

Astronaut stumps for U.S. Senate

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"carpetbagger" tag he seems to have acquired with certain influential GOP figures, who favor Dumas.

Lousma's also studying his possible opponent — Carl Levin, who's finishing up his first term in the senate.

"Carl, I understand, is a very honest guy and a hard worker," Lousma said. "I look forward to meeting him."

"On the other hand, I've noticed that he has the second most liberal voting record in the senate, and that's out of step with the conservative Michigan people. He seems to me to be very undistinguished."

Lousma, who calls himself "moderately conservative," said he

supports President Ronald Reagan on "most of his initiatives."

"I think he's been good for the country," Lousma said.

LOUSMA MENTIONED Michigan's slack economy when asked to discuss some issues likely to surface in the campaign.

"My background is in defense and high technology, and I'd like to see some of that kind of business in Michigan," he said. "The business climate has been found to be the sixth worst in the nation. Of course, this has to be changed from within, by state government."

"But if the business climate in Michi-

gan were better, I could be more helpful in bringing more high technology industry in."

As qualifications, Lousma listed dedication to his job, a "strong religious belief which has been part of my character for years" and a certain worldliness acquired through his activities in the Marine Corps and space program.

"I've travelled all over the world, and I've been comfortable in the presence of the leadership of other countries," he said.

Earlier, in a whirlwind tour of the Detroit area, Lousma lunched with Farmington Hills insurance executive Richard Headlee, who lost in a bid to become Michigan's governor in 1982,

met Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy and made numerous television appearances.

"I'm fully supportive of him," said Farmington Hills councilman Donn Wolf, who is active in local Republican politics. "He's retired from the Marines now, but I'd like to put him right back to work for the government. It would be to our advantage to have him in the senate."

Burnham said that "2 1/2 to 3 million" must be raised for the campaign.

Lousma, who stands 6-foot-1, said he enjoys golf, hunting and fishing, as well as flying airplanes.

"Right now I'm flying jets, but I'll fly anything you've got," he said.

City eyes downtown spruce up

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the new management.

Now the city has stepped in with its program.

TWO OF the largest expenditures will affect the downtown redevelopment: \$18,800 for downtown beautification and \$15,000 for a study of downtown parking.

Included in the beautification plans is the first phase of a multi-year project that includes landscaping, pedestrian rest areas, rubble dumps, poster enclosures, lighting improvements and tree plantings, Deadman said.

"The purpose of this project is to improve the appeal of the central business district shopping center to assure its viability when competing with major shopping malls in the area."

Deadman linked the future success of the shopping center with the availability of parking.

"Major changes have occurred in the design and use of automobiles and public transportation systems in the past 10 years. For this reason, a periodic study of parking trends and the availability of parking must be done."

THE STUDY will examine the use of

parking facilities and make recommendations for changes or additions to these facilities, he said.

Over the years, suggestions have been made to build a parking ramp. Downtown Farmington parking is free on the street and in the mall parking lots.

Another portion of the program will include \$10,000 to complete the Farmington Road sidewalk from downtown Farmington to Nine Mile, on the west side of Farmington Road.

"The new walkway will provide a walkway for the handicapped and senior citizens who reside at the Commu-

nity Living center and the Kingslane and Country Estates Apartments," Deadman said.

Many of these persons depend on walking downtown to buy food, drugs, use medical services and the library, Deadman said.

Another part of the program will involve spending \$5,000 to continue the sidewalk handicapped ramp program.

"This funding level should complete the sidewalk ramp program and thereby provide all of the sidewalks at street intersections with handicapped barrier-free ramps."

Mayor's resignation surprises colleagues

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Organization in Morristown, N.J.

"I kind of had to balance the aspirations," he said, adding he had mixed emotions about taking the position because he is "kind of disappointed to leave the community."

Hughes said he decided to run for re-election even though he had his eye on a new position with the reorganized phone company because "Things were so indefinite at the job that there was no way I was going to take a chance of not being on the council."

But as the phone company's official Jan. 1 break-up date approached, "It looked pretty much as all the positions had been filled. I thought there would

be no opportunity . . ."

"IT WAS kind of a pleasant surprise," added Hughes, who climbed the ladder of the telephone company's financial department, ending his stay in the Detroit area as a division manager.

Although few words were spoken from the stunned council, several members congratulated Hughes, referring to the shock and surprise they felt at the news they never expected to hear.

"I think you stand among the best of the mayors we have had," said a tearful Jodi Soronen. "And I am going to miss you."

Although Hughes did not specify a date for his resignation, council members will be faced with appointing someone to serve in his place until the next

general election in November.

THE FORMER eight-year Planning Commission veteran was first elected to the City Council in 1901 and served as mayor for one year in 1983.

Hughes, 53, started his career with Michigan Bell in 1947 as a mail messenger. He then moved on to the business office and then the revenues department in 1964 as a staff supervisor. From 1979-82 he served as the telephone company's general internal auditor in the finance and comptroller's department.

But Hughes told council members Monday that his new position is "a rotation kind of thing," and "I hope and I am planning to return to Farmington Hills after my stay in New Jersey."

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