

# Former state Sen. Bob Schmitz is Mike Hatch's running mate

DFL gubernatorial candidate Mike Hatch announced Sunday that he has chosen former state Sen. ~~Bob Schmitz~~ of Jordan as his running mate for lieutenant governor. *ST*

Schmitz, 73, is a farmer and former implement dealer who served in the Senate for 16 years. *7/11/94*

He retired in 1990, saying he had grandchildren to see and a farm to tend. But the DFLer said Sunday that he agreed to run with Hatch because he thinks rural Minnesota is

being overlooked by candidates on other DFL tickets and by Gov. Arne Carlson.

"Half the state's population lives in rural areas or small cities," he said. "I think those people have been forgotten."

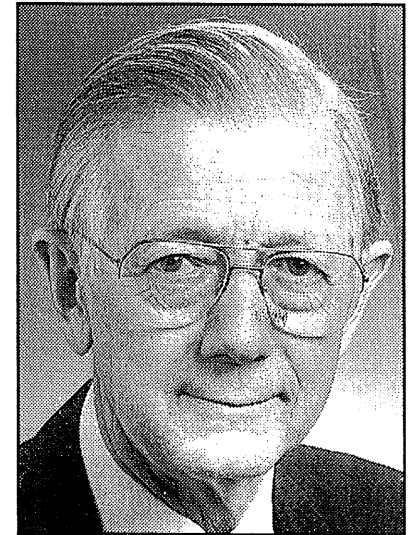
As chairman of the Senate's Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, Schmitz sponsored a bill to compensate veterans and families who were victims of Agent Orange.

He also was chairman of the Local Government Committee.

Hatch said he chose Schmitz for his knowledge of rural issues.

Schmitz has won repeated elections as a DFLer in a Republican area and is the only farmer running on any DFL gubernatorial ticket, Hatch said.

Schmitz and his wife, Grace, have five children.



Former DFL Sen. Bob Schmitz