

# An Opinionated Look at the Ballot

EVERY ELECTION it gets a little tougher.

You make friends with the candidates. You meet their wives and families. You listen to them worrying about the problems of raising campaign funds and of getting voters to listen to them.

And then comes election time, and you can only vote for some of them. It's an elimination contest, and some pretty nice people get eliminated.

The action starts next Tuesday as Washington holds its primary election to pick candidates for November.

Our primaries are made somewhat ridiculous by the provision of law that, in effect, makes all of us independent voters. Whatever our own views, we can help pick candidates for both parties.

You'll find a sample ballot elsewhere in today's issue. Here, for what it's worth, is an opinionated look at some of the ballot entries:

**Courthouse bonds** if you've visited the Kitsap County courthouse in recent years, particularly the portions of it that are used for holding prisoners, you don't need to be told it's inadequate.

More important, the facilities we provide for juveniles who come into the county's custody are deplorable. They shame all of us.

Self-government is based on the hope that citizens are capable of making sensible decisions. As stockholders in this county, we have an obligation to provide for our own needs.

**The legislature**—We're planning to waste two of our votes next Tuesday by casting them for candidates who are unopposed.

One of these will go to Pat Wanamaker, the state representative from Whidbey Island who is heading into an easy contest for a second term.

The second is one we're saving for a candidate who will need all the encouragement he can get. He is David Roderick of Kingston, The Democratic candidate for the House seat being vacated by Charlie Elicker.

Mr. Roderick is unopposed in his party's primary. He faces vigorous opposition in November—either from Joe Mentor or from Josephine Huey, who are contending for the Republican nomination in a somewhat strenuous campaign.

Another Republican candidate, Art Koch (pronounced Cook), is just along for the ride.

Our guess is that it will be Roderick versus Mentor in November.

In the campaign for the Tenth District's new Senate seat, the decision is easy.

Rep. Charles Elickeer turned in a commendable record last year as a freshman legislator. Now he wants to move up to the Senate, and he'll have our vote to help him on his way.

Mr. Elicker is opposed in his party's primary by Al Glenn of Camano Island, a pleasant young man who seems to have no particular reason for running.

He'll face tougher competition in November from another young man, John C. Merkel, who is unopposed for the Democratic nomination.

**Congress**—There are all those names

on the ballot, but the congressional primary still looks like a waste of time.

After the Senate primary it will be incumbent Sen. Warren G. Magnuson versus Republican underdog Jack Metcalf. In the Sixth District it will be incumbent Rep. Floyd Hicks versus Republican underdog Tony Chase. And in the First District it will be incumbent Rep. Tom Pelly versus some nameless, and probably hopeless, Democratic underdog.

**Statehouse**—We admit to a somewhat indefensible prejudice in favor of incumbents.

We make exceptions in the case of incumbents who have been caught with a hand in the till, or who have managed to display unusual amounts of incompetence, or who have drawn exceptionally good opposition.

Accordingly, we'll toss in a vote for Dan Evans. Unaccountably, he has four (count 'em) eccentric Republicans who paid filing fees to run against him. They include a couple of real curiosities.

We will also stand with the incumbents for secretary of state (A. Ludlow Kramer, Republican), state treasurer (Robert S. O'Brien, Democrat) and superintendent of public instruction (Louis Bruno).

But we'll pass over the incumbent lieutenant governor, an estimable man, to cast a vote for Art Fletcher as the Republican nominee. Mr. Fletcher is one of the most refreshing candidates in years.

As for state auditor and commissioner of public lands, we like to leave a few blank spaces on our ballot. We are unacquainted with the merits of the auditor candidates, and Bert Cole seems to be in office for life no matter who runs against him.

For insurance commissioner, we'll try Sen. Karl Herrmann. We will admit to a sneaking urge to go for the candidate who identifies himself as a bartender. Give him points, at least, for candor.

**Courthouse**—Knowledgeable Democrats argue that Whitey Domstad can make the strongest race in November, when the election for the county board of commissioners is county-wide.

If you agree, and you want a new commissioner next year, Mr. Domstad's your man.

If you feel, as we do, that a Bremerton address is an unlikely place to find a North Kitsap-Bainbridge commissioner, John Tandoo of Yeomalt Point merits your attention. He's the other Democrat in the campaign.

Our own vote, despite some differences of opinion, will go to Frank RANDALL. He has been working hard at this job, and he deserves another four years.

**Judiciary**—Apparently one of the permanent features of the supreme court elections will be a lawyer named Vaughn E. Evans, who would like to be a judge.

Since it is a non-partisan election and there is nothing on the ballot to indicate that Judge Robert C. Finley is the incumbent, there's always a chance Mr. Evans can slip past the voters.

As for the other judicial positions, all unopposed, a vote for the man on the ballot is worth the small amount of time it takes.