

Intraparty Fight Looms For Recall Solon Posts

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The perennial intraparty squabble in the Bonneville County Republican Party promises to escalate the coming week when the opposing right wing and moderate factions vie for nominees to replace the two Idaho Falls state legislators ousted in last Tuesday's unprecedented recall election.

Already a half dozen names have been tossed in the hopper and more may be entered before the nominees are submitted to Idaho Democratic Gov. Cecil D. Andrus for appointment to the unexpired terms of State Sen. W. Fisher Ellsworth and State Rep. Aden Hyde, Idaho Falls Republicans.

Jim Hill, chairman of We the People organization, which sponsored the successful recall, said after a meeting Tuesday night at his home that Keith Clarke, veteran radio broadcaster, appears to have attracted high favor among the organization leaders.

Other Mentioned

Other mentioned as possible nominees are Dane Watkins, Idaho Falls businessman, chair-

man of the county central committee; Alex D. Creek, Idaho Falls oil wholesaler, former city councilman, and presently chairman of the Idaho Department of Commerce and Development Advisory Board; John O. Rasmussen, presently an Idaho Falls retired resident but former state senator some dozen years ago and farmer from Clark County; and Timothy Hopkins, Idaho Falls attorney, Republican party leader and co-chairman of the committee backing Ellsworth and Hyde.

Clarke, a controversial radio broadcaster, is presently manager of KGVM-FM but formerly was employed previously by other Idaho Falls television and radio stations over the past 35 years.

Hill said he had found that a number of well known businessmen, Republicans and Democrats, were sympathetic to Clarke's nomination.

Clarke Subscribes

"We have found that Clarke is also willing to subscribe to our guideline of turning back excess pay above the \$2,100 yearly and in following our conservative philosophy," said Hill.

Clarke confirmed he will

seek the nomination for state senator to replace Ellsworth.

He said he visualizes two problems: (1) for the governor to name the right man and (2) to convince the 16 precinct committeemen to include him as one of at least three choices.

"If there are any who would like to see me named for the post I would appreciate it if they contact their precinct committeemen," said Clarke.

Hill said there are others considered but their identities can't be disclosed until they get clearance from their superiors.

Just said the Legislative District 30 committee made up of the Republican precinct committeemen of the 17 precincts within the district will meet in a closed session Monday at 8 p.m. at his home to consider the applications only. Then, a second meeting likely will be held next Thursday, Aug. 19, also at his home to approve the nominations.

Just noted that under state law, the committee can submit within 15 days a list of three names for the governor to appoint. He pointed out that either the three for both vacancies or as many as six, or three for each of the two positions, can be endorsed.

Both Just and Hill claim they have a majority of precinct committeemen in their favor.

There is one precinct vacancy to appoint and this can be done by Watkins, the chairman, who publicly disavowed Republican Party support for the recall and is considered, leaning moderate. The vacancy exists in Precinct 15.

Hills Statement

Hill and his followers assert the people have expressed their views but Eugene L. Bush, co-chairman of the committee for Hyde and Ellsworth, Hyde and others said the comparatively light vote of only one third is not representative of views of the people.

Ellsworth and Hyde lost by little more than 200 votes of some 3,300 votes cast, compared with the district's registered voters of close to 10 thousand.

On basis of past record, Andrus, considered a liberal, would appear to favor the choice of the moderate, rather than the right wing group headed by Hill.

Moderates Favored

In such case, Watkins; Hopkins, if he were to be a candidate, and others of that philosophical view likely would win the appointment.

Just said the applications of candidates will be considered in written form.

Hill said further discussions on the potential nominees will take place over the weekend.

Bonneville County Prosecuting Atty. Seward (Skip) French said that contrary to an Idaho Falls television broadcast and other rumors, the recall does not strip Ellsworth and Hyde the right of seeking legislature or other public office. French said the State Constitution, Article 3, Section 6, specifies any running for public office be a U. S. citizens and elector of the state, and makes no reference on recall.