

Republicans Blast DAG Platform, See Property Tax Rise

By Thomas W. Lippman
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Montgomery County Republicans charged yesterday that the Democratic Action Group's platform would cost \$25 million to implement and would force a property tax increase of \$1.09.

At a press conference in Bethesda, State Republican Vice Chairman Don R. Kendall also said that this year's crop of Democratic candidates is controlled by the same "fiscal boobs who set something of a record for tax increases" from 1958 to 1962.

"People tend to forget the old Council," he said. "They're offering use a repeat performance and if they are elected, everyone should be equipped with a mask and a gun—we'll all have to rob banks to pay our taxes."

Cites Cahoon, Frosh

Kendall said that Democrats elected in 1958 increased taxes at the rate of 31.4 per cent a year when they were in office.

"Two members of that fa-

mous high-spending Council are candidates for the General Assembly this year," he said, "David Cahoon and Stanley Frosh. Another who contributed to that record was Rose Kramer, then of the Board of Education and now a contender for the Council in her own right. Others active in the leadership of the Party now as then include Blair Lee III, Margaret Schweinhaut and Rita Davidson."

David Wolfe, chairman of County Republican Research Committee, which supplied the estimate, said he had not broken the DAG platform down into individual planks but was calculating "the minimum total cost."

The Republicans, Kendall said, "have no quarrel with the goal of better services but there must be priorities. We haven't set our priorities yet."

Kendall also made the first attempt in the current campaign to defend the record of the present Republican-dominated Council, which the Party's candidates have repudiated.

The Council, he said, has "tightened up its fiscal procedures." He also said the Council inherited its zoning problems from the Democrats.

Wolfe said the fiscal calculations take into account the expiration of the County income tax, which is to be collected for the first and only time in April unless it is extended by the Legislature. The present Council adopted the three-quarters of 1 per cent tax when it reduced the property tax by 11 cents.

That income tax rapidly is becoming an election issue.

Lee and Mrs. Schweinhaut, State Senate candidates from District 3-B, announced yesterday that they "will oppose any continuation of the County income tax" if they are elected.

The Nonpartisans for a Better Montgomery County chimed in with the charge that the income tax provides lucrative windfalls for large landowners at the expense of the average citizen, and pledged a review of the tax.

Rita Davidson, speaking for the Democratic Council candidates, said the Republican Council actually has increased taxes through the imposition of the income tax and has failed to increase the services.