies at the minimum wage rate.

—Urged that "in order to curb the mushrooming expense of welfare" that welfare aid be administered by "that unit of government closest to the people."

—Urge strong supervision of requirements for qualifications of welfare and food stamp programs to reduce the fraudulent claims.

—Urged legislation to remove

any federal and state income tax inequities that give tax breaks to unmarried couples living together over those who are married.

—Commended the Republican-controlled Legislature for providing more money for education that what Democratic Gov. John V. Evans requested.

—Went on record opposing the open primary system, saying, it is "contrary to the concept of the two-party system and invites cross-over voting and unethical political practice."

An amendment, proposed by Scoresby, was then approved which urged the Legislature to inaugurate a system requiring approval by 20 percent of the delegates at a party convention for congressional and gubernatorial candidates. He pointed out this would prevent a large field, such as the six vying in 1978 for governor which he said enabled election of a Democratic governor.

—Urged that the primary election be retained in May. Some legislators have recommended that it be moved back to its previous date in August. This passed on a 147-108 vote after lively debate.

—Urged immediate acceleration of the military defense program and revitalizing the defense.

—That the Legislature should make it a fraudulent practice to knowingly participate in the transfer of a property and all other assets to obtain public assistance, but Sen. John Barker, R-Buhl, chairman of the Senate Health, Education and Welfare Committee, said this law is already in force.

—Support the Lewiston Port of Entry.

A resolution tabled was one that called on the Legislature to enact a water level right not to be less than 20 feet below the 1980 water levels on grounds such a provision was not realistic.

A minority report that asked that each county be given at least one state representative also went down to defeat by voice vote. Fred Royer, Arco, led in the debate on this proposal.

The entire platform was adopted after the chairman, Rep. Jack Kennevick, R-Boise, House assistant majority leader, read the preamble.

It generally touched on preserving the rights of all citizens, strongly supporting public education but with local control, preserving the family farm, achieving the goals of environmental quality and economic well-being without loss of employment and urging that a larger percentage of the Fish and Game budget be applied to law enforcement.

The platform also called for fully utilizing water to benefit all in the matter of agriculture development, hydroelectric generation, recreation, fish and game and other beneficial uses.

encouraging the broadening and strengthening of Idaho's tax base of commerce and industry, built on agriculture, mining, lumbering, manufacturing, processing and their related trade.

It also opposed a value added tax.

On the American family is stated "families must continue

to be the foundation of our nation. Families — not government programs — are the best way to make sure our children are properly nurtured, our

elderly are cared for, our cultural and spiritual heritages are perpetuated, our laws are observed and our values are preserved."