

Eggers Brings GOP Campaign To College Station Voters

Opinion and Analysis

Eggers Stirs GOP Hopes

By STEVE WICK
Battalion Staff Writer

Paul Eggers, Republican gubernatorial candidate, said here Sunday he wants to rid the state of "callous politicians" and put in people "who know what they are doing."

Eggers told an overflowing crowd at the Bryan American Legion Hall that the government is run like a private club that cares only about its members.

"We have to get rid of the political hacks in Austin and bring in concerned people to help solve problems. We need someone in Austin who cares about people and their problems," Eggers said amid applause.

"PEOPLE ARE fed up with the waste that goes on in government. People want a dollar's worth of work from the government for each dollar they pay the state."

Eggers attacked high state and federal taxes and blamed the Democratic party for wasteful practices.

He spoke about the work Governor Ronald Reagan, who campaigns for Eggers, and Governor James Rhodes have done in California and Ohio by introducing business practices in government.

"We must put economic and business practices into government. It is sinful for the government to spend money because they can get it easy from you."

"TEXAS NEEDS a change and we won't get it from the stag-

nant one-party system. Let's put some new blood into Texas. Let's elect people who care about other people and their problems."

Eggers arrived at Easterwood airport where he thanked the crowd of approximately 100 persons who showed up.

Eggers listed education as his top priority when he took office. Texas is 31st in educational attainment, 32nd in preventing dropouts, and 42nd in preventing

illiteracy, according to his figures.

Eggers said that by 1990 there will be 150-200 per cent more people attending college and people want the opportunity to improve themselves.

"BETTER EDUCATION with better job opportunities would do more to combat poverty than welfare could ever do."

On law enforcement, the candidate said there should be re-

gional training areas set up in places like Texas A&M and that training in such places be made mandatory for policemen.

Eggers said the reason the Federal Bureau of Investigation is the finest police force in the U.S. is that it is the best trained. The only way Texas police officers can combat the rising crime rate, he concluded, is to give them better training.

"It's a disgrace that members of the police force must 'moonlight' to support their families. Law enforcement officer's salaries must be raised."

EGGERS explained that more effort should be made to rehabilitate criminals and to put them into meaningful jobs.

At the reception given in the ballroom of the Ramada Inn, Eggers said that the thing he enjoyed about campaigning was the dialog and communication he was able to have with the people of Texas.

Eggers added, "If I ever forget about the people, I don't deserve to be governor."

Eggers said that the idea of letting the federal government solve everything was wrong and that there should be a breakdown of power, with more power going back to the states where these problems could be more cheaply and quickly solved.

"Texas is ready for a change, for a candidate who cares about the people," he concluded.

By BOB PALMER
Battalion City Editor

A Wichita Falls tax attorney declared that he wanted to take the government of Texas away from the "political hacks" and give it back to the people.

Paul Eggers, Republican gubernatorial candidate, spoke at a reception in the Ramada Inn and at an American Legion barbeque, here Sunday afternoon.

Eggers' voice cracked a little and his smile was forced, from a combination of hard campaigning and a severe cold.

When talking to a group without a prepared text, Eggers' eyes would wander just above the heads of the crowd searching for words.

The words were about change, a change from the old "sick" one-party system to a competitive two-party state.

And the crowd loved what he told them.

EGGERS BLAMED the Liquor Control Board scandal, among several others, on the present system and warned of more to come unless he is elected.

His line of kicking out "political hacks" and returning to a government of the people sounded similar to that of a former Alabama governor seeking a higher office.

Although Eggers denies any flirtation with Wallace forces in the state, his aides admit that strong support has been indicated from the Wallace camp.

This support probably does not result so much from Eggers' and Wallace's views being in accord, because they aren't, but more because those desiring a change by way of Wallace on the national level would also hope to find change in Texas.

AN AREA where Eggers differs with Wallace is the crowds that he draws.

The people Sunday represented a cross-section of the community rather than from just one faction.

The people who came to see Eggers were young and old, white and black, novices and experts. They ranged from young girls who could not stand cigar smoke to the ancients who chewed the stogies.

All these factions got behind Eggers on the one issue he is beating over the heads of the Democrats.

LAW AND ORDER.

"I don't think the situation in Texas can deteriorate to that of the Northern cities, because we don't have the massive ghetto problem which concentrates dissatisfied people in a confined area," he said.

Eggers outlined his proposals to counteract unrest to reporters as he slumped in a chair sipping ice water, recovering from the "warm reception" with the party faithful.

"First I would seek to correct conditions that would make people dissatisfied," Eggers started. "I would seek to bring private enterprise into the picture to get jobs for these people."

"The dole system, which we have, just does not work."

EGGERS indicated that on just as high a priority would be education for the people that need it. He listed figures to show how Texas is lagging in the education job.

When a riot breaks out, Eggers said there is only one thing to do. "We must establish order immediately."

Eggers pledged to be attentive to the desires of Texans and that he "would be a working governor and not sit in an ivory tower." He listed several committees that he would chair, so that he might "keep his fingers on the pulse of Texas."

Eggers has made inroads into

this traditionally Democratic territory—so much so that local GOP leaders think they can put Brazos County in the Eggers column, come November.

It remains mostly wishful thinking, but this time people might not pull the straight Democratic lever without second thoughts.

November is still a month away and in that span of time wishful thinking could become fact.



EGGERS AT EASE

Paul Eggers relaxes as he chats with newsmen at press conference in the Ramada Inn during his visit to Bryan and College Station Sunday. (Photo by Mike Wright)

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