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NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017 NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE



Bob Hasegawa

Hasegawa: “left has no place to go”

What happened in Olympia in 2017? Not much, Senator Bob Hasegawa (37th LD), told the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle during his October 25 presentation. He went on to talk about the future of the Democratic Party. Mr Hasegawa, well-known as a union reformer, is a long-time member of the MDC. He was endorsed by the organization in his unsuccessful bid to serve as mayor of Seattle.

One positive thing during this last legislative session was the passing of the family leave bill, he said, which has become a national model.

When it comes to universal health care, he noted, Washington is not even close to

a solution; we need “all hands on deck” working for a national system.

As for McCleary, he acknowledged, there were minor steps toward funding schools, but not nearly enough. He voted against it. This issue will definitely come up again, he added.

McCleary is mainly coming out of property taxes, he explained. This is an unsatisfactory solution indicative of an increasing trend toward regressive means of revenue.

This trend is also evident in the Sound Transit backlash; people in the south of King County are unhappy at having to pay taxes for a service they feel doesn’t benefit them, he continued, and this will impact our ability to tax in the future.

According to Mr Hasegawa, the inadequacy of these funding solutions is symptomatic of a general movement away from the left. The left has no place to go; it feels disenfranchised and rejected, he declared. Therefore, he added, the Democratic Party should take a left turn and reach out to the poor and disenfranchised with straightforward policies to address their needs.

As an example, he cited events at last year’s Democratic National Convention, which he attended as a Bernie Sanders delegate.

“It was a horrible experience,” he disclosed, where he witnessed many incidents of extreme disrespect – “dirty tricks” – against Sanders delegates including turning off the lights during Sanders demonstrations and actual assault of Sanders delegates. We were “thrown under the bus,” he added. Further, people were actually cheering the memory of Ronald Reagan. He came out of convention disheartened.

- continued on p3 -

Amendment would establish ranked choice voting

Fix Democracy First is working to collect signatures to put a charter amendment on the 2018 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting in Seattle, said Cindy Black, executive director of FDF at the October 11 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle.

Ranked choice voting will eliminate gerrymandering and encourage people to run for office who can’t afford to under the current

system of winner takes all, she added, plus the result will be more representative of our population.

FDF’s mission is “to achieve fair elections and government policies that reflect the will of the people and not the power of money,” Ms Black explained. Earlier this year FDF merged with WAmend to promote Initia-

- continued on p3 -



ABOVE: Members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at the MDC’s fundraiser for Peter Steinbrueck for Port of Seattle Commission. From left, MDC Director Bill Bradford, Representative Gael Tarleton (former port commissioner), Peter Steinbrueck (now commissioner-elect), MDC President Eleanor Munro, Lloyd Hara (former port commissioner and King County Assessor), and Nick Licata, former MDC president and Seattle City Councilmember.

Gael Tarleton

The December 13 meeting of the MDC features Representative Gael Tarleton on “What happens next? Olympia 2018.”

Using public funds to cover health care costs

by the MDC Health Care Task Force

Consider the combined effect of some relevant facts about health care costs:

- The cost per person for health care services in the US is twice as much or more than the cost per person in other countries that publicly fund health care services and products such as prescription drugs.

- In the USA today 28 million have no insurance. Millions more are under-insured against high unregulated/unnegotiated prices of health care/medical services, and for products such as prescription drugs.

- Repeal/replacement of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) has failed repeatedly in Congress. Attention, for now, has shifted to federal tax reform/reduction and another impasse in Congress.

- Proposals or pending legislation in some states would create state-level public (state and federal) funding to cover health care costs. This would require a Federal government waiver. Yet there is no comprehensive agreement on a Federal program, hence no way, for now, to obtain a waiver for public funding and regulation of a state-based system.

- The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle and 70 other organizations state-wide are campaigning for a single-payer system to cover health care costs for all Washington residents by pooling the funding from Medicare, Medicaid, military veterans, and other public employees and public officials. Public funds already used to cover already protected groups would be merged into a single-payer federal and/or state cost coverage system.

So much for diagnosis. What's the treatment? We'll discuss this at our November 15 meeting.



Seattle City Councilmember, 1972 – 1979; US Representative 1st district, 1985 – 1993. Director, US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2002 – 2006.

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle endorsed John Miller in 1980 when he ran as an Independent for state attorney general. It was asserted in the February 1981 edition of the MDC newsletter that “The endorsing of a non-Democrat was unique in the history of the MDC, and was a controversial move.” Apparently the author of that statement did not know or had forgotten that the MDC endorsed Republican Tim Hill for Seattle City Council in 1967 (as announced in the June 1967 edition of the MDC newsletter). Perhaps the MDC has endorsed and forgotten other “good” Republicans or Independents as well. Unfortunately our records are incomplete.

A tribute by Roger Leed

In 1967, when I reported to my job as a Supreme Court law clerk in Olympia, I met John Miller. He and Lem Howell were assistant attorneys general officed across the hall from the law clerk bullpen.

John became a good friend, as did Lem. John was a buddy of Herb Legg, former state Democratic Chair, and Mike Layton, the PI state house reporter. I often would join them for a beer after work at a local watering hole where Herb presided over our political discussions. The subjects, usually the legislature, were good material for jokes.

John and Lem decided to start a law firm in Seattle. They found a partner, John Watson, so Miller, Howell and Watson was born. Their office was near the Courthouse at the edge of Pioneer Square. Conveniently, there was a cocktail lounge in the basement so I could still join John and Lem for a drink after work and more politics. I

John Miller

May 1938 - October 2017

was active in Democratic politics, as was Lem, who served as chair of the state's Young Democrats. John was a Republican but we all seemed to agree on almost every issue. Many Republicans in state government were more liberal, at least on social and environmental issues, than a lot of Democrats. John was one of those “good” Republicans, like Dan Evans, Lud Kramer and John Whetzel.

John was a committed environmentalist and we both served on the board of the newly formed Washington Environmental Council. The first major project of the council was to pass the Shorelines Protection Initiative to the legislature, which the WEC drafted. John and I were on the drafting committee. It took 100,000 signatures to make the ballot. Before the US Supreme Court invalidated it, state law forbade paid signature gatherers, so WEC relied on volunteers. Some of the best places to get signers were shopping malls, but Southcenter banned signature gatherers as trespassers who were invading its property rights. John and I brought a lawsuit to open the malls and lost in Superior Court. We filed an emergency appeal with the signature collection deadline fast approaching. Judge (later Justice) Robert Utter of the Court of Appeals wrote a landmark opinion reversing the trial court, holding the state constitution protected the right to gather signatures at shopping malls, *Sutherland v. Southcenter*, 3 Wn. App. 833(1970). The initiative passed, and the legislature wrote and passed a substitute that put regulatory authority with local governments, not the Department of Ecology, the Shorelines Management Act of 1971.

John became a vice-president of the WEC and served as its first (poorly) paid lobbyist in Olympia.

Active in Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC), which was bi-partisan, John, with CHECC's endorsement, won election

- continued on p3 -

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

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From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

- John Miller continued from p2 -

to the Seattle City Council in 1972, where he served until 1979. His colleagues included Randy Revelle, Phillis Lamphere, Jeanette Williams, Norm Rice, and Sam Smith. The Council had a lot of Republicans, too. Most were “good” Republicans, like Paul Kraabel, Tim Hill, John Whetzel, and Bruce Chapman (before his Reagan conversion).

One of John’s most important accomplishments on the council was persuading the City to reject participation in the WPPSS 3 and 4 projects, the only WPPSS member to do so. He deserves a monument (not in Fremont) just for that.

In 1980 John decided to run for Attorney General as an Independent. He got more votes in the general election than the hapless Democrat, John Rosellini, but the right-wing Republican Ken Eikenberry won with just over 46 percent of the vote. The MDC was not satisfied with Rosellini, so John got the endorsement, and a lot of Democratic voters saw it the same way.

A tribute by Lem Howell

I first saw John Miller at debate tournaments when he represented Bucknell University and I represented Lafayette College.

In 1964 when I was attached to Governor Rosellini’s office, I met John Miller crossing the campus in Olympia. The usual “What are you doing here?” disclosed that John was working as a law clerk in the offices of Attorney General John O’Connell.

John helped me to study for the Washington State Bar Exam. We were later assistant attorneys general in O’Connell’s office. We both later joined different private firms in Seattle. In 1968 we started the law firm of Miller & Howell. We later took on a third partner, John Watson and the firm became Miller Howell & Watson.

John became the firm’s legislative counsel for the Washington Roadside Council or the “bird watchers” as Shelby Scates used to call it.

John later went on to join the Seattle City Council and then became the Republican Congressman from the First Congressional District. So there it was: me a big D Democrat supporting a Republican for Congress. We even had a Republican fund raiser in our offices in the Metropole Building. But Republicans were different in those days. That was the party of Dan Evans, Joel Pritchard, Gummy Johnson and even Slade Gorton before he moved right.

When John was on the City Council, he led the fight to keep Seattle out of WPPS and worked for the preservation of the Pike Street Market. He proposed the elimination of the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

John worked for the preservation of the Pioneer Square historic district, pea patches and was a key architect of the Shorelines Management Act. After serving in Congress John became an Ambassador at Large working to prevent human trafficking.

My wife, Pat, and I have visited John and Stephanie three times in Corte Madera, California where he maintained a splendid library. John had dinner with us and other friends on August 28, 2017, the day before his book signing at the Discovery Institute. John’s novel, “The Man Who Could Be King” is about George Washington and is historically accurate except for the narrator. Some may recall the so-called Newburgh Conspiracy of the Revolutionary War. John has done an outstanding job as a historical novelist.

John and I communicated frequently and I shall miss him.



- Amendment continued from p1 -

tive 735, an attempt to overturn Citizens United. The initiative, which passed, asks members of Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment to get big money out of politics.

Another goal of the FDF is the public financing of elections. The Seattle Democracy voucher program, instituted this year, was a big success, Ms Black asserted. She cited the participation of 10,000 more people who have not previously participated in funding campaigns, as well as more young people, low-income people, and people of color.

For more information www.fixdemocracy-first.org and www.fairvotewa.org.



What do you say?

As the MDC looks to the future and a way forward on important issues such as health care and the environment, it is good to remember our past. As Allan Munro pointed out at the October 25 meeting of the MDC, we would do well to remember that in the past the MDC has espoused a “big tent” policy. He suggests that now may be an opportune time to engage moderate Republicans. In keeping with our mission, we have always endorsed those who we believe will contribute the most to the promotion of good government.

Op-ed

Revisiting Amazonia

by Allan Munro

My commentary on Amazon’s decision to have a co-headquarters outside Seattle implied that future corporate growth would take place in the new co-headquarters. Developments, many that were announced after my commentary went to press, make clear that is not the case.

Amazon will continue to grow in Seattle. Amazon’s contract leases of buildings now under construction and the 100 percent leasing of the new, very large, tower in Rainer Square, make further growth certain for about six more years.

There will be more homelessness, traffic congestion, pressure on home values, and generally, more of the problems of too rapid economic growth.

Tax revenues from existing sources probably will not be sufficient to fund the additional education, higher education, and infrastructure expansions that will be needed. This is the only way to support industrial diversity and avoid becoming a town dominated by one business.

However, the revelations of the last two weeks make clear Amazon is a moving target.



- Hasegawa continued from p1 -

“Where has the left disappeared to?” he questioned. “Are we are now looking to moderate Republicans for our salvation?”

It is no longer Democrats versus Republicans, he asserted, but humanists versus corporatists. We need to take back our party, he added, and we need to unify our base. He looks to the MDC for leadership in this, saying, the MDC “has always stood as the voice of conscience for long-standing Democratic principles” and has always been the “voice of the progressive arm of Democratic party.”



Read the tributes to John Miller (page 2) and read/recall Senator Bob Hasegawa’s words on the state of the Democratic Party (page 1). Can or should the MDC sustain a “big tent” approach? Does engaging moderate Republicans mean we are abnegating our principles?

What do you say? Send a letter to the editor, Eleanor Munro, walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116. All letters are subject to editing.



mark your
MDC calendar

November - December

MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St unless otherwise noted

Wednesday, November 15

Task forces. Health care – where do we go from here? Environment – shall we form a new task force?

Sunday, December 3

Winter Holiday Party. See right. Also, see insert.

Wednesday, December 13

Representative Gael Tarleton (36th LD) will speak on “What happens next? Olympia 2018.”

To join the MDC or for more information contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206.370.1374 or walkere1@msn.com or visit metrodeems.org or facebook.com/metrodeems.



Winter Holiday Party 2017

This is the time of year we honor our elected officials – present, past and future – and thank them for their service to the public.

Please join members and friends of
The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle
for a bounty of good food and holiday cheer

December 3, 5:30 - 8 pm

at the historic Colman mansion, home of
Maryanne Tagney and David Jones
9343 Fauntleroy Way SW.

Suggested donation \$25.

To become a sponsor (\$100) go to
<http://metrodeems.org/winter-holiday-party-2017/>
or mail a check to Eleanor Munro,
1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.

What's happening

Tuesday, November 28

Representative Gael Tarleton's annual Beer 'N Blarney event, 5:30 – 7 pm, Paddy Coyne's, Pier 70, 2801 Alaskan Way #103

Please note:

King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles is delaying her 24th annual post-election analysis and 36th LD auction until next Spring. More information to come.

Have you paid your dues? Check the date above your name on the address label. That's your due date.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

November & December 2017

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