



Lewis County

Demogram



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Precinct officers invited To 20th District meeting

The 20th Legislative District Committee will meet Oct. 3 at Centralia College to, among other things, elect a new 20th District Chair, Phil Meany has announced.

The potluck dinner meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the college library (Room 103) and precinct officers are invited to attend.

Meany said the 20th District's current Chair, Rosemarie McGregor, has resigned because she is moving out of the district. Precinct officers should attend so they can vote on a new Chair, Meany indicated.

Meanwhile, precinct officers who wish to nominate someone for the job should telephone Meany at home (736-6549) of evenings.

Lewis Co. Democrats Invited to Randle meet

Lewis County Democrats will meet at the Mt. Adams Cafe in Randle for the monthly meeting to be held Thursday, Sept. 26.

Rita Cleary, Lewis County Democratic Central Committee chair, invited Democrats to attend. The meeting will start with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the regular business meeting at 7 p.m.

State Democrats vote to ignore presidential primary if Monroe does not amend rules

State Democrats, meeting in Wenatchee Saturday, Sept. 21, voted to ignore the state presidential primary next year unless Secretary of State Ralph Monroe amends the rules to comply with legislative intent.

If Monroe refuses, the state Democratic Central Committee decided, Democrats will not participate in the presidential primary and instead will use the old caucus system.

Ed Smethers, Centralia, attended the Wenatchee ^{Meeting} and

~~the~~ explains in the following report why Democrats took the action.

By Ed Smethers

20th District Committeeman

The question as seen by Democrats at the last State Democratic Central Committee meeting was one of whether this state's Democrats should be able to choose the presidential candidate of their choice, or whether the Democratic candidate should be chosen either by independent or by Republican voters.

The issues boils down to the wording of a question that will be asked of voters when they pick up their primary ballots in the upcoming presidential primary election.

The language insisted upon by Monroe would merely have the voter confirm, when picking up a ballot, that he or she wishes to participate in the Democratic primary.

The National Democratic Central Committee has advised the state that Monroe's proposed

(Continued next page)

State Democrats

primary language is inadequate and would violate Democratic National Committee rules, which require the voter to affirm, when collecting a Democratic primary ballot, that he or she is a Democrat.

The State Democratic Central Committee, in a 2-1 vote, has agreed with the national rule.

State Democrats gave Monroe until Oct. 25 to change his position. If he does not, Democrats leaders decided, Democrats will allocate their votes through the caucus system.

Keep in mind that presidential candidates for either party are not nominated by popular public vote. Instead, candidates for president are nominated at national conventions.

Take a hypothetical look at what would happen if Monroe were to change his mind and if Democrats were to endorse and participate in the presidential primary.

For example, if four declared

candidates for the Democratic nomination - Wilder, Harkins, Tsongas and Brown - each received 25 percent of the Washington vote in the presidential primary, each would get 20 of Washington's 80 delegates on first ballot.

On the other hand, under the caucus system, a candidate would have to get at least 15 percent of the caucus vote in order to gain any committed votes at the National Democratic Convention.

If, during the caucus vote, Wilder and Harkins each received 45 percent of the vote and Tsongas and Brown received only 5 percent each, Tsongas and Brown (under that scenario) would receive no votes at the convention - even though they might have received big support from other state delegations.

While this example is probably exaggerated, it does point out why the presidential primary would be little more than a beauty contest under the

primary election rules being pushed by Monroe.

• Norm Miller, long-time Democratic activist from the Tri-Cities, was elected to the National Democratic Central Committee Oct. 14 in Wenatchee. He replaces Betty Shreve, who has resigned to accept a position with the State Public Disclosure Commission.

• The State Committee voted to oppose I-553 relating to term limits. The effect of I-553 would be to limit terms of legislators and the governor. The initiative would not limit the terms of such offices as the state treasurer and auditor. Along with Democrats, mainstream Republicans are opposed to the plan. I-553 was financed almost entirely by out-of-state money that went to a consultant paid to collect signatures.

• Democrats voted to oppose I-559, relating to taxes, and to support I-119 (death with dignity) and I-120 (affirming the right of choice for women).

Unsoeld supports driftnet sanctions, Bipartisan forest bill, fish passage

By Jolene Unsoeld

Citing repeated violations of international law by Taiwanese and South Korean driftnet vessels, U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher has just recommended that President Bush sanction these countries by prohibiting them from exporting seafood products to the U.S.

The Commerce Department has just done the right thing, and now it's up to President

Bush to do the right thing. No more inaction, no more excuses, no more delays. We cannot stand idly by while these countries illegally pilfer our native salmon and steelhead. We have to hit them where it hurts, in the pocketbook.

Forestry Bill Gains Support

Just before Congress broke for its August district work period, I joined seven of my Washington and Oregon

colleagues in supporting the Northwest Forest Protection and Community Stability Act of 1991. The bill has bipartisan backing from two-thirds of our delegation and is the most exhaustive effort yet to find a harvest/habitat balance.

The legislation certainly isn't perfect, and it's not final, but it is an important first step toward a long-term solution.

(Continued next page: Timber)

Timber stability, fishery enhancement, energy

(Unsoeld) The bill -

- Establishes old-growth reserves to protect the spotted owl and all ecosystems, while setting harvest goals for Washington and Oregon national forest lands to protect our timber communities.
- Calls for environmentally sustainable New Forestry alternatives to short rotation clear-cutting.
- Directs the National Academy of Sciences to develop an early-warning system so we can avoid future species-by-species, crisis-by-crisis approaches to forest and resource management.
- Provides assistance and new jobs for loggers who are displaced and for communities to diversity their economies.

Nix to FERC fish action

At a time when we should be doing everything in our power to save salmon runs, a faceless commission has just taken action that could erode them.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new, narrower definition of a fishway that ignores the need for a downstream fish passage.

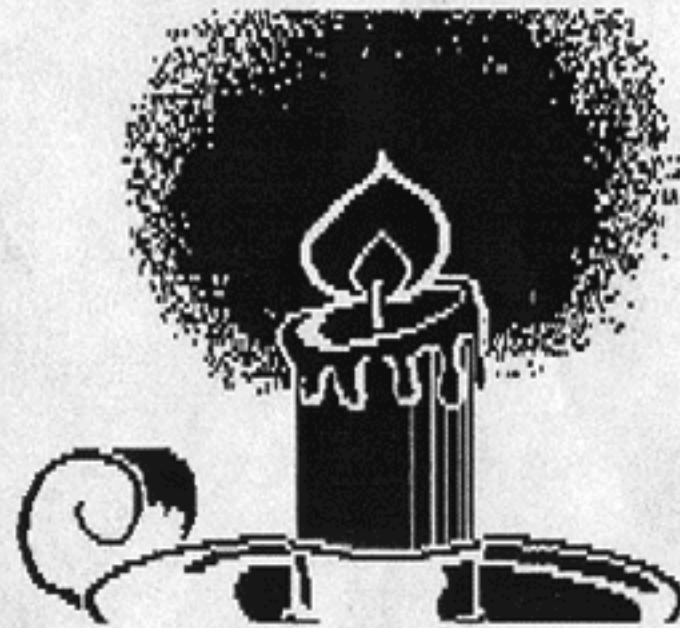
The danger is that with this ruling, hydropower dams could be licensed and relicensed without proper downstream bypass facilities - the very same facilities that help prevent salmon fingerlings and other young fish from being chewed up by turbines. I have introduced a bill with Les AuCoin (D-OR) to overturn the ludicrous ruling.

Energy policy needed

I've introduced an energy planning bill that seeks to counter-balance our administration's oil-heavy energy plan by giving conservation, efficiency, renewable resources and alternative technologies the priority they deserve.

The bill would require the National Academy of Sciences to give Congress, within two years, a detailed report evaluating the potential of cost-effective conservation and other energy alternatives to fossil fuels.

The Northwest knows conservation and other measures work, because we've been using them for years to minimize electricity use and rate increases. It's time to apply these proven principles to get the country unhooked from its oil addiction.



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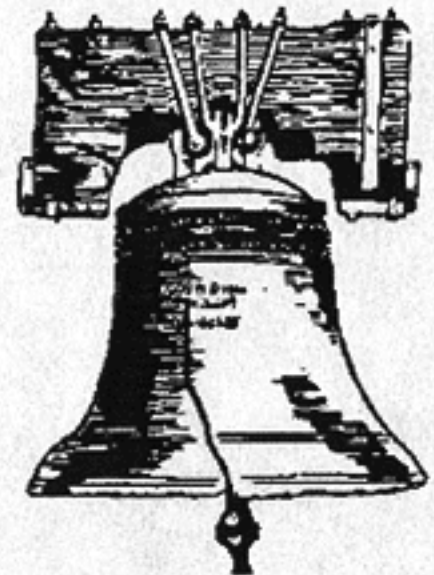
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