

# Romney talks at convention about work ethic, families

**SAN DIEGO** — Folks in Michigan missed it on network television, but a couple of familiar voices addressed the Republican National Convention here Monday.

Ronna Romney, Bloomfield Hills party worker and U.S. Senate nominee, and Susy Heintz, former Northville, Novi and Birmingham resident now running for Congress in Macomb County, had a few minutes apiece in the sun at mid-day Pacific time before a sparsely-filled convention hall.

"Lots of fund-raising," Romney answered when asked what she was doing at the conclave. "Women don't usually have the network to raise money."

"They let me speak at the convention. We had to submit our text last Friday. Then I had to practice with a Teleprompter. I had never used a Teleprompter," said the former GOP national committee woman and veteran radio broadcaster.

"I've been at events," said Heintz, a former Wayne County commissioner, chief of Gov.

Engler's Detroit office and state party chair. "We heard Newt (Speaker Newt Gingrich) at GOPAC, the Susan B. Anthony group, RENEW.

"Sometimes they just introduce me. A lot of it is one-on-one with women's organizations. They want to know what I stand for," said the pro-life candidate. In case you watched TV and still missed them, here are excerpts.

Romney, at 1:57 p.m.: "Growing up in a working-class neighborhood in Detroit, I learned the importance of neighbors helping neighbors for the common good. I have listened to the voices of the voiceless..."

"For far too long, Bill Clinton, (incumbent Sen.) Carl Levin and the Democratic Party have promoted an agenda that taxes families beyond their means..."

"The fundamental values that have made our nation great: personal responsibility, the work ethic, strong families, love of God. These are American values."

"As a woman blessed with five

wonderful children, and driven by the responsibility to ensure that their generation has a chance at the American dream, I say let the debate begin."

Heintz at 11:55 a.m.: "I bring you greetings from the tax-cutting state of Michigan."

"Just last week I won my primary election and the high privilege of representing the Republican party in our campaign to unseat liberal Democrat whip David Bonior in November..."

"I was also thrilled when Bob Dole threw down the gauntlet before Bill Clinton with a plan for tax cuts. This is going to be great for me... In my primary, I ran on the platform that the top three problems facing families in Michigan's 10th Congressional District are taxes, taxes and taxes."

"(With) the backing of Gov. John Engler, America's tax-cutting champion, I was chosen to take on America's tax-raising champion, David Bonior..."

Heintz's successor in the governor's Detroit office, Anne Mervenne, played a "floating" game at the convention.

"Yesterday, the Republican Governors' Association needed help with their office, and I went there. The governor has an office here, and I'm answering the phone," said the Birmingham native who once worked for Sen. Doug Cruce and spent four years as Engler's appointments manager.

Mervenne is a backup for JT — the insiders' term for press secretary John Truscott. JT had to handle the logistics of getting Engler in the right spot at the right time for appearances on CNN, "Larry King Live" and David Brinkley's mid-Sunday show. Engler also was scheduled to address the convention twice.

Unlike Romney and Heintz, Mervenne has shown no propensity to run for a more visible office. "I can't imagine not being in politics or government," she said.



PHOTO BY LOUI ABLETT

At the party: Enjoying the action are Anne Mervenne and Susy Heintz.



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