

Idaho Democrats plan

now Oct 22 1973

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register staff writer

BOISE — Idaho Democrats, tempered by the surprise Watergate prosecutor firings, Monday were prepared for waging a vigorous 1974 campaign, following rousing party gatherings and the U.S. Sen. Frank Church fund raising banquet here Saturday night.

Beneath the facade of optimism, party leaders were concerned over the latest Watergate developments in the firing of two prosecutors and the resignation of Atty. Gen. Elliot Richardson.

In a party meeting Saturday afternoon at the Downtowner, Joe McCarter, Corral, assured he would not resign as he had indicated recently to some leaders.

With McCarter presiding, the Democrats called for a presidential preferential primary and wrote rules which would use county and smaller unit caucuses to elect delegates to the state conventions.

A minority report submitted by Richard Pattee, Idaho Falls, Bonneville state committeeman and backed by the Bonneville delegation, was rejected.

Minority report

This minority report provided for county caucuses on a specific date in March of even-number years.

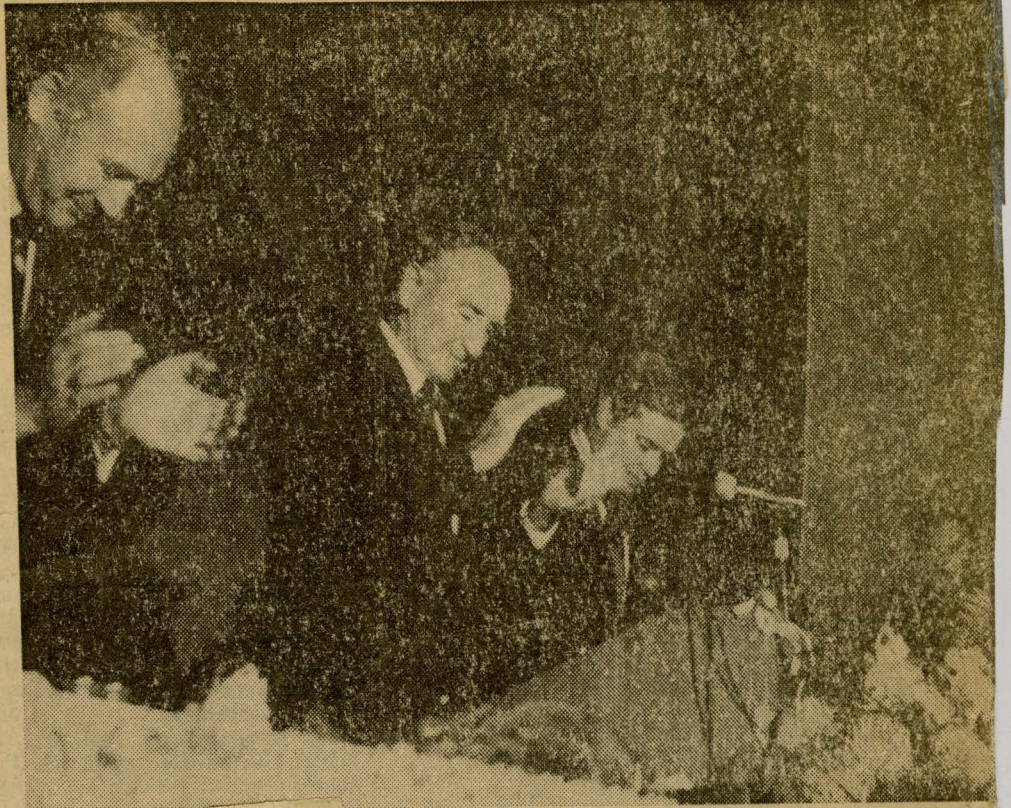
The county caucuses would replace the legislative district caucuses used by the party in 1972, it was decided.

The proposed presidential primary, which the state central committee urged should coincide with one held in Oregon, would provide for selecting delegates to the party's national presidential nominating conventions.

The new rules for delegate selection will be used by the Idaho party to elect delegates to the national charter convention scheduled after next year's general election.

The majority report would give the county chairman the option of holding a county caucus to select delegates to county conventions, or to hold simultaneous sub-caucuses in precincts or other county units, including legislative districts.

The vote was unanimous for a resolution asking the next legislature to adopt the presidential primary. It would be held the third Tuesday in May.



Wayne Fuller, Caldwell attorney, said the primary would open the party "to the common man on the street."

McCarter indicated 10 from Idaho could serve on the charter commission, likely to be held in December in New Orleans, La.

Vacate office

McCarter said that because of a "financial crunch" the office of executive secretary was vacated. His term expires in June 1974.

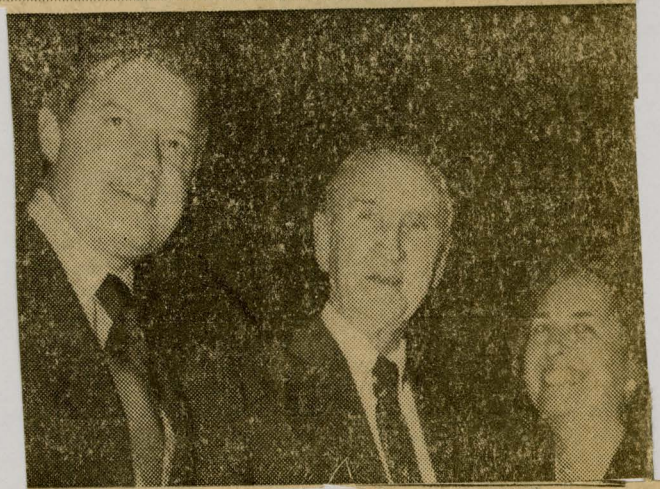
Nolan Hancock, Lewisville, who has held the office at Boise through the 1972 campaign, said he would be relinquishing his duties the coming week.

He said he has wanted to step aside to go into the dairy business with his son at Lewisville. He said he has had a number of job offers, including return to his previous post at the NRTS.

McCarter said he was certain the situation was temporary and indicated the office would be reestablished for the 1974 campaign.

State Finance Chairman Melvin Morgan, Pocatello, who was groomed for state chairman if McCarter stepped down, said a minimum of \$1,500 a month was needed to keep state

quarters open with an executive secretary.



UPPER LEFT shows part of the head table at the U.S. Sen. Frank Church fund-raising banquet Saturday night at Boise's Fairground Pavilion. From left are Gov. Cecil D. Andrus, master of ceremony; U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., Senate majority leader and keynote speaker; Church, and in far right background, Dennis Weaver, television McCloud personality, the main entertainer. Upper right shows a closeup of Weaver who was besieged by autographer collectors; lower left are seen Church, Mansfield and Bethine Church, the senator's wife. The banquet was billed as Appreciation Banquet for Frank and Bethine Church. (Post-Register staff photos).

Story can't reverse side

At Coeur d'Alene

McCarter said the party's executive committee had voted earlier to hold the 1974 Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in conjunction with the state convention at Coeur d'Alene June 26-29 but many delegates opposed this.

Among those giving reports were Deckie Rice, Idaho Falls, member of the executive committee on the report of the Charter Commission; and Margaret Schultz, Blackfoot, platform and resolutions committee.

Morgan said "let's forget the past on our deviousness and look ahead for the future."

Church interview

Church said in an interview with this writer that in Richardson, Nixon has lost the last of his cabinet member with high principles and who held the respect of Congress.

"This is a sad day with the departure of good men," said Church.

Church lamented that President Nixon is fighting against the tapes release, adding it is bringing on new complications.

"If more men would follow Mr. Richardson's example, we could clean up this administration," said Church.

Church, however, shied away from impeachment suggestions.

McCarter said "this is the most serious crisis our government has ever faced." He added impeachment is now the only solution.

U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Montana, Senate majority leader, reviewed the Watergate case, vowing "The Senate will make this government function. We will take a closer look at what officers will do."

Lauds Church

He said Senator Church recognized early the futile tragedy of the war in Vietnam and appraised quickly its cost, not only in terms of men and money, but in the way it diverted the nation's attention away from the countless priorities here at home.

He noted 55,000 had died in Indo China and the expenditure totaled \$140 billion.

Referring to Watergate, he said "do not despair, this country is bigger than these men."

Mansfield said Nixon now has created a confrontation with Congress and the court, even though earlier he said his purpose was to avoid this.

Mansfield avoided commenting on proposed impeachment, saying this was a matter for the House, with the Senate then having to sit in trial.

Mansfield also said he had consulted with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on the Middle East war.

Mansfield left Sunday to fly directly to Istanbul, Turkey, to attend an International Conference.

Andrus emcee

Gov. Cecil D. Andrus served as master of ceremonies, and introduced members of the Church family, including Mrs. Chase Clark, mother of Bethine Clark, wife of the senator.

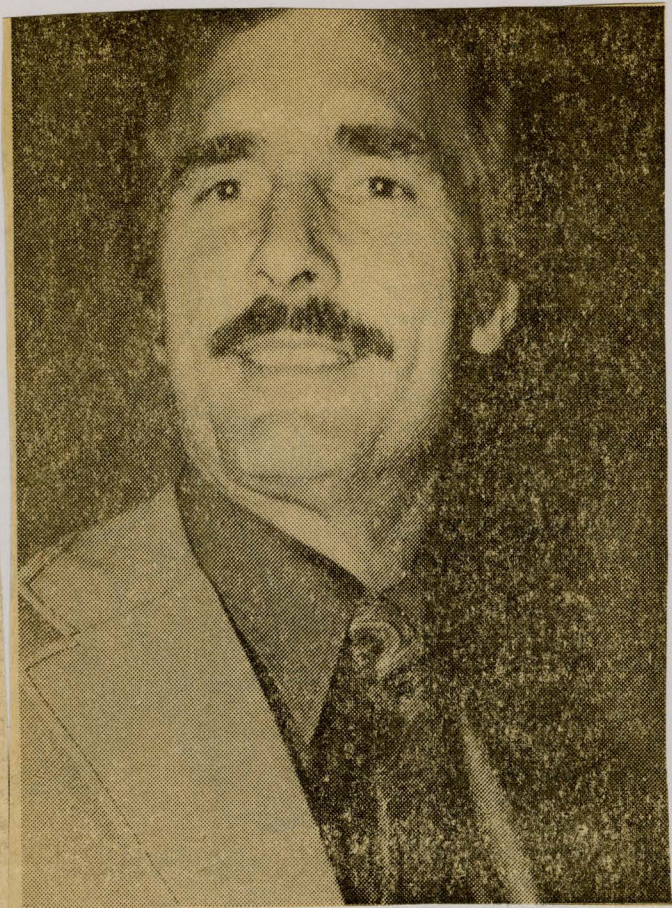
Dennis Weaver, TV personality who plays McCloud, said he admired Church, particularly for his "opposition to a senseless war." He noted Church had "put his political life on the line for a cause he believed just."

Weaver remarked Church had co-sponsored bills to limit troops and cut off funds for war purposes in Cambodia.

He added Church had done much in the way of social legislation, adding "he has raised the quality of life."

Weaver then entertained with singing, accompanying himself on a guitar and his wife accompanied him in one number. He was the center of attraction as scores gathered around him for autographs. He also announced it was his 28th wedding anniversary.

Other entertainers include



Dennis Weaver