

Huber to GOP: Hands off Senate race

By Tim Richard
staff writer

"I hope the party leadership stays out of it," Robert Huber said of this, his third, bid for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination.

Huber, 65, an industrialist from Troy, says much the same thing as he bilisters state GOP Chairman E. Spencer Abraham for the deep divisions arising from last month's state convention. The Bush-Kemp camp and the Robertson-Kemp camp each will send 77 disputed delegates to the national presidential nominating convention in New Orleans next summer.

"I believe we've got to go to the (presidential) primary and have registration by party," Huber said as he criticized the district convention system that began with election of 9,000 precinct delegates in August 1986.

Abraham and the party leaders "could have agreed on returning to the primary" and avoided the "disaster" of January, Huber said.

HUBER SAID he has his best shot yet at a Senate nomination. "In previous campaigns, the party leaders had somebody who had been anointed in the 'consensus' smoke-filled room, which should never be allowed."

"They've done such a poor job of uniting the party that I hope they (leaders) stay out of it and let the four of us carry our positions to the people," Huber said. He was interviewed on the "Spotlight on News"



Robert J. Huber says GOP leaders have destroyed party unity and hopes they won't line up behind a 'consensus' candidate for the U.S. Senate this year. He is making his third bid for the Senate nomination.

program due for broadcast at 8 a.m. Sunday on WKXZ-TV.

In 1970 party leaders picked Lenore Romney, wife of former Gov. George Romney, as the "consensus" candidate for U.S. Senate against Philip Hart. Huber gave her a hard run for the nomination, taking 49 percent of the vote. She lost to Hart by 500,000 votes that November.

In 1976 most party leaders lined up behind U.S. Rep. Marv Esch of Ann Arbor for the nomination, and Huber finished with 17 percent. Esch lost to Democrat Donald Riegle, seeking his third term this year.

Also seeking the GOP nomination are former U.S. Rep. Jim Dunn of East Lansing, Birmingham attorney James L. Elzman and Detroit attorney Armand Velardo.

"I haven't been out trying to raise funds," said Huber, who will concentrate on hitting Riegle's record as a "pork barrel spender."

Huber has been mayor of Troy, a county board member, a state senator and a U.S. Representative.

RIEGLER WILL campaign against Japanese imports, especially of autos, contending the Japanese government restricts sale of American products there.

Wrong approach, said Huber. "We do export considerable billions. It happens we are importing more than we are exporting," he said.

"We got a bill from Iowa for \$177,000 in taxes. We do business with one company in Iowa. There's no residency there. There's no plants. There's no warehousing."

"Iowa has suddenly decided to tax everybody who sells in their state," Huber said, contending Iowa is interfering in interstate commerce, the sole jurisdiction of the federal

government.

"It's why a lot of industry has left the United States. That's one of Mr. Riegle's problems. He's done nothing to correct this situation."

CONSTITUTIONAL amendment ideas are abounding. In his congressional term (1973-4) Huber advocated an anti-busing amendment. Other

popular ideas among conservatives are a balanced budget, line-item veto, school prayer and a ban on abortion.

Huber's favorite: banning abortion. "One whole section of the abortion problem is never considered—the husband. We only deal with the wife's problem, half of it."

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