



Lewis County

Demogram



January, 1992

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Democratic caucuses set for March 3

By Ed Smethers
State Committeeman

The January meeting of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee was a rather long meeting. While I think it would be nice to give you a detailed report of that meeting, I think it may be more appropriate to deal with what I believe was the most substantive thing to come out of this meeting. I am referring to the 1992 caucus/convention timeline which deals with a series of dates starting January 21 and culminating in the Democratic National Convention July 16-18.

Keep this in mind. If you want to participate in the selection of the candidate who will be the Democratic nominee and next president of the United States, you will have to attend your Democratic precinct caucus on March 3.

That is not too far in the immediate future. By that time, you will have made up your mind on the candidate of your choice. The Democrats have some excellent presidential candidates. Decide which you think is the best choice and make sure you get to your precinct caucus and express your choice.

The Democratic Party is not boycotting the Presidential Primary on May 19. In fact, you are urged to participate. There may be other issues on the ballot you may want to support or oppose. However, the Presidential Primary will have no effect on the number of Washington State allocated votes at the National Convention. That will all have been decided at the March 3 caucuses.

Space will not permit the listing of all dates in the timeline leading up to the National Convention. However, I would like to list the important dates

through March 8. Hopefully, dates after that and up to the convention can be listed in next month's Demogram.

• January 31

Deadline for Legislative Districts to elect one member each to the state convention Rules, Credentials and Platform Committees.

Because of the late date, there will be a meeting of the 20th District precinct committee officers (PCOs) just prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Lewis County Democratic Central Committee on January 23. The meeting will be at the King Solomon Restaurant in Centralia. Plan to attend.

• February 2 • Deadline to approve PCO applications for permanent status as precinct caucus chair. NOTE: We have several precincts with no PCO. Anyone who would like to serve, or knows of someone who would like to serve, please contact Rita Cleary, Lewis County Chair, at 736-7202.

Precincts without PCOs include Cinebar, Parcuvia, Salkum, Salzer, Sears, Temple and Chehalis No. 2.

• February 18 • Mail call to precinct caucus; arrange local publicity.

• March 3 • Precinct caucuses to be held.

• March 8 • Deadline for: PCOs to return caucus minutes and delegate reports; any challenges to precinct caucus results must be submitted in writing by this date.

Lewis County Democratic Central Committee, Thursday, January 23, 6:30 p.m., King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia
Video of Bill Clinton, Tom Harkin

Presidential trade talk is tiresome

Is a bird in the bank worth two of the Bush?
When will the President finally stand up for the American economy?

By Dennis Auvil
Demogram Editor

A Republican Senatorial candidate who was favored to win - lost. Voter dissatisfaction with medical care and our ailing national economy handed victory to the Democratic candidate.

President Bush and his advisors took note of this.

Along about the same time, General Motors Corp. announced the layoff of 74,000 workers and the closing of more than 20 of its plants.

President Bush and his advisors took note of this. So did a few million other Americans who, I gather, were unhappily surprised.

More calamity followed. Another economic report was issued by the government, which keeps track of these things. It showed that unemployment was continuing to rise and that the national economy was continuing to fall. Asked about this gloomy news, economic prognosticators, except President Bush, were all pessimistic on the subject.

So was the Federal Reserve Board, which took an action equivalent to landing the first man on the moon. In an effort to arrest the economic plunge, it lowered the federal discount rate by one full percentage point, or in the lingo of financial folks 100 basis points.

A month ago, the political pressure was clearly building. Economists and business people

appearing on news talk shows were suggesting, however politely, that President Bush should do a little more, a little something to halt the economic decline. And maybe the President might even think about (forgive me for bringing it up) a real domestic economic policy.

And in the case of General Motors, the President might even consider doing something to make trade with our number one trading partner, Japan, a little fairer.

The President and his advisors took all of this economic news under close advisement. And soon, they devised a strategy to improve the economy.

Their solution? The president should take another trip, which he did.

This time, off to Australia he went, and then to Japan. There, he recited a myth invented, more than likely, by the ancient Greeks. According to the ancient myth, a huge golden bird named Free Trade would be able, one day, to travel from country to country unfettered by tariffs, taxes or regulation.

And wherever it would go, this big bird would lay golden eggs. We could use some of those eggs, right now, if we could find them. And as a result of this freedom of the big bird to travel, unfettered by tariffs, taxes or regulation, the people of all countries it visited would be enriched. That is basically

the story, told in simple terms.

President Bush told it to Japanese leaders, hoping to convince them to lower trade barriers they have erected to keep American-made products, including automobiles, out of Japan.

The Japanese, along with some of our other trading partners, however, have heard the story before but have not been converted to the faith. Instead of promises, some of our trading partners, including Japan, have chosen a more pragmatic path to wealth. Instead of relying on a free-trade ideal that remains, always, just beyond our reach, Japanese have found it more profitable to pursue what works. And for them it has worked quite well: trade barriers.

The question of fair versus



free trade has been portrayed recent weeks as a partisan issue.

Advice on Presidential trade trip:

Walk the walk, and cut the talk

Faced with growing criticism of what is widely perceived as a do-nothing domestic policy, the President and his defenders have replied by warning against Japan-bashing and protectionism.

Personally, I do not regard criticism of Japanese trade barriers as Japan-bashing. Nor do the calls for fair trade equal protectionism.

Japan has been and will continue to be an important and valued trading partner. Japan and its people have earned our respect. They have risen from the ashes of World War II to become a major economic power. They distribute quality products today all over the world. We rely on many of their products.

The Japanese are like us in another important way. They have learned how to take advantage of good deals when they find them. They have erected trade barriers because that has worked for them and because those barriers have gone unchallenged for so long.

The bare truth is that blame for trade barriers does not belong to Japan so much as it does to us. Trade barriers to our products exist only because we have allowed them to exist, unchallenged. The remedy is simple to define and yet has remained difficult, politically, to achieve.

The remedy is reciprocity. Call it equal treatment, or call it fair trade. Translated to action, the result is a message our



George Bush

Bush advice to homeless and unemployed:

"It's a good time to buy a car."



trading partners, including Japan, would understand, quickly and with clarity.

That simple message is this: "Do onto foreign products as foreign governments do onto American products."

Do it politely. Do it quietly, but do it. Do it, and the message will be clearly heard.

President Bush's recent jaw-boning trade trip to Japan, I fear, will change nothing. The trip amounts to little more than a media event concocted to promote the notion that Bush is tough on trade.

What is needed from the Bush Administration is action, not more talk.

Before such action is taken, however, I will concede, President Bush should give some thoughtful consideration to devising an economic policy that

preserves our own economic interests. I have waited a long time but so far, I have not seen that.

I will give the President some credit, however, for at long last recognizing fair trade as a legitimate issue of debate. Although I personally view the Bush trip as a bust, it did serve to validate and recognize the fair-trade message Democrats have been voicing for years.

It is not much but at least it is a beginning. The unanswered question remains, however.

Is the President truly willing to take positive action on the free trade issue? Will he use his considerable powers to set things right? Or will he be content to talk, and talk and talk while the life of our domestic economy continues to bleed off to foreign lands?

Official Notice

Plan to attend The Great American Auction, which will be held Saturday, March 7, 1992, at the Centralia Eagles Hall.

Fun, food, fine company and bargains are guaranteed.

Plan to bring a good gift for Democrats.

Beverly Butters Gestrine, Chair

The Lewis County
Democratic Central Committee
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417 N. Pearl Street
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Joint meeting Jan. 23
The 20th Legislative District
Committee and the Lewis
County Democratic Central
Committee will meet in
Centralia on Thursday, January
23, 5:30 p.m., at the King
Solomon Restaurant in
Centralia.

Petra Insurance Agency
Complete Insurance Service
Evening Appointments
571 Pacific Ave. • Chehalis, WA
748-8855

Enbody & Dugaw
Attorneys at Law
107 S. Tower • Centralia
(206) 736-8269

Following that meeting, the
Lewis County Democratic
Central Committee will meet at
approximately 6:30 p.m.

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All precinct committee
officers are encouraged to attend
the meetings to learn about
Democratic caucuses planned for
March 3.

King Solomon Restaurant
Banquet Facilities Available
1225 Mellen, Centralia 736-3331

Rita Cleary, Chair Centralia
Dennis Auvil, Vice Chair Chehalis
Jan Leth, Vice Chair Centralia
Michelle Frica, Secretary Chehalis
Claudia Justis, Treasurer Chehalis
Wyn Smethers, Committeeman Centralia
Ed Smethers, Committeeman Centralia
Stu Halsan, Past Chair Centralia

The county convention is
planned April 18.