



Speaker of the House comes to Silicon Valley to lend support, raise funds for Republicans

Hastert makes Cunneen pitch



Cunneen

BY LORI ARATANI
Mercury News

Republican leader Dennis Hastert said Wednesday that State Assemblyman Jim Cunneen would bring valuable experience, understanding and new ideas about Silicon Valley's high-tech industry to the halls of Congress.

Hastert, the speaker of the House, was in the Bay Area to lend support to Cunneen's congressional campaign and to raise money for the Republican Party. Hastert is another in a line of prominent politicians who have flown west to show their support for candidates in Silicon Valley's ultra-competitive 15th Congressional District.

The campaign events, which included a luncheon in San Francisco, a tour of Hewlett-Packard Laboratories' Cool World exhibit in Palo Alto and an evening fundraiser at a private home in Atherton, was an opportunity for Cunneen to showcase his tech savvy.



SPEAKER J. DENNIS HASTERT

September 11, 2000

Mr. Glenn Steiner
Research Scientist
Hewlett-Packard Company
1501 Page Mill Road, 1U-17
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Dear Mr. Steiner:

I enjoyed being with you during my recent trip to California. We greatly appreciate the tour of *Cool Town*.

Thanks for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker

From left, Jim Cunneen, HP's Richard Lampman and Bob Wayman, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert watch a demonstration by HP research scientist Marcos Frid.



TOM VAN DYKE—
MERCURY NEWS

Hastert lends hand to Cunneen's bid

■ CUNNEEN

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Cunneen is running against Democrat Mike Honda, who also serves in the Assembly. The race is one of a handful of high-profile contests in the country as the two parties battle for control of the House of Representatives, where the Republicans hold a slim majority.

Not to be outdone by their Republican rivals, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt is scheduled to appear today at a downtown San Jose rally on Honda's behalf.

After a private meeting with HP executives, the two men were whisked to the company's Cool Town lab for a demonstration of some of the latest technologies being developed.

There, they watched as Glenn Steiner, project manager for Hewlett-Packard Laboratories' Internet and Mobile Systems Lab, demonstrated "real-world applications" for new wireless technology. Using his PalmPilot, Steiner showed how executives could store the URLs for presentations in the hand-held device and then, by pressing a button, beam that information to a waiting projector that would display it on a screen.

Pointing his PalmPilot to a custom-designed mini jukebox, Steiner's colleague, Marcos Frid, selected a musical number, bringing smiles to those seated in the room. He went on to show the group how some day they might be able to track the route of the local bus by using a hand-held device.

"It's really the cutting edge of the valley," Hastert said.

Throughout the campaign, Cun-

neen has touted his Silicon Valley savvy. Prior to becoming a state assemblyman, Cunneen worked as global corporate affairs manager for Applied Materials. His campaign also has won the backing of several prominent high-tech executives, including Cisco Systems President and CEO John Chambers and Carly Fiorina, Hewlett-Packard's chairman and CEO.

Although Hewlett-Packard as a company can neither endorse nor give money to political candidates, Cunneen has won the support of the company's political action committee, which has endorsed and given money to his campaign.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for us to have someone from Silicon Valley who can be a participant in crafting some of the new legislation that affects high tech," Hastert said. "He's in touch with Silicon Valley and has a real feel for what the issues are and how important they are."

District 15 stretches from Santa Cruz and includes part of the west valley, as well as Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. The race is one of a handful in which an incumbent is not seeking re-election. The district's current congressman, Rep. Tom Campbell, is giving up his seat to run for U.S. Senate.

"This has been a speaker extremely friendly to this industry," Cunneen said. "There's two stories to tell of who should be leading the House on priorities that Silicon Valley think are the most important, and clearly a Speaker Hastert is in our best interests."

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