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(From the LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL)

Laxalt Sounding Like A Southern Senator?

There is an old saying in politics that a candidate often turns out to be his own worst enemy.

The truism of that already is being seen in the present political campaigns, and we may have had a prize example of it in the U. S. senatorial race here a few nights ago.

Lt. Gov. Paul Laxalt, the state's ranking republican and the party's candidate for the U. S. Senate under the Goldwater banner, addressed nearly 300 of the GOP faithful and hung himself out on a limb he may live to regret.

Laxalt made it rather clear that he supports Sen. Goldwater's position against the civil rights bill on the grounds that part of it is unconstitutional.

Laxalt also implied that the current racial disorder in New York proves that Goldwater was right in his position that the civil rights bill is not the answer to the problem.

Now, maybe we don't read the same newspapers and magazines as Mr. Laxalt, but we have yet to see a statement by any major supporter of the civil rights bill, from President Johnson on down, implying that civil rights legislation was some kind of a magic cure-all which would end racial strife throughout the nation.

President Kennedy supported civil rights legislation. President Johnson pushed the civil rights bill. The majority of Republicans in both the Senate and the House voted for the civil rights bill. Both of Nevada's senators voted for the bill. The bill passed both the House and the Senate by a large majority.

But now the lieutenant governor of the state of Nevada is saying that he agrees with Sen. Goldwater that a section of the bill is unconstitutional. And he almost implies that he would have joined in voting against the bill.

If Mr. Laxalt is sincere we feel sorry for him. Does he really believe the people of Nevada want to send back to the U. S. Senate a man who cannot recognize the great moral need for legislation such as the civil rights bill?

Mr. Laxalt was, of course, at pains to explain to his fellow Republicans that Sen. Goldwater is really not opposed to civil rights as such. He said, for instance, that Sen. Goldwater "is more tolerant than 90 per cent of the liberals I know."

Well, the use of the word "tolerant" gives us quite on insight to Mr. Laxalt's attitude on the question of civil rights.

We are happy to hear that Sen. Goldwater is "tolerant" on civil rights. Apparently since Mr. Laxalt used the word it can be presumed that he also is "tolerant" on civil rights. There are just an awful lot of people "tolerant" on civil rights and it's mighty nice of them.

Frankly, use of the word "tolerant", when it comes to giving fellow Americans their equal rights makes us a little sick. It sounds very much like that distasteful phrase, "Why, I'm not prejudiced, some of my best friends are Jews."

Many people, Democrats as well as Republicans, believed that Paul Laxalt has a good chance of capturing the Senate seat now held by Howard Cannon. But this was before Laxalt began sounding more

* * * *



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like a senator from Mississippi than a candidate from Nevada—and that's just the way he's going to be viewed here in Clark County unless he clarifies his awkward position on such isues as reapportionment and civil rights.

Mr. Laxalt is a disciple of Sen. Goldwater, and speaking off the cuff here the other night he sounded almost as though he has picked up the strange Goldwater malady known as "hip shooting."

It seems questionable whether Nevadans will want to send to the U. S. Senate a hip-shooter whose views sound very much like some Sen. Claghorn from the South.

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