Should U.S. Rep. William Broom-field, R-Birmingham, hear from his 18th District constituents at regular public hearings and town meetings like those held by U.S. Rep. Sandor Levin in the neighboring 17th?

Levin in the neighboring 17th?
One area group — activists opposed to President Reagan's and Broomfield's positions on Central America — has been calling for such public hearings on that particular issue.

Levin, demonstrating an outreach pproach, thinks public meetings are

approach, thinks public meetings are vital.

Broomfield doesn't think they're necessary and doesn't hold them. Constituents must contact him. Broomfield, who describes the 18th a "a letter writing district," feels public meetings on specific top-les, of the period of the constituents.

I take very seriously the public meetings on specific top-les, of the period of the constituents.

I take very seriously the public repairs in the district. I've never taken that for granted," said Broomfield in a telephone interview from his Washington office Tuesday.

But daily visits to Washington by constituents, letters, twice-amonth weekend visits to the district and appointments with individuals at his immigham and Milford offices are enough to do the job, he said.

The 18th District runs west from milford and Lyon as far east a Troy and north to Addison Township. In addition to Birmingham, it includes

West Bloomfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Town-ship and Bloomfield Hills, the villag-es of Franklin, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills, Troy and Rochester.

Beverly Hills, Troy and Rochester.

"I THINK it would be a good idea to run an article and ask how they idensitiuents) feel about my keeping noune." Broomfield said. "I think if you take a look at election results, they reflect that the people of the area are very satisfied (with his representation?

In direct contrast to Broomfield's style of communicating with the people in his district is that of Levin, D-Southfield, in the 17th Congressional District.

Levin holds a series of 14 public meetings and seven "office-hour" seasions at community sites scattered throughout that district each year, according to David Plawecki, Levin's district administrator, "we vary the locations in an attempt to be as close to the people as possi-

Levin's district away the locations in an attempt to be as close to the people as possible," said Plawecki.

Levin also holds several other special programs and forums in the community. Most of the sessions are held on Saturdays and Soudays and draw an average 60-70 people.

"We come away with six to seven new things to work on out of every meeting," Plaweck said.

"CONGRESSMAN LEVIN thinks it's very important for the people to have an opportunity to discuss cur-rent issues with him on a regular ba-sis," Plawecki said.

'I take very seriously the public opinion in the district. I've never taken that for granted.'

- U.S. Rep. Wm. Broomfield



"People are much more comfortable to be able to speak directly to him and not write letters," he said. "People can pose questions and hear his response directly. It helps him maintain a sense of what people are most interested in and gives him some idea of the areas he should focus his concern on in congress." Broomfield receives about 20 letters "on a wide range to stack the said minuterative such a contract the said in the said in the said of mall on the said the said in the said

legislation."
Because Broomfield is the top

GOP on the House Foreign Relations Committee and just served on the House Select Committee that inves-tigated the Iran/Contra scandal, much of his mail this year has been on that issue, said Sinclair. "I think

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we get a full picture of our district."

BROOMFIELD SAID the only request he's had for public hearings quest he's had for public hearings the content of the public hearings and the Reagan administration's policies; in Central America. That group, many of the members who live in Broomfield's district, are represented by the Committee Against Military Aid to El Salvador, the Michigan Interfalth Committee on Central America and the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights.

The group has been staging protests at Broomfield's Birmingham office for many years and has sought meetings with him on many occasions to present its views.

Broomfield has met with representatives of the activities, but not as other as the groups have sought military disappointed that he has not been willing to hold hearings in the district," said Rudy Simons of Bloomfield Township, a group spokesman, "It would expose different viewpoints on Central America,

viewpoints that have not been pub-licly heard in the district." Among those addressing such a hearing, said; Simons, would be local people who have spent time in Nicaragua. "It's clearly something he does not want to have a public discussion" about," Simons continued. "He's not merely another voice in Congress, he's a leader in the Republican con-tra support."

WITH REGARD to the request, roomleld said he has met with them and sees no need for publichearings on the topic. "This has been going on for years," he said. "I'm well aware of their feelings on the situation in Nicaragua."

There's no better source of information on foreign policy issues "than from the intelligence agencies of the United States Government," he added.

"I respect public opinion, but at comes down to I'm always going to to do what I think is best for our country."

Forums will spotlight Constitution

This will be the first of a series of forums on modern day constitutional problems in which the community can participate. Scripts have been crafted by the American Bar Association; they take the form of a trial with the audience as the jury. At the end of the afternoon, the audience will vote on whether the defendant is or is not guilty of violating the U.S.

"The Hight To Bear Arms," a community forum, will launch the Farmington area's observance of the bicentential of the U.S. Constitution. The controversial afterionon is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 24, at the Cornstitution: Roger Sherman, Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills.

surrogate mothers and the right to procreate; the limits of religious expression; and school-sponsored Christmas programs, among others. All will be portrayed by Farmington-area citizens in local settings. The Farmington Area Committee on the Biteentennial of the U.S. Constitution is composed of representatives from the historical commissions of Farmington and Farmington and Farmington and Farmington College, service clubs and patriotic organizations.

If your group does not yet have representation, call Jean Fox, chair-man, 477-6036.

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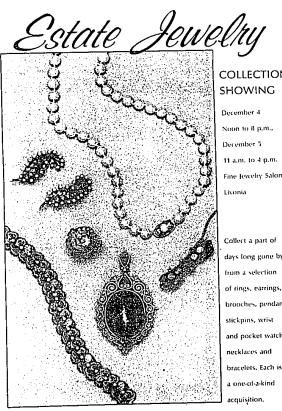
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