

Albosta-Schuette low road has cost a bundle

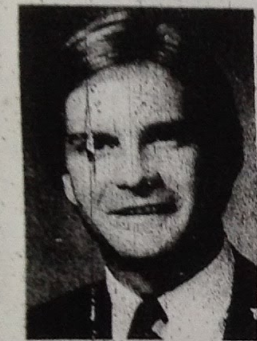
By KATHY GRAY

Daily News staff writer

The 10th Congressional district campaign has been high on finance and low on substance.

Democratic incumbent Donald Albosta and Republican challenger Bill Schuette have waged the most expensive congressional campaign in Michigan. Schuette, a wealthy Midland attorney, has spent just over a half million dollars, while Albosta's total has reached \$350,000. Libertarian candidate George Leaf has received less than \$500 in donations and did not have to file a Federal Elections Commission report.

Schuette, son and stepson of two



Bill Schuette

Analysis

Dow Chemical Co. executives, started his campaign in June, 1983, and has been counting the days to Nov. 6 ever since. Albosta didn't start really campaigning until this summer, primarily because of congressional duties.

A "high road" campaign is what Schuette promised in those first months of the campaign, free from the mudslinging that has typified Albosta's previous campaigns.

That may have been true in the first months of the campaign, while Schuette hammered home his three central themes — a constitutional amendment requiring Congress to pass a balanced budget, line-item veto for the president and a seat on the Agriculture committee. But the race has deteriorated steadily in the past several months, and the blame can be placed on both campaigns.

It started out when Albosta said, in an obvious reference to Schuette's upbringing, "I wouldn't have to call my gardener to find out how to vote on agriculture issues."

Schuette responded by forming a "Gardeners for Schuette" group, composed of farmers in the 10th district.

Then there was the Federal Elections Commission complaint against Schuette filed by Dale Sheltown, Democratic chair of the 10th Congressional district party. The complaint was a transparent Albosta

campaign ploy and Schuette's aides have said nothing will come of the complaint.

Then there is the president and who supports him the best. Schuette, a well-educated (Georgetown University and University of San Francisco) party regular, has speared Reagan rhetoric throughout the campaign and has been called a "rubber-stamp" because of the close linkage.

Albosta, who is one of the more conservative Democrats in Congress, also has aligned himself closely with the Reagan and even has a TV ad picturing him shaking hands with the president.

Schuette has responded with a sophomoric radio ad with a hysteri-



Don Albosta

cal couple proclaiming "Albosta must think we're fools," for believing he is a supporter of the president.

Then there is the Schuette TV ad in which a voice initially proclaimed Albosta had missed every single roll call vote while serving on the Agriculture committee. Albosta cried "foul" and the TV ad was pulled and redone to change one word — from committee to "subcommittee."

Albosta still cries foul and has resorted to calling Schuette a liar over the airwaves. The whole question is one of semantics. Schuette claims the ad is truthful because Albosta was absent for all subcommittee roll call votes. Albosta says bull, because he voted by proxy in six of the seven roll calls, an accepted and often-used practice in day-to-day congressional work.

Albosta has called Schuette a liar on another account. In newspaper ads, Schuette has said Albosta, like Walter Mondale, wants to raise your taxes.

Albosta has consistently said he doesn't think a tax increase is needed and he doesn't support the Mondale tax increase.

ALL THIS SPEWING back and forth has cost the candidates in both cash and credibility.

Albosta has raised \$351,680, with just about half of that coming from political action committees, ranging from National Right to Life to the National Education Association, which donated nearly \$10,000. The Democratic Congressional campaign Committee has pumped near-

ly \$10,000 into the campaign and the 10th Congressional district party has added \$4,500.

Other PAC contributions for Albosta, listed in his most recently filed Federal Elections Commission report, range from labor to agriculture to transportation to the National Rifle Association.

Albosta's campaign staff, upon request from the Daily News, supplied a copy of his FEC report.

Schuette, on the other hand, has received his financing primarily from individual and Republican party sources. He's raised \$525,733 as of Sept. 30, \$71,108 of which is in PAC contributions.

The Schuette campaign would not supply the Daily News with a copy of their FEC report, although they did offer to let editorial staff review the 400-plus page document in campaign headquarters.

ONE FACT REMAINS — both candidates spent their money slapping at each other instead of talking about the issues.

Beyond the three central themes, Schuette grasps on the issues is weak. Publicly, he rarely goes beyond the three themes and when only news media are present, his yawns mirror the proven rhetoric of Reagan.

The 31-year-old Schuette has paraded in a variety of party pooh-bahs, some of whom he'd never met before, to stump for his campaign.

Albosta, a St. Charles farmer by trade, has rarely talked about the

issues and has spent most of his time trying to slap down his younger less-experienced opponent.

But he continues to speak the language of the district, which covers 20 sprawling counties of primarily rural land. And he has created a well-organized constituency service, which gets things done for 10th district residents almost immediately.

But constituency service does not a congressman make. Albosta is an outspoken member of Congress, who seems to vote his own mind, often to the dismay of party colleagues. His votes often have been inconsistent and have shown a wide range of both liberal and conservative views.



George Leaf

Candidates speak out on foreign, domestic policies

Voters will have three candidates to choose from Nov. 6 in the 10th Congressional district — incumbent Democrat Donald Albosta, Republican Bill Schuette and Libertarian George Leaf.

Following are short biographies and the candidates' views on the issues, based on interviews with the Daily News editorial staff. The story was written by Daily News staff writer Kathy Gray.

DONALD ALBOSTA, a St. Charles farmer, has served on a variety of political levels from Saginaw Township Board to Saginaw County Commission to State Representative to U.S. Congress.

He first was elected in 1978 with a surprise upset over Republican patriarch Elford Cederburg. He won re-election in 1980 and 1982 against Dick Allen and Larry Reed, respectively, in campaigns that often got nasty.

He became a well-known Washington figure when he took over the "DebateGate" investigation, an attempt to determine how Carter campaign briefing papers got into the Reagan campaign camp.

He was a member of the Agriculture Committee, filing in a temporary vacancy, but did not seek a permanent seat when the temporary member was appointed in 1982. He serves on the Public Works committee, which determines where federal public works dollars should go, and also is the chairman of the Human Resources subcommittee.

BILL SCHUETTE, a 31-year-old Midland attorney currently living in Sanford, started his campaign in June 1983. He served in public office, but has been active in party

politics for a number of years.

He was heavily involved in George Bush's presidential efforts in 1980 and then became the Michigan political director for Reagan/Bush that year.

A Midland native, Schuette graduated from Georgetown University and received a law degree from University of San Francisco. He currently is on a leave of absence from the law firm of Currie, Kendal, Keith, Larkin, Pommerville and Merrill.

He has promised strong support for President Reagan and a seat on the Agriculture Committee.

GEORGE LEAF, 33, is an economics professor at Northwood Institute and Midland resident.

Supporting the Libertarian philosophy of less government and little or no taxes, Leaf joined the party in the mid-70's. He attended Carroll College in Waukesha, Wis., and Duke University Law School in Durham, N.C. He has been teaching at Northwood for five years.

THE ISSUES

FOREIGN POLICY

ALBOSTA — Didn't support the sending of Marines to Lebanon, but once they were there and more than 200 had been killed in a terrorist bombing, he said they shouldn't have been pulled out. He supports maintaining a strong deterrent at sea near Lebanon.

While the forces in Western Europe are adequate, Albosta said they probably should be moved back to the United States, leaving the responsibility to the European nations. He supports maintaining a minimal presence in Europe.

While he said he would like to get

rid of nuclear weapons altogether, if the weapons have to be placed somewhere, he'd rather have them "anywhere but here." If placing the Pershing missiles in Europe brings the Soviets to the bargaining table, "that's fine."

In Central America, Albosta supports military activity in El Salvador, but disagrees with the mining of the harbors in Nicaragua. He supports a program of requiring students, who get federal grants and loans, to complete a "tour of duty" in Central America, teaching the natives about the Democratic system and different skilled trades and professions.

He supported the invasion in Grenada.

BILL SCHUETTE — Supports the MX missile and B-1 bomber, as part of an arsenal "to show the strength of the U.S." He believes the U.S. should strive to remove Pershing II missiles from Europe, but not without Soviet consultations. He also supports the "advised" pursuit of the Stealth bomber development.

He believes in maintaining a strong military presence in Europe, and continued economic and military support in El Salvador. He doesn't agree with the mining of the

Nicaraguan harbors, but believes the El Salvadoran government should be given aid so they can determine their own course.

Schuette supported the invasion of Grenada, saying, "We have the responsibility as a nation to rescue students wherever they may be."

GEORGE LEEF — Defending the nation's interests militarily is one of the few areas Leaf says American tax dollars should go.

DOMESTIC POLICY

Albosta — The deficit is the number one problem facing the nation today. Albosta suggests first cutting the waste in the military.

He also suggests getting up employment down to five percent, reducing the cost of government and increasing trade — especially exports — with other countries.

Albosta doesn't think a tax increase is necessary to deal with the deficit and he opposes presidential candidate Walter Mondale's tax increase plan. He said he would not vote for a tax increase for the middle-class or poor because, "the right way with murder in the tax rate."

He believes there should be more

initiatives in being more energy independent by building more fuel alcohol plants.

Albosta believes in capital punishment and supports the Human Life Amendment, which would ban abortion.

Schuette — Believes the economic policies of the president are working. And to address the deficit, he has three suggestions: a constitutional amendment requiring Congress to pass a balanced budget; line item veto for the President and implementation of many recommendations included in the Grace Commission report.

He said he will not vote for any tax increases and would consider a flat rate tax with three exceptions: mortgage credits, real property tax credits and charitable contributions.

On agriculture, he suggests a Farm Bill with anti-embargo "stamped all over it." He also supports aggressively promoting export trade.

Schuette said he would push for a workforce program as a solution to the unemployment problem.

He is personally against abortion, but feels it should be a decision made by the women in consultation with doctors, family and religious counselors. He supports school prayer.

He is not convinced by a governmental entity. He also supports the Equal Rights Amendment if it were written abortion neutral, and limited applications of capital punishment.

Leaf — According to Libertarian philosophy, taxes should be all but abolished and services taken over by private industry, which could probably provide the service more efficiently and cost effectively.

The only legitimate government function is the protection of individual rights. Leaf said he suggests the abolition of the Social Security system and federal aid to education and just about every other function of government.

While Leaf would "really rather be teaching college" than a congressman, he added the campaign has been a "bully pulpit" for Libertarian philosophy.

Can't see to vote? Bring glasses, light

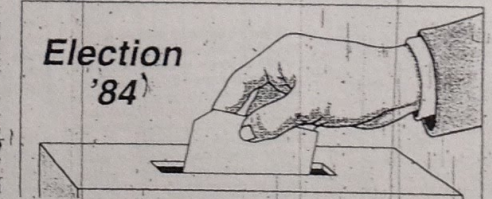
WASHINGTON (AP) — Eye doctors are urging Americans to bring their glasses, and even small flashlights, when they head to the polls on Tuesday, to help make sure they cast their vote for the candidate they really want.

If this election follows the trend of past years, many people will pull the wrong lever, mark the wrong spot or punch the wrong hole in a computer card simply because they cannot see the ballot properly, the American Optometric Association says.

Indeed, in one state primary a few years ago, more than 3,000 voters pulled a lever opposite a blank space instead of next to a candidate's name, according to Federal Election Commission files.

The eye doctors say a major part of the problem is poor lighting conditions in many voting booths.

The chances of miscasting a ballot are greater for older voters, the optometrists add, because voting booths are not geared to older eyes. For example, in a voting machine with the ballot on a wall, it is hard for many people to stand at a correct reading distance from the printing



Levin thinks chances for re-election are good

GRAND RAPIDS (AP)

awarded Louisa \$550,000 for winning the party's primary against

Levin backed a nuclear-free zone in the region

Bomber, which he calls wasteful and

anced budget, and the candidates' tax on the tens of thousands of profit