

# Ridge ends day of endorsements at Scanticon

By JIM KINNEY  
Collegian Staff Writer

Gov. Tom Ridge capped off a busy day of politicking Friday night at the Penn State Scanticon Conference Center Hotel.

After endorsing Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., as a presidential candidate earlier in the day, Ridge appeared before local Republican faithful at a fund-raising dinner for U.S. Rep. Bill Clinger, R-Warren.

Ridge said he has long respected Clinger, crediting the local representative with helping him in his own election to the U.S. House of Representatives earlier in his political career.

"I don't know how many votes I got because of the respect people outside his district have for this man," Ridge said.

Ridge also talked about how important Clinger's presence is in Washington, D.C., while Congress is rethinking the relationship between the state and federal governments.

If the Congress gives responsibility to the states, Ridge said, it also should give them the resources to carry out those responsibilities.

"I'm willing to take a haircut," Governor

"It was a difficult decision. . . ."

— Tom Ridge  
Pennsylvania governor

Ridge said, "but I don't want to get scalped."

Ridge said he expressed the same sentiments to Dole early in the day while Dole was in Harrisburg.

Turning to his presidential endorsement decision, Ridge said he went through a difficult process making a choice between Dole and U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

"You know it was a difficult decision because I had to make a choice between two friends," he said. "It was a matter of thinking of not only Pennsylvania's interests but of national and international leadership."

The governor also spoke of his education reform package that will go to the legislature this week. He said he is hopeful it will fare better than an earlier version of the legislation.

"Over the past few months we've been talking

with teachers, talking with school boards," he said. "I think there is a lot of momentum."

After Ridge spoke, Clinger took the podium to speak about recent events in Washington.

Clinger said he has enjoyed being in the majority after spending most of his 18 years as a minority. Republicans in Congress have accomplished many of their goals, he said.

"I think we're coming to the end of what we are trying to accomplish," Clinger said.

The ultimate goal, Clinger said, is changing the way the federal government operates. "What we are trying to accomplish is a revolution, a bloodless revolution."

Clinger said the House is currently reconciling bills with the Senate, and the negotiations are getting rough.

"I call it legislative mud wrestling," he said. "Just because it is difficult doesn't mean it's not worth doing."

Eileen Grimm, president of the College Republicans, said the event was an excellent opportunity to hear the governor speak and she is impressed by Clinger.

"I like (Clinger), I think he's a nice guy," she said. "I like what he is trying to do."

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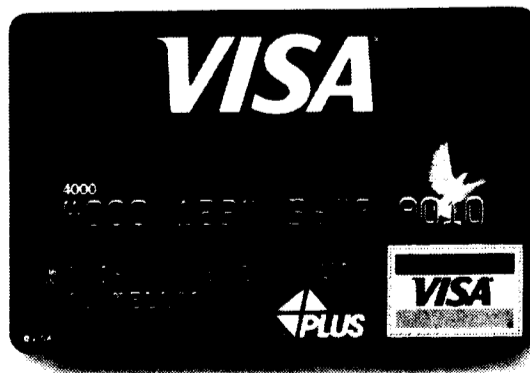
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