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ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1978 **3**

Democratic candidates form united front to unseat Kelly

By LUCY MORGAN
Pasco Times Staff Writer

HOLIDAY — The Democrats who are vying for the chance to take on U.S. Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Port Richey, in the November election say they will not fight among themselves during the primary campaign.

Pasco County Commissioner Mike Olson said he and the three other Democratic candidates for the 6th District seat met recently with state party officials and agreed to run a "clean and hard" campaign.

"Whoever wins will get the support of the others," Olson said. "And there will be no lawsuits filed."

HIS COMMENTS, made Wednesday night during a panel discussion at a forum sponsored by the Pasco County Young Democrats, were obviously aimed at the problems suffered by the Democrats who opposed Kelly two years ago.

John Saunders, an Orlando businesswoman, won the Democratic nomination. But her victory was clouded during a series of ethics commission complaints filed by Miller Newton, a former Pasco circuit clerk who lost the primary. Mrs. Saunders lost to Kelly in the general election.

Olson and Hernando County Commissioner Adrian Bell appeared at the meeting, one of first of many forums scheduled between now and the September primary. Orlando lawyer David Best and State Rep. Donald Poindexter of St. Petersburg, who also are seeking the Democratic nomination, did not attend.

"I promise you I'll bring back the same wife I take to Washington," Olson said in a reference to Kelly's recent divorce from his wife Loraine.

OLSON SAID HE sees inflation as the major issue in this year's election campaign. He ranked the nation's energy needs second.

"I believe there's a groundswell of public opinion to send new people to Washington," Olson said.

Running down a list of national issues, Olson said he favors reforms in the Social Security and welfare programs; continued Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the Soviet Union; a tax credit for parents of college students (but not for private schools); limits on the nation's intelligence community and delaying production of the neutron bomb.

He also questioned the stockpiling of atomic weapons, saying, "You can only blow the world apart one time."

OLSON SAID HE favors the Equal Rights Amendment and believes that right-to-work laws should be left to the individual states because of differing needs between the southern states and the northern industrial states.

Offering a study in contrast, Bell, an ultra-conservative said he is opposed to abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, gun control and relations with Cuba. He said he favors production of the neutron bomb, B-1

bomber and the cruise missile; covert intelligence operations; a constitutional amendment to restore prayer in schools and a tax credit for parents of college and private school students.

BELL SAID HE believes that the "plight of the average man" is the major campaign issue this year. He expressed concern over deficit spending, the balance of trade, a growing disrespect for God and the Christian way of life. He said he is alarmed by the damage caused by U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have banned prayer in schools and destroyed the "moral fiber" of people.

"I'm strongly against abortion and support the right-to-life amendment that would prohibit the slaughter of unborn on the altar of convenience," Bell said.

Bell said he believes that the United States should be cautious in its negotiations with the Soviets because he does not believe that they can be trusted.

Pg 62 (though page 3 of the citrus-hernado times section)

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