

Dunn in GOP Senate contest

In a seven-city swing, Jim Dunn announced last week he would seek the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, hoping for a shot in November at two-term Democratic Sen. Donald W. Riegle.

"I have a record as a person who has produced jobs in both the public and private sector, and I want to be a senator who concentrates his efforts on bringing back to Michigan a larger share of federal dollars," said Dunn, an East Lansing home builder and 6th District congressman from 1981-83.

It will be Dunn's second shot at the senatorial nomination. After losing out due to redistricting in the 1982 election, Dunn tried for the 1984 nomination against former astronaut Jack Louma. With strong party leadership backing, Louma won the nomination.

DUNN MAY have a better shot this year as Republicans, bleeding from intra-party warfare over the national convention delegation, look for a candidate to challenge Riegle.

No one has yet emerged as the party leaders' favorite.

Noted as a free-swinging campaigner in the past, Dunn acknowledged he had made mistakes and said voters will see "a new Jim Dunn."

Dunn, 45, was born in Detroit, raised in Oakland County and settled in East Lansing after attending Michigan State University. During his congressional term he was on the House Science and Veterans Affairs Committee.

He supported the Reagan Administration's 1981 tax cut and the closing of tax "loopholes" without raising rates.

DUNN IS THE fourth candidate to enter the race, behind Detroit lawyer Armand Velardo, former U.S. Rep. Robert Huber of Troy and Birmingham lawyer James L. Elman. His announcement came during campaign stops in Southfield, Flint, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Midland and Bay City.



Jim Dunn in Senate bid

Senate to teaching aids: Fluent English required

Responding to college students' complaints that they can't understand their foreign-born teachers, the Michigan Senate has approved a bill requiring teaching assistants to be fluent in English.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Joseph Conroy, D-Flint, passed the Senate on a vote of 28-3 and now goes to the House. It has passed the Senate previously but never made it through the House.

"The students are paying their money for good service, good education," Conroy said. "I'm convinced there is work being done in the schools to solve this problem. This bill... would be a clear signal (to colleges to continue those efforts)."

Supporters included Sens. Doug

Cruce, R-Troy, William Faust, D-Westland, R. Robert Geake, R-Northville, Rudy Nichols, R-Waterford, and George Hart, D-Deerborn.

OPPOSED WERE Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and two others.

Critics said the bill isn't needed and violates the autonomy of Michigan universities.

"This type of interference," Faxon said, "takes on an onerous and ugly position in the world of international education."

"What we see here is an effort to intrude, an effort to put mediocrity at the center of schools," said Faxon, who owns the private Lycee International School.

Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, who also voted against the bill, called the bill unconstitutional because it would dictate to colleges how to run their affairs.

"I do believe this is an unconstitutional act... It's a slippery slope."

Several colleges already had programs aimed at ensuring that teaching assistants could use English clearly, she said.

The Senate rejected moves — as proposed by the state Board of Education — to extend the provision to all faculty members. It also voted against requiring universities to maintain programs aimed at making teaching instructors fluent in English.



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