

In Connecticut Race for Congress, It's Still the Economy

By JAMES DAO

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The withered heart of this once proud Yankee mill town tells the story of Representative Nancy L. Johnson's political troubles.

A red Stanley Works sign shines brightly into the city sky, but a tool factory below has been dark for years. A battleship-sized lot is all that remains of a bearing plant that once employed thousands. Even the few living factories are shadows of their former selves.

The region's inability to pull out of its long, slow tailspin while the nation's economy continues to soar has made Ms. Johnson, once considered among Connecticut's most durable and popular politicians, a rare breed: an endangered incumbent.

In an election year when the political ether seems devoid of overarching themes, when neither major party seems able to gain the upper hand and when a strong economy is keeping many voters content, challengers across the country are groping for strategies, political analysts say.

Not here. In Connecticut's Sixth Congressional District, which encompasses the state's northwestern corner from Hartford's suburbs to New Britain's industries to the Berkshires, three Democrats are sprinting against Ms. Johnson, an eight-term Republican.

Already, two of the three have raised nearly as much money as the Democratic challenger, Charlotte Koskoff, did in all of 1996, when she lost to Ms. Johnson by just 1,600 votes despite a shoestring budget of \$230,000 that kept her from running a single television commercial. Al-

ready, three powerful organizations have vowed to help oust the incumbent: the A.F.L.-C.I.O., the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Emily's List, the national fund-raising network for women.

Not to be outdone, Ms. Johnson, 63, who got her start in politics as a parent advocate, has shifted into campaign gear. She has been tirelessly crisscrossing her district meeting business and constituent groups. She has run commercials promoting her role in enacting a health insurance law for children last year. And she has been aggres-

An incumbent in trouble is a rare breed this year.

sively raising money, with \$450,000 in the bank.

Possibly to offset charges that she is too close to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, she has also been wrapping herself in President Clinton's mantle, profusely praising his State of the Union Message in January and splashing cold water on Republican talk of impeaching the President amid the recent allegations about a White House intern.

"Bill Clinton is very important," she told a group of fifth graders at a New Britain school recently. "He and I have been allies on many things. Sometimes party labels

aren't that important."

Fueling the Democrats' hopes of biting into the Republicans' narrow 11-vote House majority is the sense among many here that this once unbeatable politician — before 1996, she routinely won elections with well over 60 percent of the vote — has become aloof from the gritty problems of her blue-collar district.

Democrats played on that theme two years ago when they accused Ms. Johnson, then the chairwoman of the House ethics committee, of stalling an investigation into Mr. Gingrich. Many Democrats believe the House Speaker's conservative views clash with Connecticut sensibilities.

This time, the Democrats are attacking Ms. Johnson's efforts to promote legislation in 1996 that would have allowed the Stanley Works, among the region's largest employers, to continue marketing tools partially produced overseas as "Made in the U.S.A."

After her measure failed in the Senate, it was reported that Ms. Johnson owned more than \$100,000 in Stanley stock, sparking charges of a conflict of interest. (Her husband inherited the stock from his father, who was a Stanley foreman.) Democrats have framed the issue in terms of jobs: the policy that Ms. Johnson was trying to protect would have helped Stanley move jobs to Asia, they charged.

"The fact that the district is falling apart doesn't seem to tear at her the way it does others," said Jim Griffin, a Bristol businessman who is running for the Democratic nomination. "There's a sort of 'let them eat cake' aspect to her attitude."

Ms. Johnson denies that vehement-

ly, saying, "I've busted my butt for local industry."

The other Democrats seeking their party's nomination are Ms. Koskoff, a lawyer and former political science professor at Central Connecticut State University, and State Representative Demetrios Giannaros, an economics professor at the University of Hartford.

For all her obvious political woes, Ms. Johnson may be harder to defeat than the Democrats realize, political analysts say. Charges that she is too comfortable with conservative House leaders may not stick because she is clearly a moderate who has defended poverty programs and abortion rights. They also note that the Democrats may face a bloody primary fight and that Democratic turnout may be down.

"I don't see what the message of a challenger is this year," said Amy Walter, the House analyst for the Cook Political Report, which has rated Connecticut's Sixth District as leaning Republican. "The real issue is: Do people in that district feel she is more responsive? If they feel she got the wake-up call in 1996, and that Congress isn't doing anything bad, well, she'll be tough to defeat."

It is sometimes hard to see the seasoned politician in Ms. Johnson. She is earnest almost to a fault, using public appearances to explain dense policy matters to sometimes perplexed audiences. Her large-frame glasses, conservative business suits and short, softly waved hair might seem out of place in a back-room meeting of world-weary politicians.

And unlike so many in her profession, she gets easily flustered. When a New Britain fifth grader asked her



Nancy L. Johnson, one of the few incumbent members of Congress who is believed to be vulnerable this year, talking to factory workers.

recently how much money she makes, her answer — \$133,000 a year — sent gasps through the room of children. "It is a lot of money," Ms. Johnson said, flushing slightly.

But colleagues say she has been effective on Capitol Hill. "Don't be fooled," said a Connecticut Congressional aide. "She's tough as nails."

Mrs. Johnson was born in Chicago. Her mother was a high school history teacher and her father a law professor turned Republican state legislator. After graduating from Radcliffe College with a bachelor's degree in art history, she married her college sweetheart and they moved to his hometown of New Britain.

After giving birth to three daughters, she became a leader of the local parent-teacher association, then won a seat in the State Senate, which she

held for six years. In 1982, after Representative Toby Moffett, a Democrat, resigned to run for the Senate, she won his seat in a district where Democrats outnumbered Republicans.

Ms. Johnson makes no bones about her closeness to Mr. Gingrich. Though she says Mr. Gingrich has made mistakes, he energized "a stuffy old party," she said. And she proudly defends her efforts to help the Stanley Works.

In 1996, the company and its executives contributed at least \$6,000 to her campaign and financed a \$1,189 trip for one of her aides to Texas. But that had nothing to do with her efforts to help Stanley, she said.

"My goal in all of this was jobs, good jobs, manufacturing jobs," she said.

The New York Times

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1998

Mississippi Legislature Accepts Bill to Ease Voter Registration

By KEVIN SACK

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 19 — After a debate that stirred memories of literacy tests and the poll tax, the Mississippi Legislature today became the last in the nation to accept a Federal mandate that requires states to let citizens register to vote at motor vehicle offices and social services centers.

But today's approval by the House of Representatives, which followed the Senate's earlier passage of the "motor voter" bill, set up a confrontation with Gov. Kirk Fordice, a Republican, who vowed to veto the measure after failing to add restrictions to it.

The passionate speeches on both sides of the issue illustrated the mistrust that exists in places like Mississippi more than 30 years after the Voting Rights Act opened the political process to all citizens, regardless of race. For many, the echoes from the state's discriminatory past remain loud enough to drown out any arguments for imposing even minor restrictions on ballot access.

In one floor speech today, Representative Frances Fredericks, a black Democrat from Gulfport, said little about the actual merits of the voter identification proposal, which Mr. Fordice characterizes as a "ballot integrity" measure. But Ms. Fredericks spoke at length about the humiliating and intimidating experience of taking a literacy test while registering to vote in 1967.

"This lady can tell you that all is not fair at the voting polls," Ms. Fredericks said. "And we're going to talk about integrity? Maybe we need to try to understand what integrity really is. Because in my way of thinking, it's making sure that every citizen of this state has the right to vote."

Mr. Fordice said today that he would veto any bill that did not include a provision requiring voters to show identification at the polls. But the House today easily defeated an amendment that would have attached that requirement to the voter registration bill.

While the House passed the motor-voter bill by a veto-proof margin of 87 to 33, the measure did not win a two-thirds majority in the Senate.

Mr. Fordice characterized the identification requirement as an anti-fraud device, but opponents said it revived Mississippi's past practice of placing barriers between black residents and the voting booth.

Another black Democrat, Representative Edward Blackmon Jr. of Canton, called the proposal "an instrument of mischief." And Representative Stephen Holland, a white Democrat from Tupelo, said the state should have learned from its

A debate reveals the mistrust that still exists between races.

history that "we cannot continue to defy the Federal Government."

But supporters of the voter identification amendment said voter fraud was rampant in Mississippi, and they mocked those who asserted that the proposal would place an onerous burden on voting.

"Some people might have to reach all the way in that back pocket and pull out that identification," said Representative Mark S. Formby, a Republican from Picayune.

Mr. Fordice said in an interview that it was "absurd" to compare the voter identification requirement with literacy tests, which once required black citizens to demonstrate knowledge of the Constitution and all manner of arcana in order to register to vote.

"That is an incredible stretch to harken back to days of whatever went on, poll taxes and all," Mr. Fordice said. "There's nothing restrictive and intimidating about it."

Since 1995, when states began to carry out the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, known as the motor voter law, Mississippi has operated an unwieldy dual system of voter registration.

In essence, voters have had to register separately for Federal elections and for state and local ones. Citizens who registered with the state, usually at a county courthouse, have been eligible to vote in elections of all kinds. But those who register when applying for a drivers license or welfare benefits, a system made possible by the Federal law, have only been eligible to vote in Federal elections for President and members of Congress. In order to vote in state and local elections, those citizens have also had to register with their counties.

The system has created bookkeeping headaches for election officials and confusion for voters who sometimes show up at the polls unaware that they are not registered to vote in a particular election.

Since Congress passed the motor voter bill, 43 states have enacted legislation bringing their voter registration practices into compliance with the new Federal requirements. Six other states are exempt from the law because they allow voters to register on Election Day or do not require registration at all.

Only Mississippi refused to act, largely because of Mr. Fordice.

In several speeches and in today's interview, the Governor has made it clear that he opposes the motor voter legislation for several reasons.

He called it "the mother of all unfunded mandates," meaning that Congress had imposed an expense on the states without paying for it. He also cast it as a states' rights issue, calling the measure "an unwarranted Federal intrusion into our state's election laws."

"We cannot continue to bend to the will of the Federal Government in every instance, particularly when it's totally against the Constitution," Mr. Fordice said today.

Mr. Fordice also blamed the law for encouraging fraudulent voting, some of it by illegal aliens, and said it led to Democratic victories in two 1996 races — Senator Mary L. Landrieu's defeat of Woody Jenkins in Louisiana and Representative Loretta Sanchez's victory over Robert K. Dornan in California. Congressional investigations in both cases have failed to show that fraudulent voting determined either outcome.

Some of Mr. Fordice's comments have inspired accusations that he has injected race into the debate. Last summer, he said the law was misnamed as "motor voter" and should be called "welfare voter."

The Justice Department took note of that remark in ruling last September that Mississippi's dual registration system "virtually insures that it will have a discriminatory effect on black citizens." The department said that black Mississippians were more likely than whites to register to vote at public assistance offices, and that denying them the right to register there for state and local elections was therefore discriminatory. For that reason, wrote Isabelle Katz Pinzler, an acting assistant attorney general, the system violates the Voting Rights Act.

"The reasons offered by some state officials for opposing such measures appear to have been insubstantial, and in some cases have been couched in racially charged terms," Ms. Pinzler wrote, referring specifically to Mr. Fordice.

The pressure from the Justice Department succeeded in forcing the Legislature to act, which then led Mr. Fordice to propose the voter identification amendments. If the Justice Department forces him to sign a motor voter bill, he said today, he would do so unhappily but only if it included the anti-fraud protections. Fifteen states have similar measures, said Mary E. Brooks, senior lobbyist for the League of Women Voters.

For veterans of Mississippi's civil rights battles, Mr. Fordice's resistance seems all too familiar.

"We've been going through this, ever since the civil rights movement, trying to get the right to vote, through every kind of roadblock," said Unita Blackwell, a longtime voting rights advocate who is now Mayor of Mayersville, Miss. "It's sad that we keep running into these kinds of things. But this is where we are in the state of Mississippi."

The New York Times

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1998

WYNNE & WYNNE

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FAX COVER LETTER

TODAY'S DATE:

2/11/98

TO:

Mike O'Mary

FAX #:

(202) 456-6244

FROM:

Tom Wynne

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER LETTER):

3

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NEWS RELEASE

February 11, 1998

Prosecuting Attorney Tom Wynne of Fordyce announced today that he is considering a race for United States Congress in Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District. Wynne, a Democrat, stated that he will visit with friends and supporters throughout the congressional district over the next several weeks to gauge personal and financial support for a race.

"I have discussed a race for Congress with family and friends and have received significant encouragement. I plan to do some more talking and hard listening over the next few weeks and will make a final decision by early-March."

"I believe that the people of South Arkansas need a representative who not only listens to them, but shares their priorities. We need someone who will suggest common sense approaches to saving Social Security and Medicare, improving education, fighting crime and reforming our nation's tax code. We must tackle the challenges facing our society not by creating bigger government or by blaming government but by creating opportunity and giving all Arkansans the chance to live the American dream," Wynne said.

Wynne further announced that he will not seek re-election as Thirteenth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney. "It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of the Thirteenth Judicial District as their prosecuting attorney. I feel that my service has been effective, honest, fair and open. However, I believe it's time to pass the mantle and therefore will not seek another term."

Wynne is currently serving his fifth two-year term as prosecuting attorney. He is a former Mayor of Fordyce and a partner in the Wynne Law Firm, Fordyce. Wynne is a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Arkansas Law School. He and his wife, Gail, have five daughters.

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The Hotline

February 23, 1998

SECTION: HOUSE REPORT

LENGTH: 214 words

HEADLINE: RADIO ADS: SUPPORTERS OF NORWOOD BILL ARE TARGETS

BODY:

Last week, the Small Business Survival Cmte, a member of the Coalition of Patient Choice, began airing radio ads in seven CDs: Charles Norwood (R-GA-10), Steve Largent (R-OK-01), John Shadegg (R-AZ-04), Bob Inglis (R-SC-04), Charles Stenholm (D-TX-17), Jon Christensen (R-NE-02) and David McIntosh (R-IN-02) (release, 2/20). The group, formed to defeat Pres. Clinton's "major overhaul of the health care in 1993, is now targeting" supporters of a bill sponsored by Rep. Charles Norwood (R-GA) that would "set certain standards for managed health care plans." The ad compares the bill to Clinton's "unsuccessful effort to health care." Tury said foes of Norwood's bill believe some GOPers "did not read it first and signed on to it only because of their friendship with Norwood" (Myers, Tulsa World, 2/20). So far only two of 220 co-sponsors of the bill -- Reps. Jim Bunning (R-KY) and Jay Dickey (R-AR) -- have dropped out (Wall Street Journal, 2/20).

The coalition is going to run these ads again either later today or Tuesday or Wednesday. The Coalition for Patient Choice hopes to add more help and resources in order to press ahead further with their campaign to defeat this bill (Hotline interview, 2/23).

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 23, 1998

To: Mike O'Mary

FAX - (202) 456-6244

From: Jon Wynne

FAX - (870) 352-8707

7 pages including cover page



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

Tom Wynne gets support from family members Tuesday as he files for the 4th Congressional District race at the state Capitol. Relatives are (from top), wife, Gail, holding Mary French, 2; Westy, 8; Terry Ann, 7; and Agnes, 5.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT GAZETTE B1L
4-1-98

429 candidates enter the fray as political filing comes to end

BY RAY PIERCE
AND RACHEL O'NEAL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

In all, 429 candidates filed for Arkansas' district, state and national offices in the 1998 filing period that ended Tuesday.

The 311 Democrats, a record 114 Republicans, and four Reform Party candidates easily exceeded the 322 candidates who filed in 1996 and nudged past the 423 who filed in 1990.

Although Democrats maintain their historic dominance in the state, Republicans filed for their largest number of legislative seats ever — 11 of the 18 state Senate contests and 51 of the 100 state House of Representatives seats, including 32 of the 49 House seats in which incumbents cannot seek re-election because of the state's term-limits amendment.

The top races:

GOVERNOR

Gov. Mike Huckabee, 42, of Little Rock, a Baptist minister, be-

19 Republicans file for 15 seats in Democratic stronghold county

BY LAURA KELIAMS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

FAYETTEVILLE — Hoping to whittle away at the Democrats' historic hold on Washington County offices, 19 Republicans have filed to run for 15 key county government positions.

Candidates had until noon Tuesday to file for offices in the May 19 primary election.

Mike Holland, acting chairman of the Washington County Republican Committee, said he

was pleased with the quality and the quantity of candidates. "To the best of my knowledge, this is the most candidates we've ever fielded," he said.

In four races, more than one Republican signed up to run. "That shows how far our party's come," Holland said.

Neighboring Benton County has 30 Republicans and only seven Democrats running for key county positions, excluding con-

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came governor in July 1996. He was lieutenant governor when Gov. Jim Guy Tucker resigned in July 1996. Huckabee and retired Arkansas Air National Guard colonel Gene McVay, 56, of Fort Smith are seeking the Republican

nomination.

Bill Bristow, 47, of Jonesboro, a lawyer who represents a state trooper in the Paul Corbin Jones lawsuit against President Clinton, is the only Democrat in the race.

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Keith Carle, 37, of Jonesboro, a former lawyer, filed for the Arkansas Reform Party, which he helped found. If Carle receives 3 percent of the vote in the general election, the Reform Party will remain certified in Arkansas.

The term is four years.

U.S. SENATE

This is the position from which Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., will retire at the end of the year.

Democrats in the race are Arkansas Attorney General Winston Bryant, 59, of Malvern, who won the Democratic nomination for the state's other U.S. Senate position in 1996 but lost to GOP nominee Tim Hutchinson of Bentonville, the current incumbent in that position; former U.S. Rep. Blanche Lincoln, 37, of Horseshoe Lake, who retired after two House terms; state Rep. Scott Ferguson, 46, of West Memphis, a radiologist; and Nate Coulter, 38, of Little Rock, a lawyer who lost to Huckabee in a 1993 special election for lieutenant governor.

Seeking the Republican nomination are state Sen. Fay Boozman, 51, of Rogers, an ophthalmologist; and Tom Prince, 48, of Sherwood, a lawyer and a former mayor of Little Rock. State Rep. Joe Hudson of Mountain Home had announced for the GOP race, but changed his mind and pulled out last week.

Charley Heffley, 48, of Dover, a disabled bricklayer, filed as a Reform Party candidate. He said he didn't hope to win, but hoped to make the other parties change their message.

The term is six years.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 1

Rep. Marlon Berry, D-Ark., 55, a farmer from Gillott, seeks a second term without an opponent in the 25-county district that includes east and northeast Arkansas.

Tommy Robinson, 55, of Brinkley, a farmer and former sheriff and congressman, had talked about running for the GOP nomination, but later decided not to, saying he wanted to help Huckabee fight Democrats.

The term is two years.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 2

Rep. Vic Snyder, D-Ark., 50, a lawyer and doctor from Little Rock, seeks a second term in the eight-county district in central Arkansas. He has no Democratic opponent.

State Sen. Phil Wyrick, 48, of Ma-

belvale, a cattleman and owner of a small business, is the only Republican in the race.

The term is two years.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 3

Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark., 47, a lawyer from Fort Smith, seeks a second term in the 18-county district of Northwest Arkansas.

Ralph Forbes, 58, of London, a pastor who is a former member of the American Nazi Party, filed as a Reform Party candidate despite a scathing denunciation by a Reform Party member who called Forbes a snake.

Before he filed, Forbes said he was welcomed by Reform Party members. But when he sat down to file, Reform Party member Frank Gilbert of Bauxite said of Forbes: "Snakes like that need to be confronted eye to eye, face to face, told that you know what they are, that you displace it, that you revile it, and that you will not stand for it. Otherwise you give him the legitimacy that he seeks and does not deserve."

Forbes said he is running against Hutchinson because he wants to vote to impeach Clinton. "I'm going to ask Bill Clinton to either repent, resign or I'm going to impeach him when I get in there," Forbes said. He added that he also would vote to impeach Vice President Gore and House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Forbes sued the Arkansas Educational Television Network over his being excluded from a televised live debate on the state-owned network in one of his several earlier candidacies. That case on whether government stations can exercise editorial judgment over who will be allowed to participate in political debates is pending at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The term is two years.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 4

Rep. Jay Dickey, R-Ark., 58, a business owner from Pine Bluff, seeks a fourth term in the 26-county district of south Arkansas.

State Rep. Judy Smith, 45, of Camden, executive director of the nonprofit organization People Are Concerned Inc., and Tom Wynne, 50, of Fordyce, a lawyer who has been prosecuting attorney in Judicial District 13 since 1989, seek the Democratic nomination. Wynne ran for the Democratic nomination in the House district in 1978, a race won by Beryl Anthony of El Dorado.

The term is two years.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Former state Rep. Mark Pryor, 35, of Little Rock, a lawyer who is a

son of former U.S. Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., is the only candidate for the Democratic nomination.

Betty Dickey, 58, of Pine Bluff, prosecuting attorney in Judicial District 11 West, is the only candidate for the Republican nomination.

This is the position Bryant is vacating to run for the nomination for the U.S. Senate.

The term is four years.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State Sharon Priest, 50, of Little Rock, a Democrat, seeks a second term.

Rose Bryant Jones, 56, of Lonoke, a retired teacher who is a city councilman at Lonoke, filed for the Republican nomination.

The term is four years.

OTHER OFFICES

The state's other constitutional officers — Treasurer Jimmie Lou Fisher, Auditor Gus Wingfield and Land Commissioner Charlie Daniels, all Democrats, have no opponents. Fisher, first elected in 1980, has never had an opponent. The terms for those offices are four years.

The number of Democratic candidates this year fell short of the party's 338 in 1990. The GOP's previous record of 83 came in 1996. The Reform Party was born out of Texas Ross Perot's two failed presidential bids.

Bud Cummins, who recently resigned as Huckabee's chief legal counsel, considered making the Senate race. He visited the state Capitol on Tuesday morning, made a speech for Wyrick and left without filing.

Bryant had intended to fly around the major cities of the state last week to announce his candidacy but decided to forgo that alternative after the shooting at a school near Jonesboro last week.

He said Tuesday as he filed that the focus of his campaign will be education, family security, protecting families from violence, protecting Medicare and Social Security, balancing the federal budget and fiscal responsibility.

He will campaign on his record as attorney general and lieutenant governor, Bryant said, departing from the strategy he followed in 1996, when many campaign themes were pitched to national political conflicts involving Gingrich.

On abortion, Bryant said he is "pro-choice." "If the issue comes down to who should decide, the mother or the state, I favor allowing

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the mother or the female making the decision after consultation with her physician and minister," he said. He said he supports "reasonable restrictions" on abortions, such as parental notification for minors. He said he opposes partial-birth abortions.

Bryant said he didn't think recent statements he made against affirmative action will hurt him. "We need to broaden the base of affirmative action to enable affirmative action to serve more people and yet remain constitutional," Bryant said. "The problem with specific quotas, whether they be racial-based or gender-based, is that it violates the U.S. Constitution according the United States Supreme Court."

Heffley said he had one agenda: "If I can get my opposition to stand in front of God and man and say these 10 words, I'll go on back to the house: 'I believe Jesus Christ is the only salvation for mankind.'"

Wyrick said he better than Snyder represents the beliefs of the people in central Arkansas. The race will be a classic match between a conservative and a liberal, he said. "This is a race that should reflect the philosophy of the majority in central Arkansas, and I don't believe the incumbent reflects that philosophy," he said.

Wyrick said he supports a ban on partial-birth abortions, a balanced-budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and term limits, adding that Snyder is against those positions. "Vic Snyder votes his conscience, but the majority of the people in the district and I do not believe in what he believes in," Wyrick said.

Wynne said he has learned a lot since that 1978 race about south Arkansas and its "common-sense" approach to life. He said he wants to represent the "kitchen table concerns" of the 4th District. "I've de-

voted my career to putting criminals behind bars, with a faith in God, love of country and devotion to my family," he said.

A former mayor of Fordyce, Wynne said he wants to work at protecting patients' rights to choose their own doctor, promoting drug- and gun-free schools and preserving Social Security and Medicare.

Carle initially represented the party in its legal battle to get on the ballot. "The people of the state of Arkansas need a Reform Party and we have to have a candidate and we have to get 3 percent of the vote to keep this party viable," Carle said.

"There is a desire for something other than the politics as usual," Carle added. "People are just getting tired of it. ... We have Republicans and Democrats and they spend too much time fighting amongst themselves over basically what is our money and we need someone to step in there every now and then and remind them what their job is."

Jones said, as secretary of state, she would try to generate greater voter interest in the political system and increase voter registration. She said she also wanted to inspire greater love for Arkansas. "When you love your state, you, in turn, love the people in it. You know what happens then? Crime disappears," she said.

Priest, who appeared a bit shaken over having picked up an opponent, said she will work to hold her office. "We'll just get out there, work, meet more people and have a good time," Priest said.



AR Democrat Gazette
4-1-98

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Candidate calls for debates

By ROY PITCHFORD
News-Times Staff

Judy Smith said Tuesday she wants Tom Wynne, her Democratic Primary opponent for Congress, to propose three dates of his choosing for debates before the May 19 election.

Wynne said Tuesday he hoped the two will share a platform on more than three occasions.

"I respect Mr. Wynne, and I look forward to meeting him on the debate floor," Smith said.

Smith, a state representative from Camden who announced her candidacy in October, said Tuesday that she was the first in Arkansas to file qualifying papers for a federal office for the primary voting, now seven weeks away.

Wynne, 13th Judicial District prosecutor, qualified less than an hour before the deadline on Tuesday.

Smith said she issued the challenge upon learning Wynne had filed to seek the office held by three-term incumbent Jay Dickey of Pine Bluff, a Republican.

"I welcome Mr. Wynne to the race and am glad to know that we will both run our campaigns in an honorable fashion," Smith said.

"I intend for us to discuss the issues in the form of a debate, or a forum, or whatever form it takes," Wynne said. "I think it will be great."

Wynne said he hoped he and Smith have more than three joint appearances and said he hoped organizations in communities in the congressional district will sponsor several events at which both candidates may

Debates

Continued from Page 1A

speak.

Smith and Wynne had a joint appearance in El Dorado on Saturday when both spoke at the Union County Young Democrats Spring Gumbo.

At that event, each used prepared remarks, rather than responding to questions or addressing specific scheduled subjects.

Young Democrats President Robin Carroll flipped a coin for

the right to speak first. Smith called "heads" and the toss was tails. But Wynne said he would "defer" and allow Smith to speak first.

Wynne's appearance Saturday and his subsequent filing on Tuesday scotched rumors that he had decided not to run for Congress. He had postponed an announcement appearance in El Dorado on Thursday, citing conflicts with his position as 13th Judicial District prosecutor.

*El Dorado
News-Times
4-1-98*



El Dorado (AR-daily) News-Times

Viewpoint

4-1-98

The vanishing Dickey

A characteristic that U.S. Rep. Jay Dickey of the 4th District has been especially proud of seems to be eroding these days.

Dickey built a successful election and great popularity in his district on his availability to his constituents. He criticized his predecessor for being out of touch with district residents and, especially in Dickey's first couple of terms, the new congressman made a point of constantly traveling back home. He wanted to listen to those he represented, he said, so that he could more effectively vote as they wished in Washington.

We are beginning to learn, however, that there is a difference between hearing and listening. Our congressman still seems to hear when people speak to him, but he isn't listening. That's word-play to make a point, of course. What is going on is that Dickey is going through the motions of listening to what people are saying, but he is ignoring them if what they say conflicts with what he thinks. Ironically, that's the very thing he once criticized his predecessor for doing.

It's become enough of an issue that it surfaced this weekend in a political forum. Both the announced Democratic candidates

for Congress voiced similar views.

Tom Wynne of Fordyce, currently our prosecutor, said of Dickey, "Our congressman comes here a lot and I appreciate that. But he doesn't listen to us."

State Rep. Judy Smith of Camden echoed that statement. "He never answers you when you ask him something," she said. "He just asks another question."

The outlook for the proposed extension of Interstate 69 is a sore subject in South Arkansas. Dickey's effort to "split" the interstate so that Pine Bluff and nearby communities could share in the expected benefits threatens the entire project because of the diminished cost-benefit ratio when the split is factored in.

At a meeting on I-69 not long ago, Dickey heard our objections, but refuses to budge from his "split" idea, one he has pronounced politically necessary to keep his Pine Bluff backers happy. Doing so at the risk of I-69 is dangerous, but don't expect Dickey to accept that argument. Again, he may be listening, but he isn't hearing.

In fact, from risking I-69 to closing his El Dorado office to refusing to budge on the concerns constituents down here are expressing, he seems to be showing himself to be no friend of this area.

It's time he took stock of where things are headed.

On This Date

By the News-Times Staff

A review of the News-Times files shows the following events occurring on this date, April 1:

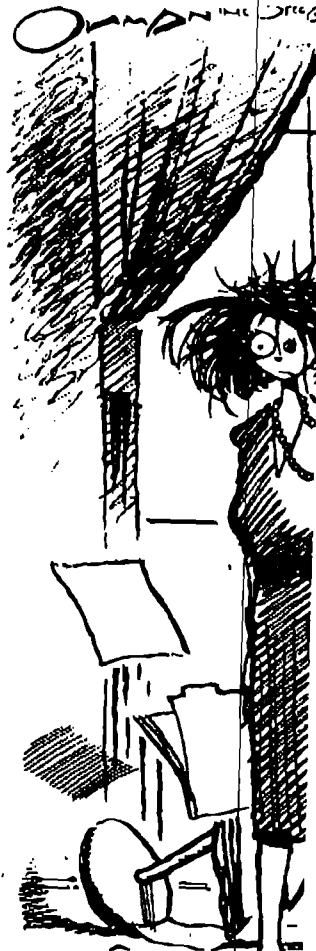
70 years ago: 1928

The opening of two important links of paved roads on the Smackover and Magnolia projects marked developments in the state highway program in Union County. The Smackover road between El

health nurse of the Union County Health Department, oversaw the management of the clinic.

Bruce Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Murphy, was ordained as pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in ordination services at the church.

Murphy, a student at Magnolia A&M College, would continue his studies while serving as pastor of



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