

Power keeps door open to political future

By TIM RICHARD
Phil Power for governor in 1982? That's the speculation in the outside Booth Newspapers.
Phil Power as assistant secretary of state for China affairs? That's the rumor in an Oakland county weekly.
Phil Power for Congress in 1980? That's the gossip among some Republicans in the 2nd Congressional District.
"PREMATURE," said Power of the political discussions. "I'm looking at some highly interesting things politically and from the standpoint of business."
Still on leave as board chairman of Suburban Communications Corp., parent of the 12 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Power was contacted in his new Ann Arbor office, where he said he was "putting to bed" the files of

his 1978 bid for the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination and Secretary of State Richard Austin's successful re-election bid.
Power ran second in a five-man race in the August primary, taking about 20 percent of the vote. His campaign was marked by constant questions about his wealth and his lack of visible experience in party affairs.
Four years he had been a behind-the-scenes person — involved in the machinations that made Sander Levin state Democratic chairman, a four-figure contributor to Coleman Young's mayoral campaign and his wife's politicking.
SINCE AUGUST, his Democratic Party activity has been more visible.
Power was Austin's campaign manager. Austin was elected to a third four-

analysis

year term by a 2-1 margin over Republican Mel Larsen, who is the likely the next state GOP chairman.
"I'm volunteering in Jamie Kenworthy's campaign for mayor of Ann Arbor," said Power. Ann Arbor is one of the few home rule cities in Michigan which still has partisan elections. The contest is in April.
"With respect to China: I have been there, but it isn't true. I haven't talked to the State Department about a China assignment, and they haven't talked to me," he said.
He referred to a trip there in 1976 with a University of Michigan con-

tingent, including his wife Sarah, a U-M regent.
He was aware U.S. Ambassador to China Leonard Woodcock was due to speak last night in Dearborn but was planning to be out of town and wouldn't attend.
POWER'S BIGGEST project has been fighting a freedom of the press battle in the arena of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
He was involved in a UNESCO conference in Paris in December. "We were successful in stopping a Russian

resolution. The Russian resolution would set down an internal code to give a legal basis for countries to throw out American correspondents they didn't like and sanction government control of the press," he said.
Power describes himself as "an unofficial observer and activist" in UNESCO matters. Mrs. Power chairs a United States commission to UNESCO. "She and I and others held a series of briefing meetings for New York Times and Washington Post correspondent types. We got the World Press Freedom Council cranked up to keep a fire under the State Department," he said.
The press freedom issue keeps popping up. Communist and "third world" nations view education as a function of the state and the press as an arm of education — hence as a function of the state. American correspondents contin-

ually fight the notion they are tools of the U.S. government.
The battle is constant — thus the efforts to "keep a fire" under the State Department.
AN OCCASIONAL correspondent for the late Chicago Daily News during his graduate student days in Oxford, Power has worried long about the problem.
The Chinese almost dropped him from the visitors list when they found he was a newspaperman. He contented himself with being the husband of a university official in order to make the trip.
When Jimmy Carter was elected president in 1976, Power wrote his reactions about the peaceful changing of the guard from Nairobi, Kenya, where again he was working to beat down the Russian resolution.

One short step toward wider OL Road

The Oakland County Road Commission's ill-fated Orchard Lake Road widening project moved one small step closer to completion last week.
Road Commission Chairman Fred Houghten decided to give the road commission the needed 27 feet of property that he owns along the route. The property is at the southwest corner of the Orchard Lake and Maple roads. The property will not change hands until after a federally required appraisal is completed.
The widening of Orchard Lake Road from Twelve Mile Road to Maple has been put off until next year. Houghten has long complained that federal red tape is causing undue delays in beginning construction. The road commission is only now beginning to acquire right of way along Orchard Lake Road.
Much of the property needed remains to be appraised, Houghten said.

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