Trivialities Raised to Defeat Morse, Neuberger Says

"The Republicans have no issues on which to campaign so they're raising trivialities in an attempt to defeat Sen. Wayne Morse," U.S. Sen. Richard L. Neuberger told about 175 people at Democratic headquarters here last night.

Neuberger is in Medford today attending a Rogue river flood control hearing. He and his wife, Maurine, arrived about 30 minutes late for the speaking engagement last night. They had spent the day in Klamath Falls where the junior senator attended a hearing on Indian affairs.

An example of the trivialities the GOPs are using against Morse is the fact that he is not a war veteran, Neuberger said. He pointed out that Morse had wanted to enlist in World War II, but President Roosevelt urged him to stay on the war labor board.

"Republicans like Thomas E. Dewey, Senator Robert Taft and Arthur Vandenberg were not veterans," he said. "Why is this requirement suddenly applied only to Wayne Morse?"

In further defense of Morse, Neuberger declared, "the Douglas McKay campaign has shown its poverty of real issues by raising empty protests against the fact that Morse was not born in Oregon." A show of hands indicated about 85 per cent of the audience had not been born in Oregon.

"The Republicans overlook the fact that Oregon Republican congressmen were born outside the state as well as the Republican candidate for governor. Apparently, it is the Republican belief that only Democrats must be born within our boundaries to qualify for public office."

The speaker also cast a question on Republican campaign funds. He said, "Much of the money spent for expensive printing, advertising, postage, radio and television time on behalf of McKay is done under the name of the Oregon State Republican committee, rather than the McKay for Senator committee, in an effort to obscure the flood of dollars going directly into the McKay campaign."

He said a similar device was used by the Republicans in the 1954 campaign when Citizens for Eisenhower spent $37,572. "This sum was used mostly on behalf of Guy Cordon because—as everyone knows—Eisenhower was not a candidate in that election. This method was used to keep Cordon's name isolated from the total actually spent in his behalf."

The senator added, "Cordon's supporters posed him as a great friend of public power in the 1954 campaign, but this spring the records of the Federal Power commission showed he received nearly $30,000 in fees from private power companies in the year following his election defeat."

Defending Sen. Morse's voting attendance record, he said "Morse's attendance record has been outstanding and better than the record of Oregon Congressman Walter Norblad." Considerable applause and laughter followed his statement, "When the Republicans are absent it's just as well, because they would vote wrong anyhow."

Neuberger said he was puzzled by charges that Sen. Morse talks too much. "What does a senator do except talk or write," he asked. "Maybe Douglas McKay would go to the senate with a pick and shovel. Everyone would say, 'Look at McKay. He doesn't talk like the rest of the senators. Instead he digs a big hole in the floor.'" Several minutes later, when laughter subsided, Neuberger declared "The Republican campaign just doesn't appeal to your intelligence, but instead belittles your intelligence."

The senator also came out in favor of the Democratic candidate for governor, Robert Holmes. He stated Holmes had favored the minimum teachers salary program, program for teachers sick leave, a four-year liberal arts course at Portland State college and endorsement of the UN during the Korean conflict. He declared that Elmo Smith had voted against all these issues. "He won't discuss his voting record. All he does is proclaim weeks," Neuberger stated.

The speaker emphasized his belief that the agriculture and lumbering programs in Oregon have suffered under the present administration. He added, "The present administration has ended the low cost Columbia river power program."

Neuberger said, "Congressman Harris Ellsworth supported a new $786,000,000 power project in Colorado, yet claimed the Hells Canyon dam project was socialistic. The Republicans have opposed federal power projects in Oregon, while private companies have been getting rich. This is whipped cream for private utilities and skim milk for the people," he remarked.

"There are 22 senators in the 11 western states. Eleven of them, all Democrats, voted for a high Hells Canyon dam. The 11 Republicans voted against it," he said.

In conclusion, the junior senator commented, "The Republican party used to stand for a great deal. It doesn't stand for anything that is good for the people now."

Following Neuberger's address, Mrs. Neuberger spoke for about five minutes on the hearing at Klamath Falls. "It was interesting," she said, "to note how much more interesting the hearing was to the senator from Montana (Sen. James Murray) than to the congressman from that district (Harris Ellsworth.)"

Larry Sheehan, Democratic central committee chairman, presided over the program. Candidates he introduced included Supreme Judge David R. Vandenburg; Ralph James, county commissioner candidate; Tom Reeder, district attorney; and Robert Duncan, candidate for state legislative representative. Duncan introduced the guest speaker.

Medford, Oregon, Mail Tribune, October 19, 1956