

Bruinsma: Young Man on the Move



ON THE MOVE . . . A young man going places is Congressional nominee Ted Bruinsma as he strides out to meet his next group of Torrance voters. The 41-year-old San Pedro businessman-attorney is endeavoring to contact personally the majority of 17th District voters before Nov. 6.

There's a new world's record being set in Torrance these days and if you can shake hands you may become a part of all this history-making.

By Nov. 6 it appears that a greater percentage of 17th Congressional District voters will have personally met and discussed issues with their candidate than in any other part of the globe.

In an age when government figures seem to be concentrating on their "electronic images" and the best ways to woo the biggest blocks of voters, Torrance is seeing an unusual revival of the old-fashioned door-to-door, person-to-person political campaign.

"I was astounded," reports John Fedor, founder and first president of Local 5403 of the United Steel Workers' Union who lives at 1522 Amapola St., Torrance. "This man knocked on my door and said he had been nominated to run in the November election to become my congressman. He told me what he thought we need now in national government and asked for my ideas. I didn't think the politicians cared about individuals anymore."

THE EARNEST man on Fedor's doorstep is fast becoming Torrance's best known figure.

His name is Ted Bruinsma. He's 41 years old, a nationally-known attorney and former president of a South Bay electronics company. This spring, unhappy with events in Cuba, with the state of economy, and with the lack of representation given this community back in Washington, Bruinsma filed for the 17th District congressional seat.

"GOVERNMENT is getting too big and too remote," Bruinsma says. "If people stop feeling they have an effective voice in their government, then we lose democracy. In the last few years the man we have sent to Congress to be our voice hasn't even bothered to come home and learn how we feel. I decided it was time we had a congressman who brought back representative government. Nobody else was doing anything about it so I tackled the job. I gathered up my ideas and started out talking to people."

Bruinsma's "talking to people" results in a 14-hour day and takes him out into the San Pedro fishing docks, into the Torrance factories, in the Gardena nursery farms, the union halls, private homes, shopping centers, any place there are people who show a concern for their future.

Over the Labor Day weekend Bruinsma personally shook hands and exchanged viewpoints with more than 2500 local residents. And he wore out an alternating team of assistants in the process.

"RIGHT NOW, more people know Ted Bruinsma is running for Congress than can tell you the name of their present congressman without looking it up in the World Almanac," says John Christman, San Pedro insurance executive who serves as the Bruinsma campaign director. "We've found that the voters are literally starved for a chance to talk about the vital issues of government. No one likes to be ignored."

Ted Bruinsma has set himself the goal of personally meeting every voter in the 17th District before the No-

ember election. "I may have to resort to the telephone for some of my personal calls, but I'm still going to prove that a congressman can keep in close touch with the voters even in 1962, if he'll just work at it."

Bruinsma's direct approach to the man-in-the-street has caused some unusual reactions.

IN MANY instances people at first refuse to believe that a congressional nominee would seek them out on a personal basis. Bruinsma on several occasions has had to produce his driver's license to prove that he really was himself.

One dignified and elderly lady ran down the street ahead of him shouting "Meet your next congressman! Here he comes!" Bruinsma had only met her 30 seconds before.

To date Bruinsma has kissed no babies. "I have four children at home," he explains. "I think this has given me the baby's point of view and I respect it."

ON TWO different occasions Bruinsma has had his campaign literature thrown back in his face, accompanied by strongly critical comments. "It's healthy," he says. "Every elected official or would-be official could use the humility of that experience."

Ted Bruinsma says that getting out to meet the people is "the most exhilarating experience anyone can ever have."

"Our present national leaders just don't realize how far ahead in their thinking the average voter is. I've found more concern, more courage, more desire to keep our freedom here in Torrance in one day than Washington has demonstrated for the past year."

BRUINSMA is working harder to expose his ideas than any congressional candidate ever has in the 17th District,

according to oldtime political observers.

Ted Bruinsma is used to hard work. Son of a carpenter, Ted worked his way through college, through Harvard Business School, and Harvard Law School. He served four years in the Navy during World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. He worked his way up to general counsel of a 70-million dollar corporation at the age of 33, despite a second interruption in his career for more Navy service during Korea.

At the age of 34 Ted was president of his own electronics company. He's been a city councilman, school board member, director of the Community Chest.

"PEOPLE TELL me I'm not the kind of guy you usually find in politics," Bruinsma says. "But I figure it's time, maybe past time, we all took more interest. Between now and Nov. 6th I'm going to spend all my time telling people just that."

Keep your handshake ready. Here comes Bruinsma!



ON THE STREET . . . Taking his campaign outdoors, Ted Bruinsma stops to discuss rising living costs and high taxes with Torrance resident Dave Atteridge.



AT HOME . . . Mrs. Mickey Kinniman, 1512 Aeacia Ave., and her young daughter, Kim, open the front door to find their caller is Congressional nominee Ted Bruinsma. Mrs. Kinniman has shared an experience that has come to thousands in the 17th Congressional District recently.

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