# **Baker looking presidential**

Former U.S. Sen. Howard Baker rode Into Oakland County last week carrying news of his interest in a 1885 bid for the presidency and piedging 'to bid for the presidency and piedging 'to GOP candidates in 1892, electing local GOP candidates in 1892. Back in private life after 18 years in the U.S. Senate, Baker and being unemployed was the best way to run for the White House. "It's easier now, it really is," said the Tennessee Republican, who was outguned in a 1980 bid for the presidency." It ell you, being majority leader of the Senate is like being chained to the deck. You can't leave."

BAKER'S VISIT to Oakland County's Republican headquarters in Pontiac Thursday was followed by an appear-ance before the county Republican group's 300 Club fundraising garden party in Bloomfield Hills. He was invit-ed as the kernjet speaker.

groups 300 the annaems and party in Bloomfield Hills. He was invited as the keynote speaker.
"Well, in 1980," he told reporters, "I asked a rhetorical question when I asked if you had to be unemployed to run for president. . . And I think the answer to my rhetorical question is yes, you do have to commit full time to available it ammaliem.

sure this time there will be no other obligations in my way."

Baker said he expects Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts will be the Democratic nominee in 88 because 'he's been around the block two or three times, and sooner or later the Democratic Party will give him that chance."

TO EXPLORE his own possibilities, he has created an "exploratory committee and a small core staff." So far he has raised \$200,000, which has enabled him to travel and examine the

abled ann to tave as a prospects. However, he said he wouldn't announce his own decision until after the 1986 races because he intends to focus his efforts on helping local GOP candidates and "doing everything I know how to keep Republican control of the U.S. Senate in '88 and electing Republicans to the U.S. House of Representatives and Republican governors across the country."

tives and Republican governors across the country."

To that end, he has established a Po-litical Action Committee "with the slated purpose" to raise funds to pro-vide "early assistance" to those candi-

House of Represetatives," he said.

In Michigan he promised to "carry my share of the burden in the gubernatorial election in '86 and the congressional elections as well."

"Presently I have \$1 million on hand, which enables me to make a maximum contribution for every nominee for Sen and officially every nominee for the area with the sent that the sent the sent that th

County Executive Daniel Murphy. Both have an eye on the Republican nomination for governor next year.
With characteristic charm, Baker shied away from appearing to favor either candidate, saying, "I always stand by my friends," He later added privately, "I know both of them, and I also know enough about politics not to get involved in a primary."

A lawyer who became nationally prominent during the Senate Watergate hearings, Baker said he had withdrawn from the 1980 contest when he realized "the party wanted to nominate Ronald Reagan; it was Ronald Reagan's year."

"Another thing that was happening was that by the time you reach (the primaries in) lowa, New Hampahire and Vermont, you're spending about \$1 million a mooth and you're left with the fundamental decision: Do I end up with a high debt."

This time around, he plans to begin at the grass roots level, giving "pretty my restreet was the grant the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reach the grant the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reach the grant was the grant the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reach the grant was presented as the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reach the grant was reached as the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reach the grant was reached as the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reach the grant was reached as the grass roots level, giving "pretty my reached as the grant was reached by the grant was

fundamental decision: Do I end up with a high debt."

This time around, he plans to begin at the grass roots level, giving "pretty good attention to that, especially in Michigan, New Hampshire and Iowa, where there are early contests that will have a profound effect on the election. "I'm convinced there's a realistic chance to gain that nomination. And I intend, if I decide to run, to devote my entire energy and effort and ambition to that purpose," he said.



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## OU crowded as strike ends

Oakland University's public information officer was a happy man Friday. It started when he arrived for work and couldn't find a parking space at the Rochester Hills campus. That was a good sign.

"The parking lot's jammed; there are students alover the place. It's really wooderful," proclaimed OU's chief spokesman Jim Llewellyn.

The reason for his excitement was the end of a three-day teacher strike that last week paralyzed class schedules for an estimated 11,600 students during the first official week of the fall semester.

BROUGHT together by a state-appointed fact-finder, negotiators for the administration and \$50-member faculty union returned to the bargaining table at 3 p.m. Thursday, By 7 p.m. they had reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract.

The new salary schedule will provide a 3 percent salary increase followed by increases of 4 percent

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and 5 percent in the second and third years.
"The bargaining team wishes we had done better, but we believe that it's the best contract we can get," said Bill Hammerle, president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors.
"We didn't get everything we had asked for, but then, neither did Oakland University."

OF THE SALARY hike, OU spokesman Llewellyn

OF THE SALARY hike, OU spokesman Llewellym sald the university's current year budget was carved to accommodate a salary hike of this size, atthough it's short \$300,000 in revenues.

To handle the deficit, 'the president is looking at other steps,' he said.
Oakland trustees had raised tuition earlier this year by 5 percent but were forced to rescind it when Gov. James J. Blanchard threatened to veto appropriations for institutions which failed to freeze tuition.

BRIGHTENING OU's financial picture, however, is the possibility of increased enrollments this year. According to Liewellys, the student count is up 500 countries and the street at this time. More students will bring in additional revenues even without a tuition rate hite. "So even though we have the freeze, we're going to have extra tuition dollars," he said. Hammerle said the union memberably would be receiving copies of the tentative agreement in the next few days. Ratification would take place in a mall-in vote.

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