

Governors seeking issues

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Democratic governors are trying to show some political muscle now and increase their campaign influence in 1976, but their chairman says they'll do it by seeking to shape issues, not appoint a candidate.

Gov. Philip Noel of Rhode Island, chairman of the Democratic Governors Conference, said Tuesday he wants to make sure governors are heard before the party stakes out its positions in the next presidential campaign. Noel will head the party's 1976 platform committee.

Noel said in the past the governors have paid too little attention to political decisions at the national

level and that has led to enactment of programs that are undue burdens on the governors and state governments.

"We're 36 strong and we represent over 90 per cent of the American people," Noel said in an interview. "What I've tried to do is make sure the Democratic governors become actively involved in presidential politics."

But the numbers did not seem to impress Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace. Alone among the 10 candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, he spurned the governors' call to appear before them Tuesday to talk about federal-state relations and campaign issues in

general. The other nine Democratic candidates were there for a day-long series of appearances that finally led Gov. William L. Waller of Mississippi to comment, "One thing that we're suffering from is that we have too many candidates." Waller, who will be leaving office shortly, said he thinks the Democrats should steer away from candidates and personalities and deal more directly with solutions to problems.

"I'm a little bit aghast . . . at the lack of enthusiastic solutions offered by the candidates," he said. "I hope we can get more of a platform that's positive in its construction." Noel said a first step in that direction was for the governors to find out how the candidates view the role of the states.

"We've never had anything like

this before," he said after the candidate forum. But governors in both parties have tried, and usually failed, to make their collective influence felt in presidential campaigns.

Usually it has been for lack of a consensus. But much of the political power that governors once wielded in their own states has slipped away with the increasing number of presidential primary elections and with the Democratic reform measures designed to broaden participation in the nominating process.

Noel said he wasn't trying to get Democratic governors aligned behind any candidate, although he thinks personally it might be a good idea.

Noel said if the governors did get together and try to pick a candidate now or during the primaries, they would look like political bosses.

368 drop out since September

Since the beginning of school, 368 students have resigned from Texas A&M University, 1.43 per cent of the fall enrollment.

Of the 368 students, 253 were male and 115 were female; 274 were undergraduates and 94 were graduate students.

"Most of the reasons are personal for leaving," said Dave Worley, assistant registrar for the University.

Worley cited poor health, financial problems, academic and disciplinary difficulties as possible reasons for leaving.

The job of the registrar is not to record specific reasons for leaving, said Worley, but to "clear leaving students from the University as quickly and expeditiously as possible, and make sure that if they come back to school, all their records are in order."

Committee alters tennis court site

The newly re-organized Student Campus Planning Advisory Committee voted unanimously to change the site of the proposed varsity tennis courts.

At the last Board of Regents meeting for the eight courts and stadium, the park area between G. Rollie and the President's home, was approved.

"There is shrinking green space on campus and a less central site could be found for the courts," said committee chairman Tom Kollaja.

A Senate resolution demonstrating support for the committee's decision will be presented by Regan Tower, committee member and freshman senator.

It was a surprise to Timothy Keneipp, a campus designer who was invited by the group to speak and answer questions, that the library expansion contract was awarded to the firm which constructed the initial phase.

The project was given to Geren and Associates. Preston Geren, the firm's owner, is an A&M graduate.

"The construction of the new architecture building has developed many problems," said Keneipp. "There is a possibility the facility will be inadequate by the time of completion."

"When the plans were made," Keneipp said, "no one could envision such a rapid growth of the school. It's just one of those things and is not terribly unusual."

HEW backs buyer facts

The Department of Health Education and Welfare's Office of Education has proposed regulations for a program to educate consumers to make rational decisions about purchases.

The program would expand education on consumer products in elementary schools, higher education institutions and communities.

Contracts and grants to fund the program would be awarded to different education levels as well as educating public service personnel, community and labor leaders, government employees and to the general public.

Education from the program will include basic economics of the marketplace, legal rights, consumer laws, financial management and credit.

Others are energy use and public utilities, major purchases such as food, housing and insurance and special problems such as advertising and product safety.

Institutions of higher education, state and local agencies, libraries and other public and private non-profit agencies would be eligible to apply.

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Briscoe OKs law grants

Governor Dolph Briscoe approved three grants Nov. 26 totaling \$48,917, for law enforcement and criminal justice improvements in the Brazos Valley.

Brazos County will receive the largest grant of \$24,936, to continue employment of an assistant district attorney and secretary for the Brazos County District Attorney's Office.

Case screening and reduction of the case backlog are anticipated results of the grants.

The county will provide \$3,903 in funds to match Criminal Justice Division funds.

Continued employment of an investigator and secretary for the Robertson County District Attorney's Office is also provided for under one of the grants.

Funds for this project total \$19,993.

The Brazos Valley Development Council (BVDC) will receive \$3,988 to enable the council to purchase identification, investigative, photo and clerical equipment to be used by eight area law-enforcement agencies.

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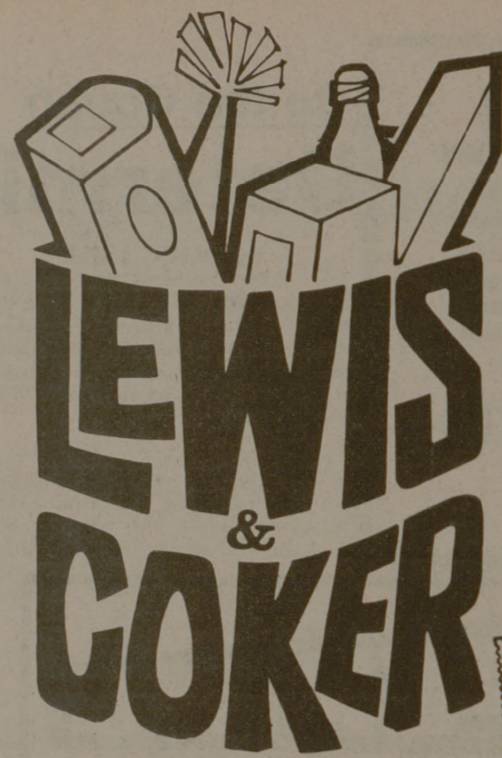
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