# Riegle in '94

### County GOP pledges to keep bailout an issue

Donald Riegle expects to run for the U.S. Senate again in 1994 — giv-ing voters the final opportunity to pass judgment on the senator's con-troversal involvement with savings and loan tycon Charles Keating dr. "I fully expect to frun again," thegir said last week during a ses-sion with Observer & Eccentric re-porters and editors, apparently lay-ing to rest any speculation about his political future.

porces one cutors, apparently laying to rest any speculation about his political future. Only two days earlier, a Senate chiese committee said Riegle used proor judgment." in his relationship with Keating and that the relationship "gave the appearance of being improper."

But the committee found Riegle broke no laws, either in accepting campaign money from Keating—since returned—or in meeting with other senators and federal regulators to discuss lamends. Saungs and Laon, Keating's troubled, California based Saun L.

RHEGLE BELIEVES his status as one of the Keating Five will quickly fade and area Democratic Party leaders agree

"Voters are fair," said Larry Per-nick, Democratic caucus chairman of the Oakland County Commission. We'll be aware of the situation but also aware of the fact that the ethics committee found be did nothing ille-

"I timik he has to prove that, while he may have suffered a sethack, he's still very valuable to Michigai his terms of the auto industry, in stab-hring the banking community and in terms of campaign reform." Republicans, however, promise make. Right's involvement with Keating a key compange issue.

whe hope this remains an issue aid we'll de everything we can to deep it as such 'said Carlo Morlan, executive director of the Oakland count, Republican Party, "This thing the S&L ballout) is going to cost every taxpayer thousands of dullars It's an outrage."

The ethics committee findings left fregle's status as Senate Banking Committee charitran in tact. During Friday's meeting with the bloserier & Eccentric staff, a re-laxed Riegle carried both the look and sound of a man who felt himself fully vindicated.

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"IN TERMS of whether I did any-thing wrong, my answer is no." Rie-gle said in discussing his relationship with Keating. "In terms of doing things differently — with the benefit of hindsight, there are things I would do differently."

Chief among them, Riegle said, is that he wouldn't have allowed Keatthat he wouldn't have allowed reas-ing to hold a fund-raiser in his honor. The March 1987 event, at the Pon-chartrain Hotel, raised \$78,250 on behalf of Riegle's upcoming cam-paign

Riegle, who returned the money in the wake of a newspaper investiga-tion, said he had no knowledge the campaign money was entirely con-tributed by Reating and his subordi-nates — a point he made several times during the ethics committee investigation.

In fact, Riegle said, the event was more for Keating's benefit than his own.

"CHARLES KEATING was great-"CHARLES REATING was great-ly admired, the general impression was this was a guy doing important redevelopment work in Detroit." Riegle said. "I actually felt I was doing Keating a favor."

Now, Riegle said, he will no longer allow anyone with a potential con-flict of interest, however slight, to be associated with his campaign events. He claims it's a position few other resource will take

the claims it's a position few other senators will take.

As for the meeting with regulators, Hegle has said the ethics committee found concerns about the way investigators were treating Lincoln Savings and Loan may have been legitimate.

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If there's a problem, Riegle said, it's that federal elected officials have to spend increasingly large amounts of money in their cam-

amounts to the paigns.

Riegle said his own campaign fund ballooned from \$800,000 in 1976 to \$4.5 million for his most recent cam-

\$45 million for his most recent cam-paign
White calling for federal cam-paign financing — similar to the way presidential campaigns are now influenced. Theight also acknowl-edged such a suggestion is seen a highly partials with a superior more at problem for Democrats than Hepub-licans. The safety

"Fund-raising is the worst part of the job for all of us, believe it." Rie-gle said



U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle believes the recent Senate Ethics Committee ruting on his involvement with S&L tycoon Charles Keating Jr. puts that controversial chapter of his career behind



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