



Rep. Eldon Warkentin

The newest member of the Minnesota House is Eldon Warkentin, an Independent-Republican from Coon Rapids, Minn., who won the April 4 special election in District 49B.

He will assume the seat vacated by former Rep. Joel Jacobs, who was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Gov. Arne Carlson. Jacobs was serving his 12th term in the House.

## New House member

IR candidates continue to dominate special elections in recent years, taking the last 15 legislative contests, and 35 of 45 special elections dating to 1971.

Warkentin received 48.8 percent of the vote in a three-way race. DFL candidate Luanne Koskinen received 39 percent, and Independence Party standard bearer Deb Skogen received 11.7 percent. A total of 4,690 votes were cast.

A licensed public accountant, Warkentin and his wife, Esther, have three children and six grandchildren. In addition to membership in several professional groups, Warkentin serves as

executive chairman of the Coon Rapids Evangelical Free Church.

"Serving the voters of District 49B would be another form of serving the public as I have done throughout my life," said Warkentin. I look forward to the hard work and responsibility required of a state representative."

Warkentin is expected to receive his committee assignments after he is sworn in April 10.

With his election, the House now has 70 DFL members and 64 Independent-Republican members.