O'Neil Should Make Some Changes, County GOP Stalwarts Say After Election

BY JIM REAGEN

CANTON — Now that the election is over, St. Lawrence County GOP officials have said privately that if Republican Assemblyman John G.A. O'Neil of Parishville wants to stay in office, he'd better make some changes.

Prominent GOP officials, who supported O'Neil, and worked for his reelection, said that his razor-thin margin of 122 votes out of more than 30,000 cast, showed them the Parishville Republican has some serious weaknesses that were exploited by his opponent, Democrat Paul Finnegan.

"Look at the results of that race. Finnegan ran a hell of a campaign. You've got to give him credit. But it was too close. A Republican in this county has no excuse for a showing like that," one Republican officeholder said. "There have got to be some changes made."

Otherwise, some GOP officials said, O'Neil could find himself in a Republican primary in two years.

Staff Changes

O'Neil's top aide, George Curtis, ought to be replaced, several GOP officials predicted privately.

"He's got poor staff work," GOP officials said of O'Neil's office. "There's no excuse for that."

"George is a nice guy," one official said. "But he gets assignments to work on a problem and he doesn't always seem to be on top of it."

"John's got to improve his relations with the county legislature," another Republican said, echoing a frequent complaint from GOP legislators. "He doesn't know what they're concerned with. They don't go to him for help. Last year, most of them would call Finnegan when ever they needed something done in Albany. That's not right."

"There are officials in county government, Republican officials, who have not yet even met John O'Neil," one Republican official said. "Now how can you ask someone to vote for him when he's never even bothered to say hello to those people, much less helped them?"

Mrs. Phillips Comments

GOP Chairwoman Ella Mae Phillips conceded that numerous Republicans have approached her about suggestions they have on how O'Neil can improve his standing in the county. She said they'll probably be holding a meeting with O'Neil to talk about the problems.

But Mrs. Phillips said she doesn't agree with all of the criticisms of O'Neil that she's heard from other GOP officeholders.

Take O'Neil's staff, she said. "I've had problems with George. But when I've needed him, he was there. It should be up to John to evaluate his staff. Anybody on a political payroll is subject to people criticizing him. But it's not for me to tell John what to do."

But other Republicans have been less charitable.

Part of the problem, GOP officials said, is O'Neil's emphasis in the state legislature. "John's good on education matters. That's his expertise. That's what he's interested in."

"The school teachers, the college professors, they love him. He votes for whatever they want. That's his record," another said.

"But the county legislature and the town boards, they've got different problems," a GOP stalwart said. "John never held local office. He doesn't know their problems. He'll help them out if they ask, but he doesn't always seek them out."

"And if he has to choose between supporting something they want or something for education, he goes with education," one said, citing O'Neil's vote on the Human Services Overburden aid bill.

O'Neil voted against the bill, even though the GOP-controlled county legislature and every county government in the state had requested its passage.

The bill meant about $1.3 million in additional aid for the county. O'Neil said it also meant too much money would go to New York City, and he wanted the money to go to school districts because the aid distribution formula was fairer for upstate communities.

"John's not a traditional St. Lawrence County Republican," one GOP activist said. "Look at who supports him. Look at all the money he got from the CSEA and the unions. That money usually goes to Democrats."

"If you watched the endorsements, you saw those guys (the unions) supporting Democrats down the line, but then jumping over and supporting John. They didn't support Dave Martin, (the Republican Congressman from Canton), they didn't support Doug Barclay (the Republican State Senator from Pulaski,) they weren't supporting the Republican state ticket."

"It makes you wonder," he said. "Once this is over, somebody's got to sit down and talk to John."

But Mrs. Phillips said the rest of the GOP will have to accept O'Neil's union background, although she conceded that some Republicans may be finding it difficult.

"It may have cost us some votes," she said. "But people are always saying Republicans are for the wealthy and the white collar workers, but John's shown that's not the case. He's for the everyday worker."

"Times are changing," she said.

Some county GOP leaders also question O'Neil's style of dealing with attacks.

"John's a nice guy," one official said. "But maybe he's too nice. They were cutting him up and down. Sometimes you have to set it straight. You can't just leave it to everybody else to fight your battles."

"Doug and Bobby Nortz (Assemblyman from Lowville) pulled it out of the fire for him," one Republican observed. "It was all over and they went to bat and that's what won the election for him."

"They won't always be there," he said. "Politics is a tough business. John's got to learn to fight. He can't just expect everybody else to carry him."

"The Democrats were cutting him up in Albany during the last session. He knew it. Everybody knew it. But did you hear a word out of him?" he said. "I don't know what he was thinking."

But Mrs. Phillips said other GOP leaders will have to learn to accept O'Neil for what he is, a quiet man, who is sincere and capable, and who doesn't always go for the political jugular.

"I was very proud of John," she said of the campaign. "He was very dignified."

Convenient Food Mart

Make Us Your BEVERAGE HEADQUARTERS

Prices good November 24 thru November 28

DELI

Boiled Ham $1.19 ½lb.

Old Dominion Bologna 69¢ ½lb.

2% MILK gal. $1.89

Hostess ICE CREAM ½gal. $1.49

Coke, Tab, 7up 16oz. N.R. $1.79

MILLER BEER 12oz. N.R. 12 pak. $4.99

Blue Ribbon NAPKINS Jumbo Pack 69¢

OGDENSBURG POTSDAM

SALE

Panasonic

MICROWAVE OVENS

Magnetic Turntable Turns Your Food 13⅓ Times Per Min. So You Don't Have To.

Cook-A-Round Genius II

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY MICROWAVE

FIRST AUTO SENSOR CONTROL MICROWAVE OVEN.

NOW YOU CAN COOK TO PERFECTION, EVEN DEFROST AND KEEP FOOD WARM BY TAPPING A SINGLE CONTROL. FORGET ABOUT COMPLICATED PROGRAMMING OF TIME, TEMPERATURE AND TURNING . . . THE GENIUS II DOES IT ALL FOR YOU!

Live Cooking Demonstrations Daily

COME IN...TASTING IS BELIEVING.

PRICES START AT $312

5 million units* production

Panasonic Exclusive 5 YEAR PARTS AND LABOR WARRANTY LIMITED

Good Housekeeping

PANASONIC...WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF MICROWAVE OVENS.

D.L. Thomas—Kitchens & Baths

"A Kitchen For Every Budget"

265-7340 Outer Market St. Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Wood-Mode Furniture

Member, American Institute of Kitchen Dealers

MasterCard VISA American Express

CHARGE IT (MOST STORES)

Radio Shack®

Most Stores Open Late Nights 'Til Christmas

CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE!

2-Way Speaker System in Genuine Walnut Veneer

Nova®-5 by Realistic

As Seen on TV

39.95 Each Reg. 79.95 Each Half Price

Buy two for the regular price of one! Long-throw 8" woofer and tuned port deliver solid bass. Wide-dispersion 2" tweeter is ferro-fluid cooled for greater power handling. Lattice-work grille. 19 × 10 3/4 × 7 1/2". #40-4030

LCD Calculator With 4-Key Memory

EC-273 by Radio Shack

As Seen on TV

40% Off 11.95 Reg. 19.95

Square root, percent and sign-change keys. With batteries, case. #65-683

Our Finest, Fun-est Video Game Now Cut 20%

Tandyvision™ One by Radio Shack

38 Game Cartridges Available

Save $50 199.95 Reg. 249.95

Poker/Blackjack Cartridge Included

Uses Intellivision* and Sears Super Video Arcade™ cartridges. Attaches to any color TV. #58-1000

*TM Mattel Electronics

25% Off! "Mini" Phone

ET-100 by Radio Shack

Save $10 29.95 Reg. 39.95

"Hangs Up" on Any Flat Surface

As Seen on TV

Only 7" long! Auto-Redial, tone ringer, mute switch for privacy. Ready to plug in! FCC registered. White, #43-284. Brown, #43-285

Video Disc Player With Remote Control!

CED-1 by Realistic

Save $160 219.95 Reg. 379.95

Hooks up to your TV in seconds! Audio output—attach to hi-fi for dramatic sound. Remote unit duplicates all front-panel controls from 20' away. #16-301

PLUS GREAT VALUES ON ELECTRONIC TOYS & GAMES

Challenging Electronic Games for One and All!

As Seen on TV

7.95 to 49.95

Pocket Repeat. Reg. 10.95. #60-2152 ..... Sale $7.95
Hold-Up™ LCD Game Watch. #60-2173 ..... $19.95
LCD Blackjack. #60-2167 ..... $19.95
Tandy-12 Computerized Arcade. #60-2159 ..... $19.95
Electronic Space Shot. #60-2166 ..... $19.95
2-Player Football. Reg. 29.95. #60-2156 ..... Sale $19.95
Cosmic Fire-Away Watch. #60-2174 ..... $24.95
1000 Fire-Away. Reg. 39.95 #60-2165 ..... Sale $29.95
Hungry Monster™. #60-2171 ..... $39.95
Caveman. #60-2172 ..... $39.95
Cosmic 2000 Fire-Away. #60-2170 ..... $39.95
Sensory Chess. #60-2176 ..... $49.95

Batteries extra, except #60-2173, #60-2174

6-in-1 TV Game Cut $10

TV SCOREBOARD® by Radio Shack

25% Off 29.95 Reg. 39.95

Attaches Easily to any TV

Play Skeet, Target, Tennis, Squash, Hockey or Practice. On-screen scoring, sound effects. "45" lightbeam pistol. #60-3061

Batteries extra

Cuddly, Pettable Portable Radios

By Realistic

Built-In AM Radios

12.95 to 15.95

Cuddly Cat. #12-983 ..... $12.95
Pekingese. #12-967 ..... $13.95
Raccoon. #12-971 ..... $13.95
White Terrier. #12-977 ..... $13.95
Country Mouse. #12-975 ..... $14.95
Chow Dog. #12-986 ..... $15.95

Batteries extra

As Seen on TV

Thrill-a-Minute Radio-Controlled Vehicles

By Radio Shack

11.95 to 59.95

Corvette. #60-3082 ..... $11.95
Porsche K-3. #60-3076 ..... $14.95
Mustang. #60-3078 ..... $19.95
Lamborghini. #60-3043 ..... $29.95
Sherman Tank. #60-3037 ..... $39.95
Stingray. #60-3079 ..... $39.95
Renault. #60-3080 ..... $49.95
Land Cruiser. #60-3081 ..... $59.95

All operate on 27 MHz, except #60-3078, 49 MHz. Batteries extra

Kid's Walkie-Talkie

Space Patrol® by Archer

9.95 Each

- No License Required
- 49.8 MHz Operation

Terrific outdoor fun for kids! With code key and Morse code chart. Locking talk button, flexible antenna. #60-4005

Battery extra

Toys to Brighten Any Kid's Christmas

Holiday Bug. Special Purchase. #60-2381 ..... $3.99
ZOOM Cycle. #60-1060 ..... $4.95
Draw Poker. Special Purchase. #60-2351 ..... $5.95
FM Microphone. #60-2109 ..... $6.95
Monkey See Calculator. Special Purchase. #60-1013 ..... $7.95
Lamborghini. #60-2377 ..... $7.99
Fireman Helmet. #60-3005 ..... $7.99
Metal Detector. Reg. 19.95. #60-3003 ..... Sale $14.95
Electronic Organ. #60-1022 ..... $19.95

3.99 to 19.95

Low-Priced Gifts for All the Youngsters on Your Shopping List!

Batteries extra

Check Your Phone Book for the Radio Shack Store or Dealer Nearest You

PRICES MAY VARY AT INDIVIDUAL STORES AND DEALERS

A DIVISION OF TANDY CORPORATION