

The Rockies GOP candidates feel all have good chance

Mary Louisa O'Brien
PUEBLO — Three Republican U.S. Senate hopefuls, including the man whom Sen. Bill Armstrong endorsed, downplayed the probable long-term effects of that endorsement here this week.

The three — U.S. Rep. Ken Kramer, state Sen. Martha Ezzard and Denver businessman Terry Comins — who received the Armstrong endorsement — were among politicians and political candidates who attended Monday's annual Columbus Day dinner.

"I'll be honest," said Kramer, "it's a plus for Terry, but I feel optimistic about our chances."

Kramer, of Colorado Springs, now represents the 5th Congressional District. Some Republicans have said that as a several-term congressman, they consider him the strongest candidate who could be defeated against incumbent Sen. Gary Hart or Rep. Tim Wirth, the 2nd Congressional District congressman from Boulder.

Wirth will be the Democratic party's candidate if Hart decides not to

seek re-election.

Kramer said Armstrong's support is "not essential," although "it would have been my preference for the senator to endorse another candidate."

"I feel we'll do well in the convention," he said in reference to the mid-1986 state assembly at which candidates will be nominated.

Kramer said Comins, who was the volunteer state chairman in Armstrong's 1984 election campaign, is "part of the family to Armstrong." Kramer said he and Armstrong are friends, but "I've never been in a family relationship with him. I applaud him for his loyalty to those close to him."

Kramer will announce his candidacy Friday in Denver and will be in Grand Junction Monday.

Ezzard announced her candidacy Tuesday in Denver and Wednesday in Grand Junction.

Ezzard said she thinks Armstrong's endorsement can't determine the candidate or candidates, "only people can do that."

"I'm confident they have good judgment."

"I'm not as far along as Ezzard and Kramer," Comins said of his candidacy, "it's still working full-time to see if I can put together and win a campaign." He said, "so that it could be early 1986 before he announces."

Comins, who is party chairman Howard "Bo" Callaway's son-in-law, has never run for political office before. That fact and Armstrong's endorsement might help with some assembly delegates and hurt him with others, said Burt Sewell, state Democratic party chairman.

Republicans will decide at their state assembly whether to nominate all three candidates, with voters selecting one at the Aug. 22 primary election at the Republican caucus in the November general election. Each nominee must get at least 25 percent of the delegate vote to qualify — historically, a difficult feat if only three candidates enter.

Tyke given eye surgery a third time
Associated Press
DENVER — Eight times in his 13 months, Daniel Cecil has undergone surgery so that he might see. He went home again this week from Mercy Medical Center, his parents once again hoping this would be the time that worked.

Jim and Loreta Cecil of Dodge City, Kan., have made the trip to Mercy 37 times. Each time, they said this week, it gets harder.

"Every time you take him into surgery, there's always that chance of him not coming out," Jim said Monday as the couple waited for the anesthesiologist to wake up Daniel.

He was born with a birth defect that left his left eye scarred and useless. He underwent his first cornea transplant when he was 3 1/2 weeks old.

Six months later his body rejected that cornea when Daniel came down with a cold. His anxious parents could feel his body was reacting because the new cornea turned milky white, just as Daniel's eye



Daniel Cecil has undergone three cornea transplants and five related operations during his 13 months of life. His parents, Loreta and Jim Cecil of Dodge City, Kan., hope the most recent transplant in Denver will succeed.

"I just can't comprehend the courage it takes" for a parent to make that decision, she said.

The final verdict won't be known for a while. The Cecils say they are hopeful, though, because of signs that their son's ability to pick out a chunk of dog food on a brown rug has improved since the last surgery. They know it's not scientific, they say, but it's better news than they've had in a long time.

Wire check

Arlington, Va.
Robert Burford trial begins Dec. 17

Reagan administration official Robert Burford will go to trial Dec. 17 on drunk driving charges, an Arlington County District Court judge ruled Wednesday.

Burford, director of the Bureau of Land Management, wasn't present in the courtroom when Judge Eleanor Tolson set the trial date. He was arrested Sept. 18 after a state police officer saw his car stopped in the middle of Interstate 265 just outside the nation's capital.

He was charged with drunk driving Arlington police on his wife, Anne Burford, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, was charged with being drunk in public the night of the arrest, police said. She is scheduled to go to trial Dec. 13.

Trial links gathering, Berg death

Associated Press
SEATTLE — Several alleged members of the Order, bent on eliminating enemies in a racist revolution, gathered in Denver about the time Jewish rabbi host Alan Berg was killed by a machine-gun attack, according to evidence in their federal racketeering trial.

A fingerprint hotel registration and a series of telephone calls were among evidence presented Wednesday as prosecutors built a case that a four-man Order death squad killed Berg on June 18, 1984.

Additional evidence about the killing was expected to be presented today in the sixth week of the racketeering trial against 10 alleged Order members.

Berg, 46, was a vocal critic of anti-Semites and right-wing extremists. His death is one of many crimes attributed to the defendants and 13 others named in a racketeering indictment. The government claims they were plotting a racist revolution against Jews, minorities and the government.

The government contends that defendant Bruce Carroll Pierce fired the Barrett M-16 machine gun that killed Berg with 12 bullets.

Robert Matthews, the late founder and leader of the Order, and Brock and Scurry stood lookout, while defendant David Lane drove the getaway car, the government says.

Steamboat Springs City manager resignation ends feud

Steamboat Springs City Manager Mike Mahoney has resigned, ending a feud between himself and city council members.

Police Chief Roger Jensen was named to temporarily fill the spot.

Councilman Allan Barbee said Wednesday the resignation was submitted under duress because Mahoney was given an option of resigning and receiving three months severance pay or refusing to resign and being fired.

Mahoney was hired in June 1983. He had been city manager for Aspen for six years.

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