

Factions Mull

Legislative Posts

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Opposing factions Monday appeared headed for a showdown fight on appointments to replace two recalled Idaho Falls state legislators after the leader of the recall movement issued a statement insisting their endorsed candidates should be appointed.

Jim Hill, chairman of the We the People organization which spearheaded the successful recall movement against State Sen. W. Fisher Ellsworth and State Rep. Aden Hyde, contended his organization should have the prevailing voice in the selection. At the same time, his statement, in effect, opposed the candidacy of Dane Watkins, Bonneville County Republican chairman.

Charles Just, chairman of Legislative District 30 Committee, which will endorse the candidates to Gov. Cecil D. Andrus, said a meeting to only consider the applications but take no further action is scheduled at his home, 165 South Lloyd Circle, Monday at 8 p.m.

Hill suggested that the meeting when the committee endorses the replacements be an open one, rather than a closed one as Just has suggested.

May Delay

Just said it is up to the committee to decide on this matter and indicated that it likely will be delayed from this week. He had tentatively planned a second closed meeting to consider the endorsements Thursday night at his home.

Hill, however, said he favored delaying the meeting next week, to give time for more consideration and also because of the Republican activities occasioned by the coming of President Nixon in Idaho Falls Wednesday and Thursday.

Two more names for possible replacements have been added on basis of talk in Bonneville Republican circles. These include Don F. Kugler, well known Idaho Falls businessman and former jeweler, and Mrs. Fred Ochi, well known Republican worker and clubwoman.

Four Candidates

The four definite candidates include Watkins, Keith Clarke, radio station manager; Alex D. Creek, oil wholesaler and former city councilman; and John O. Rasmussen, now a retired Idaho Falls resident but a former Clark County state senator and anchor.

Also on the rumor list are, retired Idaho Falls druggist; Dale D. Parish, prominent realtor and city councilman. However, Parish has indicated he wants

to step out of public life and has indicated he will not seek re-election to the city council in the November city election.

Under law, Legislative Committee 30 has 15 days to make the appointment, which dates from last Friday when the election results were canvassed and confirmed. The governor then has an additional 15 days to fill the vacancy. Under state law, the committee is to submit the names of three candidates to the governor.

The two legislators were recalled on grounds they voted for a legislative pay increase in defiance of a people passed pay limit initiative.

Just and Hill have agreed that between three and six names can be endorsed.

The governor has indicated that if the selections do not appear representative he can refuse them and this leaves the Legislative Committee 30 the task of making the appointments.

Claims Majority

Just claims that 10 of the 16 members of the committee favor or middle of road or moderate candidates, and that it could be as many as 13. Hill, who is not a committee member, is considered to hold ultra conservative views.

Hill now concedes that the Just supporters may have a majority but argues the committee should endorse his organization's candidates in view of the recall results.

Behind the scene maneuvering indicates that Watson is strongly favored for an endorsement and a governor's appointment, likely for state senator.

Because of lack of time to call a full central committee meeting, Watkins said a vacancy on Precinct 15 will not be filled at this time. The vacancy appointment must be affirmed by the committee. This means that the 16 precinct committee of the district will endorse the replacements. Hill released the following statement Monday:

Hill Speaks

"The purpose as stated by Just is to receive applications

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and appoint committeemen with the qualifications of applicants," said Hill. "Just plans a later meeting to decide which recommendations to forward to the governor.

"We the People agree that inasmuch as precinct committeemen represent voters in their precincts these voters have a right to expect open meetings and recommendations openly arrived at and not as result of scheming in smoke-filled room.

"We the People further agreed that appointees to the recently vacated positions must be acceptable to the voters who three times have told their representatives not to raise their

pay. Any individual who has defied this expression of the people has disqualified himself for these positions.

Opposes Watkins

"As an example of who had defied the expressed will of the people is Republican Chairman Dane Watkins. As chairman, Watkins took a stand against the constitutionally guaranteed right of recall, as well as against the recent recall movement. By so doing, he embarrassed the local Republican organization by injecting it into a non partisan issue it should have remained out of, and by indicating endorsement of the arrogant behavior that precipitated the recall.

"The group concluded that Republicans will find it difficult enough to heal party wounds after Watkins' action and serious consideration of Watkins candidacy would make this task impossible."