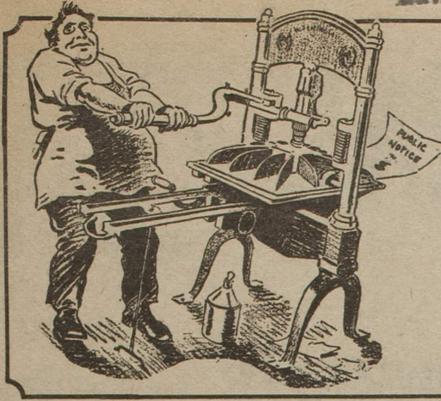


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Vol. II, No. 5 April, 1977 Lawrence, Kansas

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C

APATHY WINS! VOTERS GIVE UP

Lawrence's 1977 election gamut began with the March 8 primary. On that ballot were 12 commission candidates, 13 school board candidates and a question on financing of the Clinton Water Treatment plant.

Voter turnout was low as it has been in the past City elections. Only 23.7 per cent or 7,064 out of nearly 30,000 registered voters, went to the polls.

The School Board campaign was notably lacking in issues. Those candidates who attempted to raise issues such as impasse procedures for teacher negotiations, racial discrimination and corporal punishment, fared poorly.

Roger Pine, a native of Lawrence, ran a "no-axe-to-grind" campaign and was by far the top vote-getter.

Jane Frydman, KU Law student, made a unique attempt to address a broad range of issues including student's rights, and she placed 7th, barely missing the general election run-off.

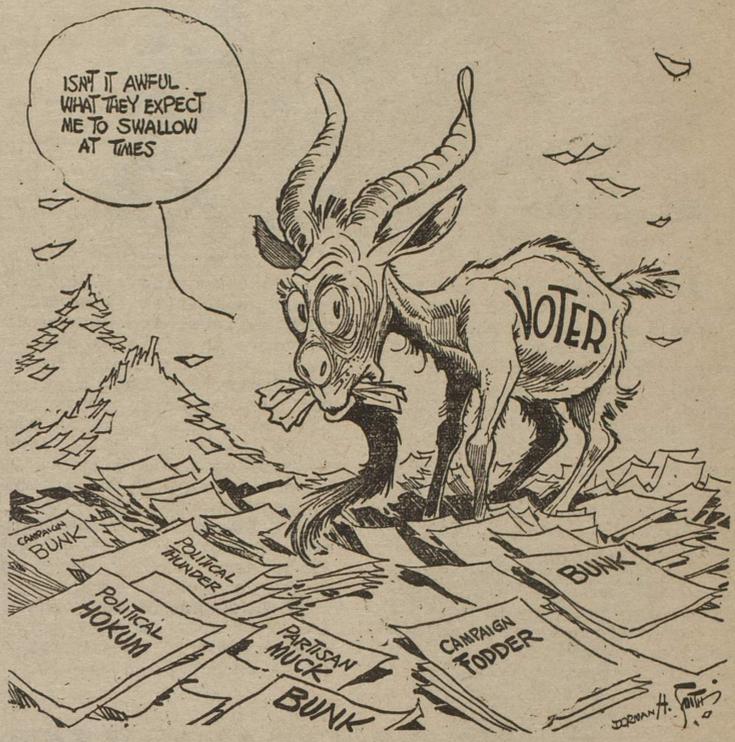
On a hopeful note, Willis Dukelow

who once advocated double doses of corporal punishment both at home and school, finished last.

The Commission race, as usual, pointed out the value of a well-financed campaign. The three top vote getters outspent the rest of the field. They bought more newspaper and radio ads and had more yard signs than the rest of the candidates combined.

The candidates finishing first were Barkley Clark, assistant dean of the KU Law School and incumbent commissioner; Jack Rose, director of KU laboratories and former commissioner; and Ed Carter, district manager of Southwestern Bell. They outdistanced Carl Mibeck, incumbent commissioner; Muriel Paul, the only Black to survive a primary contest in many years; and Jerry Albertson, a Hallmark employe who is making his second attempt to win a commission seat.

The six finalists will be on the general election ballot in April to decide who will be seated on the Commission.



WATER PLANT QUESTION

The water plant question passed by a four to one margin. The landslide vote was surprising for an electorate who have, more often than not, turned down questions of appropriating money.

The key to voter approval was a propaganda campaign by the City. The City sent letters to every household telling voters that they must support the new water plant to insure a water supply for the future of Lawrence. The City's

campaign simplified the issue to one of "Do you want water or not?" Although voters gave strong approval, the question wasn't asking whether the plant should be built. It was merely a choice of financing methods. A "no" vote would have delayed the project for one year.

The City's so-called "educational" campaign didn't stress the 100 per cent increase in water rates scheduled for the next five years to pay for the plant; they didn't



CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

INSIDE PUBLIC NOTICE

This month, the People's Pages feature information about defending yourself against rape, and collective efforts to stop it. The "Letters" section finds one reader examining the "social disease" element in the new disco craze. See pages 2-3.

Owners of our local gas company have roots deep in Kansas political history. Find out who benefited most by last Winter's freezing temperatures, on page 10.

As Spring gets underway, so do activities in the neighborhoods. Gardens and gardening are the prime topics. See the back page.

Coffee, bananas and Tofu are featured in this month's edition of the COOP NEWS, beginning on page 4...



Loose Talk

Almost everyone has heard something about the current debate about Mayor-Council government in Lawrence. Most of what's been heard from the opposition has amounted to a large heap of half-truths and innuendo. Rather than promoting an open discussion of the pros and cons of both forms of government, opponents have filled the air-ways with a simple "scare" campaign.

Ironically, this is one of the basic complaints of the people advocating a 'yes' vote to change the form of city government here. They charge that City Hall makes more decisions by dictate, than by debate.

At right is a portion of a letter from one of the many larger cities in the mid-west, governed by the Mayor-Council system.

PUBLIC NOTICE hopes this can help to counter some of the "inaccurate" information about the cost, efficiency, and workability of the Mayor-Council system.

CITY OF RAPID CITY SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

In the Beautiful Black Hills

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
22 MAIN STREET



March 14, 1977

...Our City's population is approximately 48,000 and is divided into five wards. The City Council is made up of 2 Alderpersons from each ward, elected from the ward on staggered two year terms. The Mayor is elected at large for a two year term. The City of Rapid City has in the past years, tried various forms of government, including your type. Our City started with the Mayor-Aldermanic form, changed to the Commission type, then to the City Manager-Aldermanic or City Manager-Commission and then finally in 1957, changed back to the present form of Mayor-Aldermanic.

My opinion, after being directly involved with this present form of government for the past six years, is that it has worked and is working for our City. It has proven to be the most economical, the most representative type of government yet devised. It allows for adequate separation of the legislative and executive authority. The argument that local people would not interrupt their careers to run for office is not substantiated by our experience. Nor is the argument that a districted council would engage in backscratching and special interest politics substantiated by our experience. Quite on the contrary, we find that there has been sufficient candidates and because of the closeness of the alderpeople to the people in their wards, (in other words, truly representative) there is no evidence of backscratching or special interest politics, possibly because in our situation, people do have a direct approach to city government through their alderperson and the Mayor...

Sincerely,
Arthur P. LaCroix
Arthur P. LaCroix
Mayor of Rapid City

P.S. This present form of government carried us through a legislative nightmare in the years since our flood, and has lowered taxes for 1977 without cutting services and still allowing a substantial increase in wages for the city employees.