

18th District

Dem underdog faces off against GOP veteran

By Tim Richard
staff writer

"I don't know the man. I haven't met the man. I wouldn't recognize the man," complained Democratic candidate Allen Sipher.

"He's the phantom candidate as far as I'm concerned. I don't know what's in his mind, but he must feel very, very safe," said the Farmington Hills businessman.

Sipher referred to Republican William Broomfield, seeking his 14th term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

SIPHER MAY be right about Broomfield's feeling safe.

Last year a political guide book called Broomfield's old 19th District "arguably the strongest Republican district in the state."

In reappointment, Democrats in the Michigan Legislature made the new 18th District even more strongly Republican, virtually writing off Broomfield as unbeatable.

The 18th includes Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, the

Farmington community, the southwest corner of Oakland County, most of Troy, greater Rochester and the northeastern townships, plus a few townships in Livingston and Macomb counties.

Commented Broomfield: "I couldn't be happier if someone had said, 'Bill, sit down and draw yourself a map.'"

Instead, Democrats are targeting Republican Jim Dunn's 6th District, which now extends as far as Pontiac, and a couple of other outstate districts.

BROOMFIELD FEELS safe enough to spend time helping first-term Dunn, who faces a stiff challenge from former Congressman Bob Carr.

"I make a lot of appearances," he said one evening after a pep talk to the Republican organization executive committee. "I've been to (state Sen. Donald) Bishop's phone center to thank the volunteers and went door-to-door with Bishop in Waterford. I'm speaking to the Ulica Kiwanis."

"Earlier tonight I was at the Farmington Hunt Club, and I'm going to the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club to meet



Allen Sipher, in one place

with businessmen. I'll be at the Headlee party at the Silverdome. And I have an appearance to help a legislative candidate in Milford."

Sipher was left to debate alone at a TV station, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, American Civil Liberties Union, National Organization of Women and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"I'M NOT GOING to kid myself," said Sipher one evening over cider at a meeting in a West Bloomfield Township home.

"I am hoping to get 40 percent of the vote. Democrats got 30 percent of the vote for governor. If he (Broomfield) doesn't do as good as Headlee, it will send him a message."

Broomfield, 60, may be something of a political institution. The Royal Oak native once sold insurance and served in the Michigan Legislature from 1949-56. In Washington, he landed on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he is now the ranking minority member.

At any one moment, Broomfield can tick off a long list of important meetings with the president, secretary of state and disarmament negotiators he attends which keep him from local meetings.

Broomfield himself espouses no personal view of foreign affairs. He has a reputation for going along in a bipartisan way with whatever administration is in office.

THIS YEAR Broomfield has won a couple of victories for Ronald Reagan. One was to replace a nuclear freeze resolution with a disarmament negotiations proposal. Broomfield's substitute won by two votes.

The other was to support Reagan on sanctions against the Soviet natural-gas pipeline into western Europe. The Republican won that by four votes.

"They call me 'Landslide Broomfield,'" he quipped, to great laughter from his Republican audience, but the veteran congressman followed with a serious message:

"If we get down 30 or 40 seats in Congress, it's going to be difficult to put together a coalition."

Hence the strenuous effort of Broomfield and the Oakland GOP organization to save Jim Dunn's seat.

SIPHER, MAKING his first bid for public office, is a product of the suburban anti-war movement of the '60s and '70s. Unlike Broomfield, Sipher is for a nuclear weapons freeze.

"We have enough arms and missiles to annihilate each country several times over. I fear some sort of verbal



William Broomfield in the other

confrontation where someone will pull a trigger," he said. "The Russians have ruined their economy with the escalation of armaments. They should be producing food."

Sipher became disenchanted with President Lyndon Johnson's promises of both guns and butter in the Vietnam war days. "He didn't have the guts to pay for it," Sipher said of the LBJ deficit.

Raised in Detroit, Sipher earned a business administration degree at Wayne State University. "Because I was raised in the depression, I felt I needed a vocational education," he said.

"I'm a history buff. Ten to 15 years ago, I went back for graduate credit in history." He has read a lot of Upton Sinclair and Will Durant. A friend describes him as also a "news junkie" who tapes news programs when he can't be around to see them.

FOR 31 YEARS Sipher has run a telephone answering service. It not only provides him a steady income, but helps him keep his finger on the socioeconomic pulse of suburbia.

"We seem to service people in a certain phase: Either going up or going down. We have a new market of men who were in middle management and forced out because of early retirements or job eliminations. They go into business for themselves as consultants, sometimes to the companies they used to work for."

"It's scary. They should be at the peak of their earning power. Now their wives are having to work."

The villain, in Sipher's demagogic, is the boom-bust cycle of the American economy. He is unabashedly a Keynesian who would run a budget surplus when times are good and a deficit when they're bad. In contrast to Democratic liberals who have a reputation for running deficits all the time, Sipher promises, "I'll raise taxes if I have to."

BROOMFIELD SAID the long string of federal deficits was exactly the reason he voted for the unsuccessful constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget each year.

"I wasn't gung-ho for putting this in the Constitution," said Broomfield, a moderate conservative who gets 80s from the American Conservative Union. "It's unfortunate members don't have the responsibility to control spending."

"We have to point our fingers at the Congress. It's obvious to me Democrats are not interested in balancing the budget. The issue is a constitutional amendment to restrain Congress and the old ways — to spend and spend, tax and tax."

"Programs get started, and more and more is added. Take food stamps, for example. That started at \$500 million, and now it's at \$30 billion. The president is for helping the needy, but not the greedy."

ALTHOUGH REPUBLICANS see the current bull market on Wall Street as a sign of an impending recovery, Sipher is wary.

"This is the result of supply-side economics," he said. "It said: 'If we give a break to the wealthy corporations and individuals, they'll invest it.'"

"It doesn't work. If your plant is 30 percent idle, you're not going to invest it. You buy bonds. U.S. Steel, which is far behind Germany and Japan, all these years has never modernized. They bought Marathon Oil. That didn't create jobs. We're trading existing stocks."

"The reverse of supply-side is demand-side economics. Instead of hoping for a tax breaks policy for investment, you give it to the \$12,000 to \$15,000 incomes. They'll spend it on goods. Now that's the Keynesian economic philosophy."

County campaign

Solid waste is his big issue

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Oakland County Commissioner Alexander Perinoff, D-Southfield, says he's been harping on the need for solid waste disposal for at least 18 years.

He has been a member of the county board of commissioners since 1969 and before that was a member of its predecessor body, the county board of supervisors.

Seeking re-election Nov. 2 to another two-year term, Perinoff, 69, still considers solid waste management a priority and espouses the new county disposal plan.

His 21st district includes the south end of Southfield and one square mile of Farmington.

The Southfield attorney said he has for many years been concerned about the growing scarcity of landfills.

"Because of my concern, I have served on the committee for solid waste management and the county has finally come up with a good incineration plan," he said. "But the plan must be approved by 67 percent of Oakland

County communities in order to be implemented."

"A PROPOSED incinerator plant in Pontiac will have the capacity to burn 1,200 tons of rubbish a day and the waste materials can be converted to steam and electricity. The plan also includes two subsidiary units near industries."

Public transportation is another issue Perinoff sees as vital. He opposed a recent proposal that the county withdraw from the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) and go into its own business of providing buses.

"The county isn't geared for mass transit which costs millions of dollars," he said. "We can, however, be a lot of help within the framework of SEMTA."

"No transportation system is financed by fares. SEMTA isn't self-supporting and needs subsidizing by the state. The economic climate isn't right, but we can't back down now."



Alexander Perinoff

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She fights for solution to the MIA question

By Doug Funke
staff writer

Sue Scott, a Troy mother of three sons, has a dream.

Some day, she hopes, all 2,500 U.S. servicemen still missing in action in Southeast Asia, will be accounted for — one way or another.

And, at the same time, she hopes that the uncertainty and anguish of family and friends wondering about the fate of their loved ones will be solved.

Scott, president of the Prisoner of War Committee, Michigan, is working toward those goals.

"This could touch every American," she said. "They can't afford not to get involved. I have three sons, and I certainly hope they won't have to experience what my brother may have experienced."

Her brother, Capt. Douglas Ferguson, only a few years out of the Air Force Academy, was shot down and lost Dec. 30, 1969, in Laos.

Ferguson has officially been declared killed in action by the U.S. government, as have virtually all MIAs.

"I THINK IT'S imperative we all become involved, not just because of my brother," Scott said. "Three hundred eighty-nine men (MIAs) were left behind in Korea. Now there are 2,500 in southeast Asia not accounted for."

"We're talking of a history of leaving Americans behind," she said. "How can our government ask people to serve their country and not stand behind them?"

Scott said she's convinced a great majority of American servicemen missing in action are, in fact, dead. However, she's just as sure some are alive.

"There have been too many live sightings, far too many, which have been polygraphed (witness statements substantiated)," Scott said.

Most of the sightings, she said, were made by refugees, boat people, in the middle and late 1970s, and by foreign journalists.

The U.S. government is even showing more of an interest now, Scott said.

"AFTER 34 YEARS they have finally changed their attitude and they said there's been so much evidence there are live Americans," she said. "It's coming right from Reagan."

Scott said the safe return of all American hostages from Iran nearly two years ago, and more recently, the releasing of some "American" children to their fathers in this country has helped raise the MIA question again.

Different countries appear to have different reasons for holding on to MIAs, Scott said.

Good public relations and world opinion is sought by Vietnam, she said, while Laos has expressed an interest in economic aid.

That information was also given to Congress by a four-person delegation from the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia which visited Laos and Vietnam last September.

THE UNITED STATES may best respond, Scott said, by making fewer demands and accusations and taking a more conciliatory posture.

"I'm not sure our government has shown a genuine, serious interest in negotiating. I think that's turning around now," she said.

Scott described the Prisoner of War Committee, Michigan, as both a lobbying and support group.

"We're more a lobby group, but a lot of support takes place," she said. "When one's interest or spirit is dragging, someone else picks up the slack and we're able to continue or someone new comes in all fired up."

One of the group's big goals is to keep the memory of missing servicemen in the public eye.

"I think there has to be a mandate from the American people," Scott said.

"WRITE LETTERS, post cards and petitions to the president. He is sensitive, he is a political person. I think we have to try everything."

She suggests writing other national leaders, as well as foreign delegations to the United Nations in New York.

Scott said POWs who have been released talk about how much it meant to them to hear through the prison grapevine of concern for their welfare back home.

"One of the things that keeps me going is the ingenuity of the POWs. They taught one another courses — literature, auto mechanics, French, Spanish. It was incredible," she said.

"They are so creative and can draw on so much strength, strength most Americans don't know because it hasn't been tested."

"I really don't feel I'm grasping at straws," Scott said. "If you don't reach for the stars you won't ever get to the moon."

If you want to contact the Prisoner of War Committee, Michigan, write to P.O. Box 312, Union Lake, 48085.

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