

Dunn wants balanced budget

By Tim Fichtner
staff writer

If you want to balance the federal budget, you have to know how a congressman thinks, says U.S. Senator Jim Dunn.

The former congressman advocates a two-year federal budget and a constitutional amendment requiring a bal-

anced budget, not just raising taxes to cure the nation's soaring deficits.

"I have two reasons for suggesting a two-year budgeting," said the 40-year-old East Lansing builder, who is seeking the Republican nod to challenge incumbent Democrat Carl Levin.

"FIRST, TWO-YEAR budgeting gives legislators the opportunity to do

what they should — decide programs, evaluate agencies. Instead we debate whether you get 2 percent more, 1 get 1 percent less and die-die-die."

"Second, Congress should not vote on a budget in an election year. That would solve the legislators' problem of having to say no to a program with the excuse, 'Well, it's an election year.'"

The federal government adopts an annual budget for a fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The state of Michigan and local units of government adopt annual budgets. So do most other states, although a handful adopt two-year budgets.

Wouldn't a two-year budget be too rigid to meet changing needs and a changing national economy? Dunn doesn't think so.

"There's flexibility in one-year budgeting — we used supplemental appropriations all the time, particularly in defense and weapons procurement. Then if you have an event like the North Carolina tornadoes, you have to have flexibility to meet those needs."

"I see no overwhelming reasons it wouldn't work."

THAT IDEA is the most original of his budget-balancing proposals.

Dunn supports a constitutional

amendment to require a balanced budget, except in emergencies, though for different reasons than most supporters.

"It's easy for a congressman to vote yes, hard to vote no. This would give them the excuse they need to vote no on a program," said Dunn, who served the 8th Congressional District in 1981-2 for a term but was defeated after reappointment.

Here Dunn draws a line between his congressional experience and his rival, whom he refers to in press releases as "Houston astronaut" Jack Loumsa.

Dunn, a former Southfield resident who studied his business career as a painting contractor while attending Michigan State University, is waging an almost bitter campaign against Loumsa.

DUNN ALSO would freeze federal spending at the fiscal 1985 level of \$855 billion for fiscal 1985. On this point, the conservative businessman parts company with President Ronald Reagan.

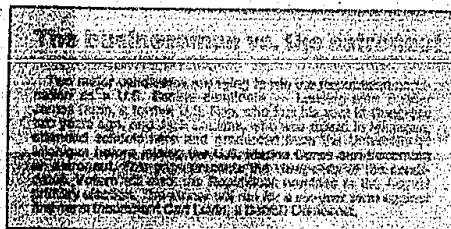
"The president proposes \$925 billion for 1985. My proposal would save \$70 billion."

"The president asked a 13 percent increase for defense, then said he'd settle for 5 percent. I would say zero."

Dunn allows that social security ex-

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penditures would have to rise as the number of retirees increases, but he says this cost could be covered by reductions in unemployment benefits to improve economy. "This is a particularly expedient year to do it," he said.

Dunn also parts company with congressional leaders who are eyeing taxes on liquor, cigarettes and gasoline to help reduce a deficit that was first estimated at \$190 billion for fiscal 1985. He would attack the spending problem first before lowering or raising taxes.

"REAGAN WENT to Washington talking about abolishing the Department of Energy and the Department of Education. I would fight for the De-

partment of Energy," Dunn said.

"Education control should be at the local level. Look at Nazi Germany and Russia — they have textbooks by the federal government. The federal role in education should be limited to the college level — grants for research, student aids."

"At the elementary level, the federal role should be limited to discrimination practices, and maybe setting minimum standards for graduation. Local control of education necessarily means local financing, he said.

ENERGY is another matter. "You need one coordinating force at the national level," Dunn said.



"Congress should not vote on a budget in an election year. That would solve the legislators' problem of having to say no to a program with the excuse, 'Well, it's an election year.'"

— James Dunn

Lousma lauds his U.S. service

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

Jack Loumsa wants to be senator for the same reason he became an astronaut.

"I don't need the ego trip. I've climbed the big mountain," the commander of the space shuttle Columbia told 150 at the Bloomfield Women's Club annual membership tea.

"I run for one reason, and that is to serve."

Hoping to challenge U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, Michigan's Junior Democratic senator, Nov. 6, Republican Loumsa believes being a congressman is a "great opportunity to serve this country directly."

"I'm here to earn your respect and the confidence of the people of Michigan."

THAT'S A BIG job for someone who just moved back into the state after 25 years away. Especially when that person has lived all over the world — and even circled the planet 1,000 times.

"I have a unique perspective of this world. It's a small, small world," Loumsa said.

But the Grand Rapids native made it clear he's still a local boy at heart.

"I was raised to be patriotic, to serve the country — all those values that are built into Michigan people," the Ann Arbor resident told his all-female audience.

While stressing his heritage, the University of Michigan graduate also reminded listeners he has lived in many countries and even learned Russian while residing in the Soviet Union.

"I've had experiences most senators would envy," said Loumsa.

"I've had great opportunities for leadership, and we need leadership. I believe the senator for Michigan should take the lead to ensure great things get done for Michigan."

LOUSMA SAYS Levin has let the voters down. He criticized the Michigan senator's opposition to President Ronald Reagan's policies and defense buildup.

"I believe Carl Levin has shut off Michigan's voice to the White House and to the Pentagon because of the way he's done business."

The former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut and ex-Marine said he believes "wholeheartedly" in peace through strength. And he would do what he can to bring more defense contracts into the state.

"This state used to be the arsenal of democracy," said Loumsa. "I want to use my 25 years as a military officer and 17 years at NASA to put people back to work."

The aeronautical engineer would also like to see more high-technology businesses come here. "I support the auto industry but want to take initiatives to diversify this economy," said Loumsa, who believes high unemployment compensation and a high single-business tax have driven businesses from the state.

"Michigan is ready to go again."

Loumsa refused to comment on his Republican opponent's accusation that he is a "Houston astronaut" who doesn't understand Michigan's needs.

"I get a little flak from the side occasionally, but I choose to ignore it," said Loumsa told the Republican audience. The attack came from former U.S. Rep. Jim Dunn, his chief rival in the Aug. 7 GOP primary.

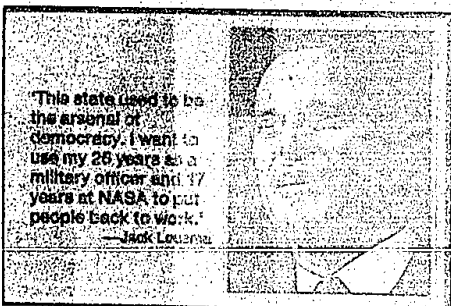
"I want this to be the kind of campaign in which you choose to serve."

He backed his request for support with some figures. Although in the Senate race only 10 weeks, he has raised more than \$200,000 — with about \$25,000 coming in each week.

His endorsements include more than 300 prominent Republicans, he added proudly. But he's still looking for more workers.

"I'm overwhelmed by the way it's going. If you need a place to go to work and want to be on a winning team, I need your help," said Loumsa.

IN A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER session, Loumsa tackled a range of issues



from U.S. relations with El Salvador to the Equal Rights Amendment.

• El Salvador — "I don't believe we should covertly mine the harbors. But El Salvador is a free government, and I think we ought to continue to support that or we will have another Cuba."

• A constitutional amendment to balance the budget — he supports it but would do it gradually over four to

five years. In attacking the national deficit, he would reduce spending, not raise personal income taxes.

• Abortion — "I am basically opposed to abortion and don't say that for political gain. It's just the way I feel and let the chips fall where they may."

• Equal Rights Amendment — "ERA has some flaws, but basically I would support it."

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