

North Dakota/Regional

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N.D. Demos have choices to make

By BOB JANSEN
Tribune Staff Writer

North Dakota Democrats Wednesday begin a 15-day process of electing delegates to their state convention, to be held next month in Minot.

It will be a key time, in particular, for the party's four gubernatorial hopefuls. "Trying to get delegates in the name of the game for governor candidates," says Dean Conrad, the state party's campaign director.

That factor was recognized when it came to scheduling. "We tried to get districts to concentrate conventions on regional basis just to facilitate the movement of our candidates," says Conrad.

There will be 1,308 state convention delegates elected from the state's 15 legislative districts. "I expect close to 60 percent or two-thirds will go to the state convention committed to a governor

candidate," says Conrad.

Delegates to the district conventions will also participate in straw polls to determine their preference among the party's presidential candidates. That is being done largely because of the interest outside the state.

Says Conrad, "We have NBC, ABC and CBS calling a couple times a day. That's the reason we went with a straw poll, the national media and political organizations want a reading out of North Dakota."

The party will be providing daily reports on the selection of convention delegates and the straw poll results.

Conrad believes half of the convention delegates will be uncommitted concerning the presidential race, just as half of the Democrats in the state, he expects, haven't made up their minds.

The straw poll will represent "a snapshot of a point in time of what

Deen Conrad

expected to enter on presidential candidates. "I really think there are enough major issues in North Dakota and enough strong candidates for North Dakota office that the overwhelming majority of caucus will be for statewide issues and candidates," says Conrad.

The gubernatorial race could make the district and state conventions the most exciting for Democrats since 1972. It was 12 years ago that Arthur A. Link won the endorsement on the seventh ballot over Walker Hjelte, George "Bud" Siner and Lloyd Omdahl. This year, Link, who lost a bid for a third term as governor in 1980, is again in the race against Hjelte and Siner, along with S.F. "Buckshot" Hoffer.

"A contested race increases enthusiasm," says Conrad. "We've had fund-raisers in virtually every district since January. The turnout has been spectacular; there's been a lot of interest and enthusiasm."

There are still a number of offices on the ballot for which there is no announced Democratic candidate. Party officials say a hopeful for attorney general might emerge before Wednesday.

At least a couple of statewide offices may be without contenders until the state convention. Those positions would then be available to candidates who fail to win the endorsement for governor or another contested race.

Legislative candidates will be endorsed during most of the district conventions. Some districts will delay that process until later, either because they haven't found candidates or because incumbent legislators are interested in statewide office and may be available later if those bids are unsuccessful.

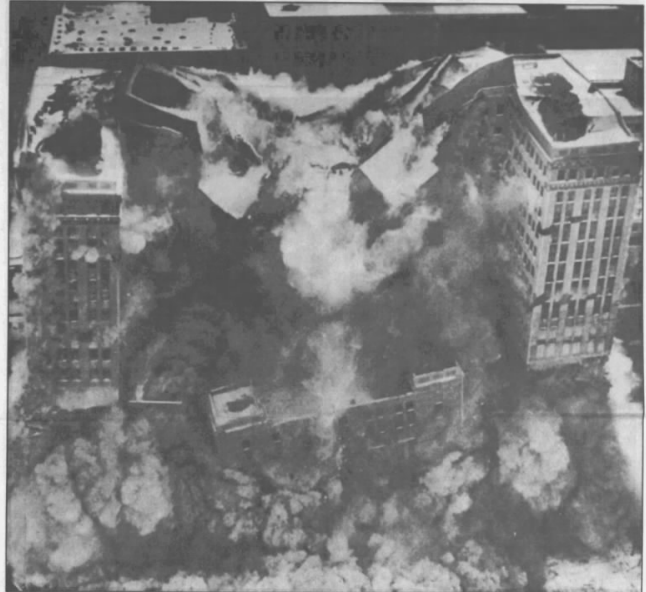
Two "Super Saturdays" are scheduled during the 15-day period. Next Saturday, 219 state delegates will be elected from districts in Bismarck, Mandan, Minot and

McLean County. On March 24, 251 delegates will be chosen in Grand Forks, Fargo, West Fargo and Wahpeton.

The process begins Wednesday night with the District 26 convention at Grand Forks and District 39 in Medora.

District conventions in the Bismarck-Mandan area will be held Saturday and March 19. The schedule, beginning with precinct caucuses, is as follows:

District 34 — 3 p.m. Saturday, Mandan Country Club.
District 47 — 1 p.m. Saturday, Northridge School.
District 69 — 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Will Moore School.
District 52 — 1 p.m. Saturday, Mary College.
District 55 — 2 p.m. Saturday, Stage Stop Cafe, Mandan.
District 11 — 7:30 p.m. March 19, Wing School.
District 32, 7 p.m. March 19, Wacker Junior High School.



Gone in a flash
The 16-story Northwestern National Bank Building in Minneapolis crumbles Sunday in a dynamic implosion. The 54-year-old building was seriously damaged in a \$75 million fire on Thanksgiving Day in 1982. A.P. Lasterphoto

Phone system opinion heard

A consultant hired more than a year ago is recommending that the city of Bismarck buy telephone equipment from Northwestern Bell.

The city would spend \$27,600 over the next five years for a lease-purchase plan with Bell. If the city kept the current system, it would cost \$27,000 to operate, according to James Mash.

Mash, president of Electronic Telecommunication Consultants Inc. of Dallas, was hired in August 1982 to study the city's phone system.

That has been completed, and recently bids were received in the lease-purchase arrangement. Northwestern Bell was the lowest of five bidders. The other bids ranged from \$37,000 to \$313,000.

THE CITY Commission is expected to discuss the consultant's report at Tuesday's meeting, which begins at 4:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

In other business, the board will consider a recommendation from Police Chief Kenneth Medeiros to contract with Mandan and Morton County to provide services of the Police Youth Bureau.

One position would be added to P.Y.B., which handles first-time juvenile offenders, if the move is approved. The \$11,000 in additional cost would be picked up by Mandan, Morton County and the state Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

ALSO ON Tuesday, the City Commission is expected to:

- Again take up suggested changes to the off-sale portions of the city liquor ordinance. The proposed changes would allow complimentary drink samples to be served in liquor stores, allow limited delivery of alcohol and change the method by which new liquor licenses are authorized.
- Consider a request to approve four Sunday liquor permits for meetings to be held by various groups at Kirkwood Motor Inn, The North Dakota American Legion, North Dakota Food Retailers, North Dakota Hospitality Association and Professional Insurance Agents are requesting permits.
- Discuss vehicle weight restrictions for city streets.

College drive short signers

DICKINSON (AP) — A Dickinson real estate agent said it was unlikely he will meet Wednesday's deadline to put an initiated measure on the June primary ballot in an attempt to keep the state from assuming control of three junior colleges.

Leon Mailberg said Friday that some additional petitions are coming in, but he had collected only about 3,000 of the 13,000 signatures needed to get on the ballot.

But the same petitions can be used to place the issue on the November general election ballot, Mailberg said.

"We do not lose anything by not going to the June primary," he said.

"I'm 100 percent convinced that the junior college issue will show up on the ballot in November."

Mailberg also has a referral on the June ballot. If approved by voters, Measure No. 3 would prohibit the name change of Minot State College to Dakota Northwest University.

The junior college bill — affecting Bismarck Junior College, Lake Region Junior College in Devils Lake and the University of North Dakota-Williston Center — and the name change bill were approved by the 1983 Legislature.

Bismarck/Mandan Digest

Wheels and You continues

Another session of the Morton County Urban 4-H safety program Wheels and You is to begin March 20, according to Cherry Schmitt, Urban 4-H coordinator. It is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse in Mandan. The program for youngsters in grades eight and nine is designed to develop a better understanding of motor vehicles, driving and highway safety. Schmitt said. The seven sessions in the program will be held on Tuesdays through May 1. Pre-registration is due by Friday. For more information, contact Schmitt at the county extension office in Mandan.

Surgeons group elects president

Dr. Steven K. Hamar, a surgeon at Mid Dakota Clinic, Bismarck, has been elected president of the North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. Hamar, formerly of Ellendale, graduated from the University of North Dakota and Baylor University, Houston, where he served his surgical residency. The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational association.

District judge completes sessions

South Central District Judge William F. Hodny, Mandan, has completed two graduate sessions at The National Judicial College, Reno, Nev. The courses were Administrative Law, Managing Complex Litigation and the Evidence.

Two attend VFW gathering

Richard Grenz and Reuben Schoep, both of Bismarck Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1326, attended the VFW's annual legislative conference in Washington. Grenz is a member of the VFW's National Voice of Democracy Committee and Schoep is commander of the Bismarck VFW post.

Investments seminar set

Morton D. Silverman, a vice president and chartered financial analyst with Piper, Jaffray & Hopwood Inc., Minneapolis, will lead a free seminar at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Bismarck Junior College Student Union. Contact the Bismarck office of Piper Jaffray for reservations. Topics are stock market, investments, maximizing returns and the condition and direction of the U.S. economy.

Arms petition gains signatures

GRAND FORKS (AP) — A petition drive by the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association to get a constitutional guarantee of the right to bear arms has gathered about 4,000 signatures, a spokesman said.

"We will not quit until we have at least 40,000," Phil Johnston, a Forest River farmer heading the drive, said.

The petition drive to get an initiated measure on the general election ballot began Feb. 1, Johnston said last week. The number needed to get on the ballot is 26,500, he said.

The association is an affiliate of the National Rifle Association. The proposal would alter Article I, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution which defines "unalienable rights" under the constitution.

To that section, the association wants to add the right of individuals to "keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state, and for lawful hunting, recreational, and other lawful purposes, which shall not be infringed," Johnston said.

"We're just setting in concrete the principles people already feel they have" in North Dakota, said Johnston, who is past president of the state association and a director of the NRA.

"I look at it as much more of a protection for my children and their children," he said.

The state association has 400 active members, and Johnston said all are involved in the petition drive. The deadline to file petitions

Mayor raps sales tax opinion

GRAND FORKS (AP) — Grand Forks should ignore an attorney general's opinion that says the city lacks authority under its home rule charter to create a sales tax, according to Mayor H.C. Wessman.

"It's his opinion, Kansas, then you might as well throw out the home rule charter because it isn't any good," Wessman said.

The 14-member city council may get a chance to act on the matter March 19, and the future of city taxation policies — not just a city sales tax — may ride on its decision, Wessman said Friday.

Attorney General Robert Wetald's opinion was outlined in a letter that reached City Attorney Jay Fiedler on Friday.

Home rule cities have no authority under state law to create a city sales tax without first adding a specific amendment to their charters, it said.

Voter approval is required to add such an amendment to a home rule charter. Even with the charter amended, a city still must pass an ordinance creating a sales tax, Wetald said.

Wessman, who said he supports the sales tax concept, asked Fiedler to seek Wetald's opinion.

"I'm very disappointed," Wessman said. "This opinion not only has implications for the sales tax,

but it also negates the whole concept and the whole reason for home rule at the local level, which simply is to be able to manage your own affairs — particularly financial — in an efficient manner as far as possible. I'm saying they should ignore it."

Wessman said he will advise the council to proceed with its search for additional income to help take the place of property taxes, finance needed city projects, or both.

The mayor said he would urge an effort by cities during the 1985 Legislature to clear up the home rule language.

Wessman's opinion is advisory while Wetald's opinion is binding — at least until the courts say otherwise — under North Dakota law.

The state Supreme Court ruled in 1963 that a public official who seeks an attorney general's opinion and then acts against it may be held personally liable for negative consequences that result from the action, according to Calvin Bottom, state deputy attorney general.

Doctor receives certification

Dr. George R. Dwyer, a Bismarck dermatologist, recently became board certified and a diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology.

He has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.

He completed a three-year dermatology residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison and Marshfield.

Dwyer has a private practice at 810 E. Rosser Ave.