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Marbut and Dussault speak at University of Montana

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MISSOULA--

State Senator Eddie Dussault and Rep. Gary R. Marbut, candidates for lieutenant governor, spoke before a joint meeting of the American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors at the University of Montana Thursday, May 2. The meeting was open to the public. Dussault is running on the Democratic ticket, and Marbut is a Republican.

Marbut spoke on the urgent need for resource development in Montana, particularly in the areas of coal and water. He pointed out that the mineral resources of the Soviet Union do not equal those of the State of Montana, and discussed the close relationship between resource use and industrial-population growth in the state.

Referring to Montana as the "Treasure Chest of the West," Marbut emphasized the extensive coal resources available in the state. He said there are nearly 60 potential strip mining sites in 17 eastern Montana counties.

Marbut also stressed the necessity of legislation in the area of strip mining, so that development "might be given equal attention to conservation, restoration and aesthetic values." This would help the state avoid the serious problems encountered by other states, he said.

Marbut urged support of comprehensive legislation to provide a flexible mechanism for the development of water resources.

Dussault's speech dealt with education, which he termed "the key to a better tomorrow."

"We must stress education at all levels," he said.

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Dussault commended the founders of the Headstart Program and said he is highly in favor of adult education and vocational-technical training. He added that special education for the physically handicapped and mentally retarded in Montana has been neglected in many areas.

"We must never again permit an austerity program as we experienced in the early 1960s," said Dussault, referring to a cutback in education funds in the Montana legislature in 1961. He said Montana is only now recovering from this "backward movement," which was the fault of the state government administration in office during that time.

Dussault called for the elimination of poverty and social unrest by a well-informed society.