

The election eye . . .

Watch for gimmicks during silly season

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Now that the primary election is over, the real silly season will soon approach — the general election campaign.

Idaho citizens had better be doubly careful on the reams of rhetoric disseminated by the candidates and their supporters and learn to separate the chaff from the wheat.

Of deep concern are the distortions and misrepresentations that are freely distributed during the campaign, adding to the confusion of the voters.

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The most serious are the misleading names carried by various special groups and organizations.

Among these are the Alliance of Senior Citizens, Right to Work, Associated Taxpayers of Idaho, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry and various other groups.

The Alliance of Senior Citizens is an excellent case in point. It is dedicated to the goal of cutting government spending, meaning particularly the human services, and specifically, spending for senior citizens.

It's regrettable that Sen. James A. McClure and Reps. George Hansen and Steve Symms publicize their high ratings with the group. The voting records show that McClure, Hansen and Symms have consistently voted against adequate social services programs, and this includes the senior citizens.

On the other hand, the Association of Retired Citizens is the bonafide organization, which works in behalf of the elderly. In this, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, always gets top ranking while McClure, Hansen and Symms are relegated to the bottom.

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The Right to Work is a blatant misnomer but wide publicity has pretty well disclosed it as largely anti-labor union group. The Associated Taxpayers of Idaho and the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry are business organizations, dominated mostly by big business.

This is not criticizing business because there is no argument they are a viable part of life in Idaho. It's only the deceit they practice in seeking to give the impression they are representing a broad base of taxpayers; thus avoid using the title of "business" in their organization.

Just this week, IACI released its ratings of Idaho legislators on how they voted on various issues. These were business-oriented issues and it reveals graphically the vast bulk of the Idaho lawmakers voted strong for such type of bills. This goes particularly for East Idaho legislators.

The only two who rated near the middle and should be commended for voting for the people are Sen. Israel Merrill, D-Blackfoot, and Rep. Wendell Miller, D-Idaho Falls.

Both IACI and ATI have highly paid lobbyists and staff personnel to protect the big business interest.

Only the volunteers groups, such as the League of Women Voters, and environmental organizations, seek to represent the people. Many may not agree as to their goals and tactics but they give freely of their time and money.

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Not so long ago, a letter to the editor from a writer mentioned the ratings of three conservative groups which gave McClure, Hansen and Symms high ratings and Church a low score while two liberal organizations' rankings were the reverse. However, the three Republicans got almost perfect ratings with the extreme conservative groups while Church ranked in the upper third but far from the top with the ultra liberals.

Recently, a spokesman for the ultra liberal Americans for

Democratic Action expressed displeasure at Church for his voting record which he said was not liberal enough. He even recommended the PAC give him no contributions. This appears amusing because if Symms is elected senator he would vote more conservative than does Church.

Another writer, Frank J. Mur-

dock, Idaho Falls accountant and twice defeated for state senator, suggested government drop its welfare programs and let the charity organizations handle the programs.

Let the issues be well aired but it should be done honestly and without distortions so that people can choose on facts, not gimmicks.

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