

Apartment Dwellers

Transcription of blue record
made by Alan Doan, Tom Richards, Bob Reynolds.

- The issues we can hit most on apartment dwellers are what might be called the good government issues and this breaks down into honesty and integrity in government employees
- ✓ full participation of all citizens including apartment residents and federal
 - ✓ a strong A B C opposition to things which make apartment residents second-class citizens, such as the old Freeholders Referendum
 - ✓ schools (most apartment residents are for schools whether they have children or not)
 - ✓ non-partisan elections: the election of ~~legal~~ of county boards on the basis of relevant local issues because most of these people come from outside the state and in most of the United States local officials are elected on a non-partisan basis.
 - ✓ you can't get much mileage out of zoning
 - ✓ the rank and file of apartment residents have always depended upon A B C to protect his interests and has never been disappointed.

schools still have problems but the main problem is to assure a sympathetic county board which A B C will provide. the critical thing for arlington county in the years to come -- this revolves around the density problem and the type of land use and the development of the master plan this thing is coming into focus. Every resident and civic feels this very strongly.

Tom: wants a real whing dinger of a speech for the County Council of PTAs, and another one for the League of Women Voters.

a major speech tearing into tuition grants, as debilitating the financial resources of Arlington County, distracting funds urgently needed for a first-rate public educational system, ~~xx~~ something that is ~~basically~~ in most cases little more than subsidizing the use of private schools. Tom: there was an article in the Post today (Sept 3) on how

alan ^{call for} ringing support for the public school system and pointing with alarm at the way in which public ~~xxxxxx~~ funds that could be used for public schools are now available to anybody who chooses to have the county of Arlington subsidize sending his child to a private ~~xxxxxx~~ non-sectarian school. (this alienated only a small number of free-riders who have been using this gimmick to get their children to private schools for \$250 or more). we ought to hit the point that in the vast majority of these cases segregation has nothing to do with the case. it simply is people who are taking advantage of this weird law, who would have sent their children to private school anyhow, they have the citizens of Arlington pay for it. (maybe use this speech to the League of Women Voters). (but at the League you also must hit the introduction of vitality into the county government and the fact that there is a need for vigorous political leadership).

I would also suggest (except that our County Board won't do anything about it) that you pick an occasion to make a ringing speech on the importance of protecting the rights of Federal employees to participate in Virginia affairs. you can point out that you are no a Federal employee, because if you were you could not even be a candidate for this office and that you regard it as a shocking and unjust thing and a detriment to Arlington County that half its adult citizens are , and go on about the importance of Arlington County Board and the importance of local elections.

Segregation: Now you can be so pious that it is almost funny. You thank the Lord for the steadfastness of Governor Almond to protect the rights of communities in Virginia to preserve their public schools. You recognize that there are those who feel strongly on the question on both sides of segregation and integration, but you

don't see how there can be in this community any honest difference on the cardinal problem "Shall we or shall we not have public schools". I stand four-square for the public schools.

The secret of debate is immediately to turn any question ~~from~~ "I am not a member of NAACP, nor, I must say, am a member of the Defenders". "Do you believe the County Board should encourage Negroes to move into white neighborhoods?" "Madam, I think it is important that we all understand that the sale of private property

and as a member of the Arlington County Board I shall have no more to say about it than any other member of the A C B which is zero."

"What church do you go to, Mr. Richards?" "I am a devout and regular member of one of Arlington's most respected and local churches; thank you". "However, I wish to say to the questioner, that I deplore any effort to introduce the religious issue into this campaign. I believe that a person should be selected on the basis of his qualifications for office and not on the basis of his religious faith."

"Mr. Richards, last year we heard that the master plan is 95% percent completed. The master plan is yet to be published." "I am glad you asked that question, madam. Last year we had only 82% completion. Now we have 93% completion. Next question, please." ~~xi~~

(this is for real) re master plan. "I am personally quite disappointed with the progress in planning. But when I say that I want this to be clear: that until ~~real~~ ABC got the majority on the County Board we didn't have anything that was worthy and of being called planning. I wish to remind everyone in this audience that it was the AIM group that abolished the planning commission, that distributed its functions among several uncoordinated committees; that drove every good professional planner out of the county. It has taken time to build back the strength required, and I must say that we still have a ways to go. I am not personally satisfied with the quality of the planning staff today, but at least we have a county board that believes in planning, is giving it wholehearted support, and has made really substantial progress in the development of an adequate plan for Arlington. The alternatives are those who ~~kk~~ have always deprecated planning in Arlington, and if they were in control of the County Board would junk it, because it would interfere with their own special plans for speculative development in Arlington County."

"Mr. Richards, A B C has been in control of the County Government for several years. What are some of its positive accomplishments?" "The record of A B C in ~~arlington~~ is indeed a tremendous one. Let me indicate a few of the things that might be called on the negative side but which are nevertheless important to every citizen of Arlington. We gave wholehearted support to Governor Almond in his efforts to keep the public schools open. We kept peace and order, and created a framework ~~fix~~ in which the governing body actively assured that our public schools would be kept open. Spot zoning, and intrusion ~~in~~ of commercial and apartment zoning into detached home neighborhoods, once so widespread under AIM has been brought to a halt. Now the zoning cases are always cases in which there is room for ~~judgement~~ differences in judgement in the particular case involved. Except for Dr. Blevins we have a county board which is really dedicated to the protection of residential neighborhoods. ABC has also moved ahead in many important positive accomplishments. We have a central library rising. Branch libraries are being constructed. We have a Master Plan that still has a ways to go but has really made enormous progress. We have plans for most of our commercial areas. We have open space plan. We have plans for water, sewers, and nearly all significant aspect of our county facilities. We have a master thoroughfare plan adopted, a new sign ordinance has been adopted regulating the size of signs, a new parking ordinance has been adopted protecting neighborhoods from the overflow of parking which has resulted from inadequate provision in commercial

facilities. I would also like to stress that we have had honesty and integrity we have no more Magruder reassessments. we have had no more crass political pay-offs in zoning cases. County Board meetings are held open to the public and with decisions which are publicly arrived at. In short, ladies, or gentlemen, or both, we have honesty, competence, integrity, foresightedness, in our present county board, and we have this impressive list of accomplishments, and you can add dozens to them. adequately positively supported the school budgets

have given wholeheartedly supported the School Board and we have appointed School Board members dedicated to efficient and well-run public school system. we have not appointed any Helen Lanes and Bob Pecks zoning -- has a negative and positive side already cited
sign ordinance
parking ordinance
branch library
fire station
reduction in insurance rates
better investment in bond funds
more skilled sale of county securities
open space master plan and are proceeding to acquire much of the property
have tried to establish an equitable and well-balanced tax program.

"why are taxes in Arlington county so high". "One. Taxes in Arlington County are really not very high. They are relatively low in comparison with most advanced and progressive communities in the united states of an urban character. The tax rate in Arlington County could be reduced if we have a more diversified tax base, but the legislature of Virginia has seen fit to give us only four significant tax sources: real property taxes, personal property taxes, business and professional license tax, and the auto tags. The abc has attempted to draw upon these sources equitably, and it is also brought to an end the AIM reliance upon ~~taxes~~ the most widely evaded and most unfair of our taxes, the personal property tax.

It would be possible to deliver a major speech on planning in which you praise the county board for the dedication it has shown to planning but to say that its policy ~~has~~ directives have produced disappointing results largely because arlington county does not now have ~~x~~ the quality of planning staff that it needs. this is particularly true of the leadership of the office of planning and ~~you~~ you feel that it is incumbent upon arlington county to equip (everybody knows that he is a klunk, maybe you ought to be the one to go out and say it. this has to be weighed. it would get you a little publicity. on the one hand you can priase the county board and say that they are being frustrated by the ineptness of the director of planning. the counterattack on that would be that we are trying to shift the buck to the poor old career civil servant for the lack of effective direction on the county beard. if I were the opposition that is what I would say. fie on tom richards attacking a poor loyal civil servant tom moore. but i think you could stand up and slug on that one saying the last thing you'd dream of is attacking poor old civil servant, but let's face it tom moore was brought into arlington county recently with the hope that he would hav the ability to provide effective direction of the planning office. There is no one who has had the opportunity to watch mr. moore at any distance whatsoever who can come to any other conclusion than that he is providing substnaitially less than the quality of leadership which the planning effort of the county requires.

Herb Brown's pitch that he was not a politician. Against Maynard Magruder it was particularly effective. That's a good point. That you are a citizen of Arlington Count a homeowner who has also lived in arlington apartments who has interested yourself for a number of years in better planning, better schools, better zoning in arlington, and that your ~~are~~ interest in serving on the county board is to do your best to bring about those further improvements in arl that will protect the values and makes it a