



Democratic Socialists of America

IOWA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1985

LABOR DONATED BY IOWA CITY
DSA LOCAL, KIM JONES, CHAIR

DSA RATES THE IOWA CITY CITY COUNCIL

DSA has chosen five "key" votes to use in ranking our city council members. Other important votes could have been chosen, such as one on sanctions on South Africa or one of numerous votes on planning & zoning. But these votes demonstrate what many have suspected: there is a liberal majority on the council when it is dealing with civil liberties and issues of war and peace, a conservative majority when dealing with taxes, economic development, & corporate power. We would like to hear your comments on our choice of issues, which were:

GAY RIGHTS: passage of new Human Rights Ordinance; TAXES: property tax breaks for investors and developers; UTILITIES: new Iowa Illinois franchise; BUS FARES: increase from \$40 to \$50; NUCLEAR WAR: nuclear free zone ordinance.

	GAY RIGHTS	TAXES	UTILITIES	BUS FARES	NUCLEAR WAR
AMBRISCO	R	W	W	W	A
BAKER	R	R	R	W	R
DICKSON	R	W	R	A	R
ERDAHL	R	A	R	W	R
McDONALD	R	W	W	W	R
STRAIT	R	W	W	R	R
ZUBER	R	W	W	A	W

R = RIGHT W = WRONG A = ABSENT

PERCENTAGE OF RIGHT VOTES: BAKER 80%; DICKSON 60% ERDAHL 60%;
STRAIT 60%; McDONALD 40%; ZUBER 20%; AMBRISCO 20%

DETAILS OF VOTES

GAY RIGHTS: On May 8, 1984, the council passed the combined first & second readings of a new Human Rights Ordinance which extends the language of protection to include sexual orientation. Right = yes.

TAXES: On January 22, 1985, the council passed a partial exemption from property taxes for industrial properties upon which improvements have been made. Designed to lure outside industry, this measure has benefitted a few prominent members of the Chamber of Commerce, which lobbied for its passage. It shifts the property tax burden from investors and developers to homeowners and renters. Right = no.

CONTINUED OVER

KEY CITY COUNCIL VOTES CONTINUED

UTILITIES: On March 12, 1985, the council approved a new 25 year franchise with Iowa Illinois Gas and Electric without reading the contract and without insisting on any concessions from the highly profitable corporation. Later it was discovered that Iowa-Illinois lawyers had introduced new language favorable to the company without the council's knowledge.
Right = no

BUS FARES: On June 18, 1985, the council voted to raise bus fares from \$40 to \$50 despite the knowledge that ridership is declining. City staff apparently wants to see a scaled down bus system providing services only to rush hour commuters who can afford higher fares.
Right = no.

NUCLEAR WAR: On September 10, 1985, the council passed the first reading of an ordinance making Iowa City a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.
Right = yes

FROM THE CHAIR.....

At a recent meeting, the Iowa City local of DSA voted to endorse the campaign of Karen Kubby for City Council at large. The campaign needs "people power" particularly canvassers, but also for mailings, phoning, publicity, and issues research. As such, the Iowa City DSA has decided to participate together on Thursday evenings during the campaign. If you wish to help, call Shel Stromquist (337-5463). We are also soliciting campaign contributions, which can be sent to Jeff Cox, Kubby Campaign Treasurer (112 S Dodge, Iowa City, IA 52240).

Our hope is that a long-term coalition, participating in Iowa City politics, can come out of Karen's campaign. Indeed, it is one of DSA's major purposes to begin to link progressive groups and issues. It wouldn't be easy (it's been tried before in Iowa City), but we can do it if we put our minds (and efforts) to it. If you would like more information about DSA, or wish to be put on our mailing list, call me (Kim Jones) at 351 6094.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOTES

Des Moines: Art Davis, the new Democratic state chair, is from the law firm which represents Iowa Beef, the notorious union busting meat packers. A past president of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, Davis supported Mondale until October of 1983, when he switched to Glenn because Mondale was too left wing.

Davenport: DSA member Tim Sodawasser is running for re-election to the Davenport City Council, Representing Ward 5, Tim is Iowa's only socialist elected official. Campaign contributions may be sent to Tim Sodawasser, 930 E 13th Street, Davenport, IA 52803

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DSA newsletter is only \$5 a year. Send a check to DSA newsletter, 112 S Dodge, Iowa City IA 52240

Iowa City: The right wing of the Johnson County Democratic Party continues to exert its influence on the central committee with the cooperation of county chair Ron Bohlken. At the June 24th meeting the right promoted the candidacy of farm bureau activist and John Glenn supporter Steve Lacina for Vice-chair. He was narrowly defeated by CWA member Kerry Bowen.

At the August 28 meeting a DSA inspired resolution in support of making Iowa City a nuclear free zone was passed 21-18 despite the effort of chairman Bohlken to rule it out of order on the grounds that it was controversial. After the vote he then ruled that the resolution had failed because the number of abstainers was 5.

DSA will make plans for the October 10 central committee meeting at the regular, monthly DSA meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 7:30, Hoover Room, Iowa Memorial Union.