

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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Hershey Not Eligible

Both Democrats and Republicans heaved a sigh of relief when the county election board, after due deliberation, decided that Harry Hershey was not eligible to file as a candidate for mayor of the city.

The fact that the county election board, consisting of Democrat Richard D. Lewton and Democratic county vice-chairman Mrs. Edith V. Beer, so voted indicates that the Democratic leadership was in no way responsible for Hershey's filing. The number of stories concerning it are already legion, and the truth will probably remain pretty hazy, with everyone believing the story that he or she prefers.

But the decision brings up a very serious question which the humor of the Republican situation has obscured. What about the Republican influence in the local Democratic party? With no one even on the ticket, will the Republicans vote en masse in the Democratic primary, attempting to defeat the strongest Democratic candidate? Only time, and the election results will tell. Perhaps a partial list of voters in each precinct in this Democratic party will have to be published to show just how fair the Republicans are. If a person does not plan to support a majority of the Democratic candidates in the Fall, he is breaking the law when he votes in the Democratic primary.

Actually, it will only be necessary to place the names of three candidates for mayor on the ballot, according to the state election handbook. But it is legal to place the other seven candidates' names on the ticket, and this will probably be done. There can be no Republican primary, since there is not a single candidate.

It should be pointed out, in all fairness to the Republicans, that some of the stories in the newspapers were unfair towards them.

As county attorney Robert S. Anderson, former city attorney, has graciously pointed out, the Republicans did fill their city ticket in 1955 and in 1951, with only a few vacancies in the other elections. There was also a story going around that one of the Republican candidates recently was not registered when he filed for election. However, a close check of the election records shows that this is not so: Richard Girod ran for city council on the Republican ticket, filing for the office on March 24, 1955. The official election record also shows that deputy registration Robert S. Anderson registered him on that same date. Since there were no deputy registration clerks in this primary it would have been impossible for Hershey to have registered after the clerk's office closed that evening.

The graciousness of the county clerk in staying open late that evening to permit anyone who desired to register or file to do so has not been given any attention, either. Very few county clerks have so conscientiously tried to serve their constituency.

Now that the filing for office is over, the serious business of deciding whether Decatur will sell its municipally-owned electric utility, and, on the part of Democrats only, deciding who the Democratic candidate for mayor will be, may continue. Since Republicans have won three of the past five city elections, they can no longer excuse themselves for voting in the Democratic primary by saying that it is their only chance of helping to choose a candidate. While it is legal for a Republican or a Democrat to encourage anyone on his own or even the opposite political ticket to run for office, it is not legal to vote in the primary for a party which you do not intend to support in the Fall.

TV PROGRAMS

Central Daylight Time

Evening
6:00—Amos & Andy
6:15—Doris Day
6:30—Man Without a Gun
7:30—I Love Lucy
8:00—How To Marry a Millionaire
8:30—Tell the Truth
9:00—Arthur Godfrey
9:30—Red Skelton
10:00—Garry Moore
11:00—International Settlement
WEDNESDAY
Morning
7:00—Sunrise Semester
7:30—Rehearsal Theatre
7:45—The Wonderful
8:00—CBS News
8:15—Captain Kangaroo
9:00—Our Miss Brooks
9:30—The Golden Story
10:30—Breakfast in Fort Wayne
10:30—Godfrey Time
11:00—Love Lucy
11:30—The Dollar
Afternoon
12:00—Love of Life
12:30—Search for Tomorrow
12:45—Gilding Light
1:00—Woman's Page
1:30—News
1:30—At the Turn
2:00—Jimmy Dean Show
2:30—Big Pay Off
2:30—Verdict Is Yours
4:00—Brighter Day
4:15—Secret Storm
4:30—Edge of Night
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