

Vignola attacks Heinz' voting practices in televised debate

By RICH KIRKPATRICK
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Democratic challenger Joseph Vignola, trying to make the most of his only television debate this fall, criticized Republican Sen. John Heinz yesterday for missing Senate votes on drug enforcement and a new minimum wage.

Vignola and Heinz fielded questions from a panel of reporters in an hourlong debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters and WPVI-TV.

Unable to duplicate Heinz' television commercials, Vignola needed to make an impression with voters in a race the pollsters say he is losing by a wide margin.

"I think I showed John Heinz has been a day late and a dollar short and a fair weather friend of Pennsylvania," Vignola said afterward.

He chided the senator for the missed votes and for not supporting an end to filibusters on campaign finance reform and day-care bills.

"John Heinz was AWOL on the vote in the war against drugs," the Democrat said.

Heinz said afterward he was frustrated he couldn't rebut Vignola during the debate because of the format.

He said the votes he missed were procedural and that he was present for key votes on the issues.

Despite their differences, both candidates went out of their way to be congenial and to avoid the mean-spirited attacks seen on some of the presidential and vice presidential debates this fall.

Heinz said Vignola was right on the seriousness of the drug issue and on the need for economic development in Pennsylvania.

Vignola praised the campaign for its lack of name calling.

"I like John Heinz. I just don't like the way he votes," Vignola said.

Vignola, who repeatedly turned his answers into attacks on Heinz' record, said the incumbent supported President Reagan's budgets that cut aid to education and human services.

They disagreed on where military spending can be cut, with Vignola opposing the MX missile and the Strategic Defense Initiative, commonly known as Star Wars, and an additional carrier battle group, all components of the Reagan military buildup.

As a senator, Vignola said, he would go after excessive spending, even in a Democratic administration, the way he saved taxpayers \$500 million while he was Philadelphia city controller.

Heinz said he has not favored a blank check for the Pentagon but feels the proposed Star Wars defense has helped bring the Soviet Union to the negotiating table and led to the agreement cutting short-range missiles.

On domestic issues, Heinz said he would encourage Vice President George Bush to support continued limits on steel imports, which the senator said have kept their market share to about 20 percent instead of 35 percent.

Heinz fought hard to push the restrictions past a reluctant Reagan administration and Bush has not yet said he would support an extension after the limits expire next year.

Unless Bush supports the limits, he could jeopardize his election chances in Pennsylvania and several Midwestern industrial states, Heinz said.

Vignola objected to one question

about whether he will have trouble winning statewide because voters outside Philadelphia suspect anyone from the city of being involved in sleazy politics. Vignola said he has an impeccable record in his six years of public life.

Vignola said he would leave it to viewers to decide who won.

"We had a great dialogue on the issues. ... We should continue to do this, because that is what the people of Pennsylvania want to hear."

—JOSEPH VIGNOLA

In his closing remarks, Vignola again urged Heinz to agree to two more debates.

"We had a great dialogue on the issues. ... We should continue to do this, because that is what the people of Pennsylvania want to hear."

Heinz, after the debate, rejected the idea. The incumbent has been far ahead in the pre-election public opinion polls and has a sizable funding advantage over Vignola. Heinz had several million dollars available to buy television time while Vignola was expected to have no more than several hundred thousand dollars.

Asked whether Vignola's attacks were effective, Heinz said, "That's for people to decide. Obviously a challenger has to go on the attack. ... I was pleased with this opportunity to talk about the issues."

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Toxic sites may be in our back yard

By DAVE HOWLAND
Collegian Staff Writer

With the enactment of a \$61 million state-level hazardous waste clean-up bill yesterday, Pennsylvania set out on the long road to cleaning its toxic dumps and some of them may be in our back yard.

The state Department of Environmental Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency have compiled a list of over 2,000 potential hazardous waste sites in the state. At least four are known to be in Centre County.

DER officials have been conducting tests and examining records of contaminated locations. The work is part of effort to prioritize the locations for eligibility to state clean-up money, said Susan Woods, DER Spokeswoman.

According to Collegian files, sites examined by the state in Centre County last year include: Beck's dump site in Bellefonte; the Bellefonte landfill, RD3 Bellefonte; the Centre Region Landfill, Circleville Road and the Corning Glassworks, Dale Summit.

Woods said the DER will most likely have the priority list completed by February, but until then, cannot release

a list of sites in Centre County or their status. Woods said several hundred sites of the 2,000 have been found an imminent danger to the environment and are in need of immediate clean-up efforts.

Brigit Hofman, chief director of the DER's hazardous site clean-up program, said the bill gives the state the money and authority needed to clean large scale contamination that has been left to sit.

Dan Spadoni, DER community relations coordinator for the Williamsport regional office — which includes Centre County — said he was unaware of what areas were being tested.

Rep. Lynn Herman, R-Centre and Clearfield, said that although he was unaware of what locations in the County maybe helped by the bill, he thinks the bill will be beneficial.

"The importance of this legislation is not only that we will have ample means of disposing hazardous material, but we will have the ability to clean-up existing prominent areas. And these two combined will greatly enhance our environment's quality in Pennsylvania for the future," he said.

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