## Clinger says charges distract from 'real issues'

**By MOLLY HERRING Daily Collegian Staff Writer** 

The Republican candidate for the 23rd Congressional district recently said he resents being called a "special interest candidate" last Friday by incumbent U.S. Representative Joseph S. Ammerman.

The attack against William Clinger, a Warren attorney and Ammerman's opponent in the Nov. 7 election, came during a fund-raising dinner at Gatsby's Restaurant which featured the visiting Vice President Walter Mondale,

Clinger said in an interview that being called a special interest candidate by Ammerman is a "red herring," a distraction from the real issues." "The thing I resent about the charge is that it

implies I've sold out or I'm going to vote the way they (oil and gas companies) tell me to," Clinger

"I have received a fair amount of money from oil and gas interests," Clinger said. (A full financial report from the Federal Election Commission has not yet been received by The Daily Collegian.) "But the point of it is I think they're just upset because Ammerman has voted against all their interests. He's voted 100 percent against the oil and gas industry.'

Supporting the oil and gas industry in the 23rd district is important because many jobs in the district are dependent on oil and gas, Clinger said.

Clinger also said that since drilling wells is so expensive, the companies need some incentives, and one should be deregulation of gas, phased in over three years.

"I have yet to see a fat cat oil and gas producer

in the 23rd Congressional district," Clinger said. "I've seen a lot of independent producers out there not getting rich, but just trying to get some energy out of the ground. You take one heck of a chance when you drill a well."

Refering to an alleged Ammerman remark that Clinger is in the "vest pockets of the fat cats," Clinger said, "If I see some issues that I think are going to unfairly line the pockets of fat cats. I'll vote against them just as fast as he will. In fact, maybe faster."

Clinger also defended himself against an Ammerman statement that the Republican's contributions are masked behind vague names that hide the real identity of the contributor.

"We report them just the way we get them," Clinger said. "I have probably got over 900 contributors to this campaign at this point. Some

of that money is Political Action Committee money.

"Ammerman got \$5,000 from the auto workers" union," Clinger said. "I'm certainly not suggesting that he's a tool of the auto workers' union because he got \$5,000 from them."

Calling his largest campaign expense television and other media, Clinger estimated he will be spending from \$25,000 to \$30,000 of his own money

The election probably will cost about \$150,000 for Clinger, the Warren attorney estimated. That figure is about \$100,000 lower than what Ammerman said Clinger would spend. Ammerman estimated his expenses would be \$100,000, Clinger said.

But Clinger said Ammerman's use of the franking privilege by sending pieces of mail to

all of his constituents for free means the incumbent is avoiding mailing fees of about \$40,000. Taxpayers fund the Congressmen's franking privilege.

"So if you add that \$40,000 to what he proposes." to spend, it's going to be about the same as me."

Clinger refuted the Ammerman attacks by making some of his own observations. He criticized Ammerman for not being in Washington last weekend to vote on a number of significant bills.

"I happen to know that he was in State College Friday night. I think he could have been in Washington on Saturday morning and I think he should have cast votes on the energy bill and tax cut. Those are very important votes. If he's able to campaign in State College on Friday, I think, he can vote in Washington on Saturday."

## Israeli jets fly over Palestinian camp in Lebanon

BEIRUT (UPI) - Israeli jets and helicopters yesterday buzzed a Palestinian camp in southwest Lebanon, residents said. Sudanese soldiers scouted out key bridges in the capital and said they would occupy them within 24 hours as part of an Arab peace drive.

The residents said the Israeli warplanes roared over the refugee camp of Ain Helweh near the port town of Sidon in the

early evening, drawing intense bursts of anti-aircraft fire from Palestinian guerrilla positions. One guerrilla official claimed the aircraft had intended to

attack the camp. Several Israeli boats were also sighted off the southwest

Lebanese coast. a Lebanese reporter in the area said. None of the planes were hit. There was also no immediate

report of any aerial or sea bombardment or any casualties at Ain Helweh.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the reported overflights. But Israel often sends reconnaissance jets over the Palestinian-dominated southern quarter of Lebanon. Israeli troops invaded and occupied the area for three months earlier this year.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli sources denied the report.

On the southeast fringe of Beirut, sporadic shellfire resumed last night for the first time since an Oct. 7 cease-fire ended fighting between Syrian peacekeeping troops and Israeli armed Christian militias, residents said.

But they said there was no immediate resumption of full? scale, battles, nor immediate reports of casualties.





