Former ombudsman eyes run for U.S. Senate

BY GREG KOWALSKI STAPP WRITER

STATE WHITES

Although she isn't officially in
the running yet, Bloomfield
Township resident Judy Miller
alreedy is talking like a candidate
for the U.S. Senate.

The former Birmingham city
commissioner and state representative has resigned as Michigun businessman ombudeman, a
post she held for nearly three
years.

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"An opportunity presented itself," said Miller, When U.S. See Donald Riegie recently announced that he would not seek re-election, Miller said she got the old urge to run for office again.
"Once a political animal," she said, and ways a political animal, always a remissiff iddin't look at it."
Miller resigned as ombudsman

at II."

Miller resigned as ombudsman to travel across the state and learn what kind of support she could generate in a Senate bid.

"I'm doing some very serious exploration, seeing what kind of grass-roots organization I could put together." She said she will make a deci-sion on running by February or March.

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Miller said she enjoyed being Michigan ombudsman. She was appointed to that post by Gov. John Engler in January 1991.

As ombudsman, she served as a trouble-shooter and conduit of information between various state agencies and husiness people in Michigan.

"We solved over 1,500 individual problems and answered 50,000 cells from business people," Miller said. "Our philosophy was that we weren't going to send people from pillar to post."

The office helped business people solve problems or gave them direction to where they could find help. At the least, the office was were there to listen.

"Often when we couldn't solve problems, at least they had some-one to listen to them," said Mil-

ler.

Being ombudsman was a valuable learning experience, she said.

"(Being ombudsman) confirmed even more strongly that communication is critically important. It's essential that we have to build a communications link."

Miller said that business per learned fire frustrated by the sed.

Miller said that business people are often frustrated by the red tape of state regulations and don't know where to turn for help.

If elected to the Senate, Miller said she would specifically like to focus on cumpaign reform and two areas of the federal budget procedure.

She said the federal government should follow the policy the state has in allowing the line-item yeto and should limit amendments tacked onto bills.

In the state, the line-item yeto In the state, the line-item veto

allows the governor to eliminate appecific portions of the state budget without having to veto the whole budget. And the state allows amendments to bills only if they relate to the bills under consideration.

Miller said her interest in political sedence and was elected from president.

She was elected to the Birmingham City Commission in 1981 and served until 1985 when she was elected to the state House of Representatives.

She left the House in 1991 in a bid for the state Senate but lost to David Honigman.

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Miller and Engler asked her to Toriginal Merchar Posters - 1-Shifts - E all Must Go - Up to 90% of All Must Go - Up to 90% of

ing.
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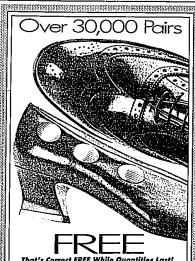
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