

Briggs, Knollenberg spar on economic issues

By GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The issues are heating up in the race for the 11th U.S. Congressional House seat, between Democrat Briggs and Republican Joe Knollenberg.



become popular lately, Briggs spoke at the Whistle-Stop restaurant in Birmingham last week in support of small businesses.

"Joe Knollenberg represents an insurance agency that is fighting health care reform every inch of the way," said Briggs. "My opponent doesn't see the extent of which families and small businesses are hurting."

Knollenberg owns an All State Insurance office in Troy.

"My opponent thinks reforming the litigation process is the panacea," said Briggs.

"(Knollenberg) would prefer to put a Band-Aid on the hemorrhage

of red tape, something that has blown up our insurance costs and crippled our economy. If we continue along the path proposed by my opponent, employers and employees will absorb \$412 billion by the year 2000. That is a 529 percent increase from 1980 for employer-based coverage."

To aid small businesses, Briggs proposed a four-point plan:

- Provide subsidies to small and new businesses.
- Set up an insurance pool at the state level where small businesses could buy insurance at "cost-effective" rates.
- Increase access to health in-

surance coverage so costs could be spread evenly.

• Streamline the billing system and reduce unnecessary tests to contain costs.

Briggs said that would save \$200 billion annually.

In response to Briggs' charges, Knollenberg said: "Tort reform is just one issue. The U.S. has 5 percent of the world's population and two-thirds of its lawyers."

Knollenberg said the issue extends to the economy in general. When it improves, other problems ease.

"I'm for a balanced budget and a line-item veto, which would allow

the president to eliminate certain portions of the budget without having to veto an entire budget. It's perceived that would end pork-barrel spending."

"We have to control spending," Knollenberg said.

"Growth is the secret of reducing the deficit. We have to get people back to work," he added. "The economy is in trouble."

Briggs agrees the economy is off track and has proposed a series of measures to improve it.

He said he would promote "reinvesting in America" through job retraining, improving education, offering businesses tax credits for re-

search and development, a capital gains tax reduction and prompt savings by restoring the tax deductibility of individual Retirement Accounts.

Briggs also attacked Knollenberg on his stance on abortion.

"(Knollenberg) is for total outlawing of abortion and the criminalization of women who choose to make their own decisions. He would deny women the right to choose even in cases of rape and incest," Briggs said.

Knollenberg maintained his stance:

"I'm against abortion. I'm for adoption."

Judgeship from page 1A

only about \$20,000 in the primary, but increased his spending in the two weeks prior to the election when he saw how competitive it had become.

"Obviously, I feel as though I spent much more than I wanted to," he said. "I guess the result is, by being outspent two to one I still won, which I hope carries into the general election."

The top vote-getter in November will earn the seat to be vacated in December by retiring District Judge Margaret Schaeffer.

'Too much money'

McDonald has run for other Oakland County offices, including the county commission on which he served and an unsuccessful bid for the Oakland County prosecutor's seat.

"It's too much money," he said. "It's unfortunate that judicial races are turning into this. Now it's like Madison Avenue advertising."

He is also concerned, he said, that the high ticket price to run a campaign will scare away good people who might otherwise run.

Some local political action com-

mittee support for McDonald included \$717 in contributions from the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association PAC, \$200 from the Oakland County PAC, \$100 from the Kohl, Secret law firm PAC and \$100 from the Michigan National Citizens PAC. A number of local supporters gave \$100 contributions including Oakland County commissioner David Moffitt, former Farmington Hills council candidate Ron Oliverio, Farmington school board attorneys J. Kingsley Cotton and Dennis Pollard, Farmington Hills Planning Commission and attorney Paul Blizman, former Hills city attorney Paul Bibeau, retired 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand and Brighton politician Dick Chrysler.

Also contributing were Farmington City Council member Arnold Campbell, Farmington Hills City Council member Joanne Smith, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce director JoAnn Suronen — also a former councilwoman in the Hills — and former Farmington school board candidates Richard DeVries and

Laura Myers.

Supporting Parker are 47th District Court magistrate Dennis Phene, former school board member and attorney Michael Shipce, State Rep. Burton Leland and Farmington City Council member JoAnne McShane. Large donations were made by S.E. Cascade of Tampa and Judith Russ Leon who each gave \$1,000 and Samuel and Jean Cascade of West Bloomfield who gave \$10,000. Only one PAC contribution was noted from the Butzel, Long, Gust, Klein and VaZile PAC which gave \$100.

Former Hills council member and attorney Paul Sowerby contributed to both campaigns. Both candidates have loaned or donated thousands of dollars to their respective campaigns.

Both also have remained hard at work since their primary wins, knocking on doors and making public appearances to boost their election chances.

McDonald formed his election committee for the judicial post in February of this year, and Parker formed hers in April.



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Goodfellows need good help

The Farmington Area Goodfellows are looking for new members: people who are dedicated to helping others.

Goodfellows chairman Dick Tupper said the group is seeking members who will be active throughout the year, as well as helping during the holiday season when the Goodfellows hold various drives for the needy.

Although most visible during

the Christmas season with their "No Child or Senior Without a Christmas" motto and their annual newspaper drive, the group is active throughout the year helping families in need.

Sought this year are people to chair or help with Goodfellows' committees on doll dressing, toys, and shirts and dresses. Others who just want to lend a hand are also welcome.

To volunteer or for more information, call Tupper at 477-0600.

The Farmington Area Goodfellows group was formed more than 40 years ago by members of the Farmington Exchange Club, which sponsored the group until 1973 when it established its own set of bylaws.

Last year, the group set a record during their holiday paper drive by collecting \$21,300.

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