PS1 for 7/21/88#THE ISSUES GRASSROOTS AMERICANS CARE ABOUT

Major news gathering services are now polling the Delegates to the Republican National Convention to identify their views on current issues. Many of these surveys won't get the correct answers, however, because they don't ask the right questions.

The (BF)Los Angeles Times(end BF) survey, for example, queries the Delegates for their views on a dozen specific issues including Iran-Contra, Central America, the Middle East, hunger and homelessness, and the federal deficit. Those are the issues the media like to talk about, but those are not the issues that Middle America cares most about.

For a look at which issues are most on the minds of grassroots voters, let's read the platform adopted by the Republican Party of Texas at its state convention on June 11. The Texas Platform covers in detail at least 20 issues which the (BF)Los Angeles Times(end BF) didn't even mention.

In the section on the Family, Texas Republicans proclaimed their belief that ""the family is a God-ordained institution, and should be defined as those persons related by blood, heterosexual marriage or adoption.'' Further, Texas Republicans believe that ""marriage between a male and female is the foundation of our society and promotes the general welfare of our nation''; and they call for ""laws preserving, rather than weakening marriages.''

The Texas Republican Party recognizes parental authority about sex education and calls on the Texas Legislature ""to mandate the teaching of abstinence in every public school sex-education/health course as the only safe and healthy means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases, spread of the AIDS virus and illegitimate pregnancies.'' The party opposes ""school-based clinics that dispense condoms and contraceptives and refer for, aid in, or advise minors to have

abortions.''

The section on homosexuality is blunt. Texas Republicans assert their belief that ""the practice of sodomy leads to the breakdown of the family unit and spread of the deadly disease AIDS.'' The platform calls on federal, state and local levels to enforce all laws with respect to homosexual conduct, and says that ""homosexuality should not be presented as an acceptable alternative lifestyle in our public schools.''

Texas Republicans proclaim that ""the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed upon except when the mother's physical life is in danger.'' They emphatically oppose the use of tax monies or facilities for abortion. They also support ""the elimination of public funding for organizations which advocate or support abortion.''

The Texas Republican Platform identifies and opposes the trendy liberal attempt to establish government-controlled ""Early Childhood Development programs in the public schools, patterned after the Swedish model.'' The resolution warns that ""such programs are designed to bring about a comprehensive, taxpayer-funded, federally controlled and regulated system of educational, psychological and physical development for all children from birth.''

Texas Republicans oppose ""any child care initiatives or funding at the federal or state level which do not allow parents to freely choose who will care for their children.'' Texas Republicans support an increase in the income tax deduction for children and extension of the child care credit to parents who care for their own children, proposals which would keep child care free from governmental interference.

Texas Republicans affirm their support for the right of parents to homeschool their children without governmental control. The platform

also endorses a federal income tax deduction for families which gives parents ""full freedom to choose the very best school for their children's education.''

In national defense, Texas Republicans support ""peace through strength'' and both the development and the deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative to defend the United States against deliberate or accidental nuclear attack. Texas Republicans urge ""the restoration of military and humanitarian assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance in order to achieve a free Nicaragua.''

In foreign affairs, Texas Republicans support ""a worldwide policy to prevent the spread of Communism.'' Texas Republicans advocate the resignation of the U.S.A. as the host nation of the United Nations and the withdrawal of our financial support ""until such time as its security is enhanced against its use for spying and each member nation contributes its fair share to the support of the United Nations.''

There is much, much more than we have space to report in this column. But it is clear that Middle America's real concerns have not yet been discovered by Big Media.