

Warped

by Scott McC



Clements has backing needed to win nomination, supporter says

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer

Former Gov. William Clements has enough grass-roots support to win the Republican nomination and the Texas governorship, said Jack Rains at a press conference before a meeting of the Texas Aggie Majority for Clements Tuesday night.

"No one ever accused Bill Clements of being a great politician," said Rains, statewide co-chairman for Clements' campaign for governor. "While he was a great governor, he was not a great politician."

Rains, who is also chairman of the board of 3/D International, asserted that Mark White was elected by special interests groups — that Jesse Jackson calls the "Rainbow Coalition" — and "has his eye on a national ticket" in the future.

"Mark's a charming guy, a likable guy," he said. "Mark never met a camera he didn't like."

Rains' top priority is reeling in enough votes in the spring Republican primary for Clements to be the No. 1 bait for conservative Texans next fall.

"Bill Clements is the overwhelming choice of conservatives in this state," he said, weighing the past governor's popularity against the prospects of former U.S. Reps. Kent Hance and Tom Loeffler.

He added that Loeffler is burdened with a "distinct disadvantage" in this campaign because he hasn't established enough rapport with the 18 major media markets in Texas. "Tom has a long way to go in meeting the people of this great wide state," Rains said.

Kent Hance will be labeled an "opportunistic politician" by White's campaign, he added. "He changed parties as an act of principle... but in politics, timing is everything."

The campaign for the nominations has jumped off to an early start because Loeffler and Hance realized that Clements' reputation is "a great big mountain they have to climb," Rains said. About \$2 million is needed to market a successful bid for Texas' highest office, he said.

He dubbed Clements the "straight shooter" and White the "master politician" and said their conflicting campaigns will give the state and national media all the makings for a controversial, high-profile governor's race. And all that free news coverage holds down the campaign costs, he said.

Because White has never run for reelection for any office, Rains said the governor should have some trouble defending his past record for the first time in his political career. Texans have had four years of "watching (White) say one thing and do something else," he said.

"(White) made a commitment to people — no new taxes," Rains said.

"He's taking more money from Texans pockets than anyone had in office."

"Mark White made a great point (in the 1982 race) that he's got lower utility rates," he said. "He didn't stand a chance of getting a ball in hell (of reducing the rates for all Texas citizens)."

Texas is at the crossroads in history, Rains said. The drop in revenues demands a tight approach to the state's political situation. Clements' left office with a surplus, he added.

The campaign co-chairman pushed aside the recently released issue that Clements' position as a member of the Southern Methodist University Board of Regents is connected with an NCAA violation of that university's rules of athletes. "Bill Clements has more on his mind than what's going on in football," Rains said.

Around town

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Any junior or senior in the College of Science who has not previously taken the English Proficiency Examination should take the test on one of the following dates: Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 12 or Nov. 14. Students must take the proficiency examination unless they have completed English 301 with a minimum grade of C. Students entering the College of Science under catalog #107 or later must complete English 301 as required in their degree program. They are not required to take this exam. The English Proficiency Exam will be administered by the English Department. Students in the biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics departments should register for the exam in 151 or 152 Blocker no less than three days prior to the exam date. All exams begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

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