

# Candidate Calls For Civil Rights Law Obedience

(Following is a speech delivered recently before the local B'nai B'rith membership by George Von Tobel, Republican candidate for Congress.)

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views before a group which sets so fine an example in citizenship and political responsibility. The fact that you have invited the candidates here tonight proves that you are concerned with the kind of state and nation in which we all are going to live.

My time is brief but let me make a few comments on two subjects in which you share a concern with all other citizens.

I refer to the two most controversial issues of this political year. Civil Rights and Extremism. My opponent, has been silent on both of these questions. Has he felt it necessary to cultivate the support of extremists groups and to encourage dissention between the races on the civil rights issue? Let me say flatly that I do not seek the support of any radical group of the right or left; in fact, I reject it.

I also refuse to seek political capital out of the human misery from which the civil rights bill grew.

Let me say that men and not laws alone can change human conditions and promote understanding among Americans. Let us also recognize that the civil rights law has caused few visible changes in the daily conduct of Nevada's social life because despite its high controversy "people, not laws, really change human conditions."

"The long fight for justice and equality can be won only by greater understanding, not mere tolerance, but love and respect for our fellow citizens, and the teaching of faith and understanding of our national differences in our schools and churches.

"We find three schools of thought in our country. One says let us educate, let us preach, let us show by example--and our society will move ahead. A second group says--no--we must have laws . . . laws for this and that, laws that forbid and laws that permit, and they have little patience with those who argue for gradualism, for individual responsibility and voluntary action.

"But I submit--and the civil rights bill is a good example of what I am referring to--that we need a combination of both approaches in order to make real progress in achieving national strength and endurance through unity and understanding.

"But I believe there is room enough for both schools of thought. Personally, there might be a few changes in approach that I would have liked in the Civil Rights Law, but I know the law must be upheld and respected. Unlike my

opponent who offered distortion and negativism on this important national question, I say let us make this law work and be good Americans who will not ask anything for ourselves which we would not grant to our neighbor.

"But I believe there is a lesson in contemporary history which it would be tragic to forget or to minimize. It is the lesson of the third approach to our national political and social problems.

"It is the approach of the bigot and the political opportunist who seeks to nurture himself on hate, enrich himself on human misery and perpetuate himself in political life through the divisions and the intolerance that is always with us; like a virus waiting to prey on our weaknesses.

Opposition to Communism is the paramount concern in the struggle of freedom and in the ideological war of winning the minds of men. We must also remember that the fight against tyranny is as old as history itself and we do not fight the tyrant by remolding our society in the image of the tyrant. This is the real danger which our political system faces in confronting extremists groups. They over-react and forget that the antidote of Communism is Democracy and freedom itself.

"I also find dangerous those who talk of a White Man's party against a Black Man's party. These forces--which I hope to oppose and combat in Congress--are a real danger; those who set class against class; group against group; creed against creed and constantly seek to gain advantage from aroused jealousies and hatreds.

They pose a danger in that like all hysterical people, they are blind to logic, but are fully awake to their own fears and therefore susceptible to misinformation and panic. They find shelter and fleeting comfort in extremists groups. These groups claim you can only fight for the flag by waving it under our neighbor's nose and that you can only fight freedom's foe--communism--by adopting the tactics of the reds.

I say nonsense. . . . The American system and the American dream are big enough to digest the petty and the mean within our society. Freedom is strong enough to withstand the onslaught of tyrants and enslavers, if we believe in it with fervor and faith. We live in a changing world, a modern world of anxiety and concern--let us not turn from it and look backward, but

meet it boldly. Let us not look for new political systems or fringe organizations for our political survival, but let us develop ways to make our own two-party system work and rededicate ourselves to the ideals of this country and the sacred heritage and laws which have made us great.

Thank you.

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