

D3C18-CA48-T01 Appendix

D3C18-CA48-T01 Appendix	1
Article #1—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Role Alleged in Credit Card Scheme	1
Article #2—Los Angeles Times: BAUGH COMMITTED AT LEAST 6 FELONIES, PROSECUTORS ALLEGE.....	2
Article #3—Los Angeles Times: Democrats Seek Probe of Alleged GOP Plant.....	4
Article #4—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Declines to Talk to D.A. About Finances :	5
Article #5—Los Angeles Times: D.A. Investigators Interview Baugh's Election Treasurer	7
Article #6—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Indicted on Felony Charges in Campaign Ploy	8
Article #7—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Appears to Weather Challenge.....	10
Article #8—Associated Press: Assembly GOP leader agrees to pay \$ 47,900 fine	12

Article #1—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Role Alleged in Credit Card Scheme

Baugh Role Alleged in Credit Card Scheme

Investigation: The Huntington Beach lawmaker says the district attorney's probe is an effort to harass him.

June 19, 1996|PETER M. WARREN | TIMES STAFF WRITER

Assemblyman Scott Baugh charged \$15,010 on his credit cards last year in a fraudulent scheme with a close friend who owns a convenience market near Baugh's home, according to court papers filed by the Orange County district attorney's office on Tuesday.

Prosecutors allege in a search warrant affidavit that Baugh charged the money in at least six transactions on his credit cards June 15, 1995, without receiving any goods or services from Huntington Beach store owner Adel Zeidan, who later became a major donor to Baugh's campaign.

The transactions were made to help Zeidan falsely obtain cash advances, according to the court papers. Zeidan repaid Baugh's accounts before any interest charges accrued, according to court papers. Baugh (R-Huntington Beach), who has not been charged in connection with the alleged scheme, denied any wrongdoing, saying the district attorney's latest investigation is a "systematic and insidious effort" to harass him.

In successfully seeking permission June 3 to search Baugh and Zeidan's bank records and Zeidan's market, district attorney's investigator Randy Sorley concluded that the pair committed felony conspiracy and misdemeanor credit card fraud in at least six transactions, the affidavit contends.

Assistant Dist. Atty. John Conley declined to comment on whether indictments would be sought against the freshman legislator or Zeidan, who owns Ocean Pacific Market in Huntington Beach.

Baugh already faces trial Aug. 26 on four felony counts and 18 misdemeanors for allegedly concealing or misreporting tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions and loans and for allegedly persuading his campaign treasurer to lie under oath about the source of some campaign funds. One of the misdemeanor counts stems from a cash contribution from Zeidan.

The indictment, issued in March, stems from alleged wrongdoing in last year's special election in the 67th Assembly District, which Baugh won. Three GOP aides have pleaded guilty to misdemeanors for their roles in placing a decoy Democrat on the ballot to siphon votes from a popular Democrat. Two others face felony indictments.

Baugh said Tuesday that the district attorney is trying to force Zeidan to testify against him in the campaign finance case. Zeidan has admitted that Baugh accepted \$8,800 in cash for his campaign, a violation of state law barring the use of cash in political campaigns.

"It is quite apparent that the district attorney is engaged in a systematic and insidious effort to harass, threaten and intimidate anybody who dares to testify on my behalf," Baugh said.

The credit card fraud law prohibits any person from processing or obtaining payment of a credit card charge if the retailer did not agree to furnish goods and services.

Credit card industry experts said the court papers outline the sort of scheme under which a person could create a cash flow and do it more cheaply than by obtaining money through the cash advance mechanism on credit cards.

Article #2—Los Angeles Times: BAUGH COMMITTED AT LEAST 6 FELONIES, PROSECUTORS ALLEGE

Baugh Committed at Least 6 Felonies, Prosecutors Allege

Investigation: Court papers accuse O.C. assemblyman of campaign law violations in special election and being key figure in scheme. Lawmaker denies knowing of plot.

March 22, 1996|PETER M. WARREN and MICHAEL G. WAGNER and MARK PLATTE | TIMES STAFF WRITERS

SANTA ANA — The Orange County district attorney's office alleges that GOP Assemblyman Scott Baugh has committed at least six felonies by violating state campaign finance laws, including money laundering and failing to report donations made to his campaign, according to court papers filed Thursday.

Baugh (R-Huntington Beach) also was instrumental in recruiting a longtime friend to run as a Democrat last year in the hope of siphoning support from a Democratic rival of Baugh's in a Nov. 28 special election, according to an investigator's affidavit filed in support of a search warrant.

Prosecutors back up this claim with pages of testimony from the former decoy Democratic candidate, Laurie Campbell, who contends that Baugh was involved in the plan from the very beginning. Campbell said Baugh had conversations with her about "diluting the Democratic vote" and about paying her legal bills when the plot went sour, according to a district attorney's investigator.

Baugh has repeatedly denied any knowledge of any GOP plot to manipulate the election. Three political workers, one a former aide to Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle (R-Garden Grove), pleaded guilty this month to participating in the scheme, which involved GOP aides circulating nominating papers for Campbell and helping her file as a Democratic Assembly candidate on Sept. 21.

Campbell told investigators that, according to Baugh, the plan to put her on the ballot had the "blessing" of Pringle, who was counting on the recall of maverick Assemblywoman Doris Allen (R-Cypress) and Baugh's simultaneous victory to give him the speakership, the documents show.

"Campbell said Baugh told her it was Curt Pringle's people who [were] behind this nomination paper incident," according to the investigator's affidavit. "Baugh told Campbell that [Rep.] Dana Rohrabacher is 'really ticked' at

Pringle's office for allowing this to happen." Rohrabacher had chosen Baugh to run as his candidate in the 67th District race.

"Campbell said that Baugh said it is Baugh's understanding that this whole idea was [Rhonda] Carmony's but she had Pringle's blessing to go forward with it." Carmony is Rohrabacher's campaign manager.

Baugh and Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach) declined comment Thursday. Carmony could not be reached, but her attorney, Creighton Laz, said she has been instructed to appear in court at 9 a.m. today. Being asked to appear, Laz said, "would indicate there's been an indictment." All three have long maintained they have done nothing wrong.

Through a spokesman, Pringle also said he had no involvement in Campbell's candidacy. But Pringle refused to comment on the search warrant details.

It is not a crime for a member of one party to recruit a candidate from another party to run in an election. But it is illegal to falsely fill out any part of a nomination paper or to knowingly file a falsified nominating petition.

According to the affidavit, filed by prosecutors to obtain telephone, computer, bank and credit records of Baugh and others:

- * Prosecutors believe Baugh committed perjury repeatedly by filing incomplete and incorrect Scott Baugh campaign finance reports and other required campaign documents from October through January;

- * Baugh omitted a \$1,000 contribution from Campbell's husband, Kendrick, from campaign reports filed in October and November, effectively hiding his relationship with Campbell, according to Baugh's former campaign treasurer, Dan Traxler.

- * Pringle acknowledged that his chief of staff, Jeff Flint, knew about the plan to recruit Campbell and that Flint knew another Pringle staffer, Mark Denny, was involved.

- * Campbell said Baugh made the key overture to her. She was contacted a day later by a GOP campaign worker, Richard Martin, who helped her obtain her candidacy paperwork, she said.

- * Campbell said Baugh told her that her legal bills would be paid by others. She said that Dave Gilliard, Baugh and Pringle's campaign consultant, help her obtain two attorneys.

The investigation into the irregularities in the 67th Assembly District election began almost five months ago, after The Times reported that Campbell had filed falsified nominating petitions and the Orange County Democratic Party filed a complaint with Dist. Atty. Michael R. Capizzi's office.

The Orange County Grand Jury has taken testimony since mid-February from a series of witnesses in the two-pronged case. Campbell, one of the first, appeared Feb. 13.

One aspect of the case involves Campbell's candidacy and the effort to dilute the vote for well-known Democrat Linda Moulton-Patterson. A second aspect involves the fiscal affairs and campaign reporting by the Baugh for Assembly campaign.

Baugh succeeded Allen by capturing the winner-take-all special election Nov. 28, the same day Allen was recalled. Baugh's election gave Republicans the votes to take control of the Assembly. They elected Pringle speaker in January.

Article #3—Los Angeles Times: Democrats Seek Probe of Alleged GOP Plant

Democrats Seek Probe of Alleged GOP Plant : Politics: Complaint filed with registrar of voters challenges validity of nomination petitions submitted by conservative candidate Laurie Campbell, viewed as a spoiler in 67th Assembly District race.

October 20, 1995|PETER M. WARREN | TIMES POLITICAL WRITER

SANTA ANA — In an effort to remove a contender from the ballot, the Orange County Democratic Party has asked the registrar of voters to investigate the validity of nomination petitions submitted by a Huntington Beach Democrat seeking to represent northwest Orange County in the Assembly.

The Democrats have filed a complaint with the registrar alleging that Laurie Campbell violated the Election Code and committed perjury on her nomination papers in the 67th Assembly District.

Jim Toledano, county Democratic chair, also contended that "one or more Republican legislators and their operatives engineered" her candidacy to "dupe" Democratic voters and "sabotage" Linda Moulton-Patterson, the only other Democrat on the ballot in the Nov. 28 election.

Campbell, who describes herself as a conservative and has said she is running to keep a liberal from winning, declined to comment on the charges. She has refused to identify who asked her to run.

State Sen. Ross Johnson (R-Newport Beach), a key GOP strategist in the election, dismissed the allegations.

"What is it about democracy and elections that Mr. Toledano doesn't like?" he said. "The voters are smart enough to make their decision on their own. How about debating issues instead of filing complaints?"

The challenge to Campbell's candidacy comes in the Nov. 28 recall election of former Assembly Speaker Doris Allen (R-Cypress). Voters in the northwest Orange County district are being asked to recall Allen and to simultaneously decide who should replace her. There are four Republicans and the two Democrats on the winner-take-all ballot, which will help decide who controls the Assembly.

Toledano's allegations were based on stories in The Times, which reported on the strategy of Orange County Republican leaders and other conservatives who wanted to limit the election field to three or fewer Republicans and also recruit Democrats to dilute the vote for Moulton-Patterson. Republican leaders and others said the tactic is common statewide.

In his complaint to the registrar, Toledano cited requirements under state law that the circulator of nomination petitions--whether the candidate or someone else--must sign the document and declare under penalty of perjury that she or he is a registered voter in the political district.

Campbell declared she was the circulator of her petitions. However, 12 of the 43 registered Democrats who signed them told The Times that the petitioners were men.

In addition to filing a complaint with the registrar, Toledano sent letters calling for an inquiry to state Atty. Gen. Dan Lungren, U.S. Atty. Gen. Janet Reno and Orange County Dist. Atty. Michael R. Capizzi.

Teresa Pomeroy, 35, of Garden Grove, who signed the petition, called it "highly unethical" to run for office as a Democrat if your purpose is to help elect a Republican. "If she is a wolf in sheep's clothing, that is wrong," she said. "I feel like I have been duped."

Maury Evans, chief assistant district attorney, said that his office would review the letter.

Registrar of Voters Rosalyn Lever said her office had forwarded the complaint and copies of Campbell's nominating documents to the district attorney's office, which would deal with any criminal issues. Copies were also sent to the secretary of state's office, which has jurisdiction over the Assembly race and electoral issues.

"I don't have any jurisdiction to pull an Assembly candidate's name off the ballot," Lever said, adding that "nothing like this has happened in recent [memory]."

The other candidates in the race responded with a variety of views.

"I think it is outrageous that the Republicans say this is business as usual," said Moulton-Patterson. "I think they are trying to perpetrate a fraud on the people."

Allen, whose joining with Democrats to elect herself Speaker in June precipitated the recall battle, said that an investigation would help determine "whether these men who circulated these petitions" were Republicans trying to disrupt the electoral process.

"The manipulation of candidates is shocking," she said, referring to efforts to recruit Democrats and persuade Republicans to quit the race. "The idea that [legislators] would admit to manipulating candidates is shocking. It is the reason I ran for Speaker. The people are the ones who are supposed to pick the candidates."

Dave Gilliard, a consultant to Republican candidate Scott Baugh, said he does not believe that Campbell is a Republican Party plant. He criticized Democrats for attacking her candidacy.

"The Democratic Party has never been hospitable to any conservative, especially a pro-life candidate," he said. Baugh and Campbell are the only challengers who are anti-abortion.

Campbell, who attends Baugh's church, described Baugh as the only other conservative in the race and said that Republicans should vote for him.

"If their philosophy is to elect a conservative, then that is legitimate to go on the ballot to give the Democrats another choice even if she knows she can't win," Gilliard said.

Republican candidate Shirley Carey said the apparent violation of the law "is an example that the political process is really sick, and I am appalled, particularly if there is any connection with the Republican leadership or if it is somehow connected to Baugh. The dirty tricks and the lies and the deception must stop."

Republican candidate Haydee Tillotson said: "If the Democratic Party feels strongly that she is not what she is supposed to be, then it is free to challenge it."

GOP candidate Don MacAllister declined to comment.

Article #4—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Declines to Talk to D.A. About Finances :

Baugh Declines to Talk to D.A. About Finances : Politics: Office is probing aborted candidacy of Democrat Laurie Campbell. Others in race have cooperated.

November 23, 1995|PETER M. WARREN | TIMES POLITICAL WRITER

SANTA ANA — Republican Scott Baugh has refused to talk with the Orange County district attorney's office, which wants to question him about his campaign financing as part of its investigation into the aborted candidacy of Democrat Laurie Campbell, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Baugh, who is one of four candidates seeking to replace Assemblywoman Doris Allen in Tuesday's recall election, was the only one to put off investigators' questions until after the election, said Guy Ormes, supervising deputy district attorney.

"He very briefly talked to us and said he wouldn't answer any more questions until after the election," Ormes said. "We talked to all the other candidates. All the others were cooperative and eager to discuss it with us."

Ormes is heading an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the candidacy of Campbell, who was removed from the ballot last month by a Sacramento County Superior Court judge who determined that Campbell had filed falsified nomination papers.

Several people circulated Campbell's nominating petitions, then arranged for Campbell to sign that she had gathered the signatures herself, the court found. It is a felony under the California Elections Code to file a falsified nomination paper. However, no charges have been filed in the case.

Baugh, who is widely seen as the front-runner in the contest to replace Allen (R-Cypress) if she is recalled, did not respond to repeated efforts to reach him Wednesday.

Democrats have charged that the Campbell candidacy was engineered by Republican leaders to split the potential vote for the other Democrat in the race, Linda Moulton-Patterson. The district, which includes Huntington Beach, Cypress, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach, is half Republican and a third Democratic.

Investigators went to Baugh's home in Huntington Beach on Saturday to talk to him as part of a monthlong investigation, Ormes said. The Campbell investigation includes not only potential charges against her but also against those who might have influenced or benefited from her entrance in the race.

In addition to "the whole range of issues around the Campbell candidacy," Ormes said, investigators asked Baugh to "discuss questions about his financial disclosure statements that have developed in the course of investigating the Laurie Campbell matter."

Baugh's campaign treasurer confirmed Wednesday that he is amending for the second time the candidate's Oct. 14 campaign disclosure statement. Registrar of voters' officials said the amended statement does not have to be filed before Tuesday's election.

Allen and the other candidates in the race condemned Baugh's refusal to talk to investigators until after the election. Republican Shirley Carey and Moulton-Patterson called for him to quit the race.

"This evasive, attorney-like behavior, in combination with the admitted lies regarding his experience and the ongoing deception in his brochures, damages his credibility as a candidate," Carey said. "Voters need to elect someone they know they can trust and who will not be involved in a legal fiasco after the election."

Another GOP candidate, Don MacAllister, said, "I wish we could find out who really did it to set the record straight and to catch the people who are doing things that are not proper in elections."

Moulton-Patterson said that Baugh "has already been caught lying on a number of things: . . . He says he is a business manager, and he is an attorney. He said he is on the Board of Trustees of Harbor College, and he is not. The people have a right to know."

Allen, who gained the enmity of her own party when she was elected Assembly Speaker by Democrats, said she was not approached by the investigators. Declaring the Campbell incident amounted to "fraud and an effort to manipulate the election," she said Baugh is telling the voters they "don't deserve to know the answers until after the election. This is an issue that is definitely connected to the election and one that people have a right to know: What part did you play in doing this?"

Campbell, who declined comment Wednesday, attends the same evangelical church as Baugh. She had said in October, when she was still a candidate, that she entered the race to "prevent someone with a more liberal agenda from winning." She described Baugh as the only other conservative in the race and said Republicans should vote for him.

Campbell has refused to identify who asked her to run, saying, "They asked me not to."

Article #5—Los Angeles Times: D.A. Investigators Interview Baugh's Election Treasurer

D.A. Investigators Interview Baugh's Election Treasurer : Campaign: Fiscal adviser to new assemblyman is questioned by those looking into delayed reporting and ties to ousted rival.
December 01, 1995|PETER M. WARREN | TIMES POLITICAL WRITER

District attorney's investigators questioned the campaign treasurer for newly elected Assemblyman Scott Baugh on Thursday as they continued to check possible links between the Baugh campaign and ousted Democratic candidate Laurie Campbell.

Two investigators interviewed Treasurer Dan Traxler on Thursday morning as part of their review of the Campbell candidacy and Baugh's campaign finance disclosure statements.

Traxler acknowledged speaking with two investigators, but the Costa Mesa-based financial adviser and accountant declined to discuss the interview.

Baugh, a Huntington Beach attorney who was chosen Tuesday to replace recalled Assemblywoman Doris Allen, acknowledged in campaign documents filed Tuesday that he failed for several months to report a \$1,000 contribution from Campbell's husband.

Baugh did not disclose the contribution from Rick Campbell in three previous state-required campaign finance reports filed between the time he received the money and Tuesday, when he wrote that it had been "inadvertently omitted."

Laurie Campbell was removed from the ballot a month before Tuesday's election amid allegations that she was a "stealth candidate" recruited by GOP leaders seeking to siphon votes from Baugh's chief Democratic opponent, Linda Moulton-Patterson.

Republican leaders, while admitting they were interested in persuading more Democrats to run in the winner-take-all special election, have repeatedly denied having anything to do with the Campbell candidacy.

Traxler disputed a published account in which Baugh blamed Traxler for the original reporting error and a delay in correcting it.

"I hope he was misquoted," Traxler said.

Traxler said Thursday that Baugh, in fact, provided the information for a series of financial disclosure statements that omitted the \$1,000 contribution until just hours before the polls closed Tuesday. Baugh won with 45% of the vote.

Baugh's Republican and Democratic opponents in Tuesday's election have accused Baugh of purposefully failing to list the contribution to hide his relationship with the Campbells and his alleged role in recruiting her.

Baugh, who was scheduled to attend a legislative retreat Wednesday, could not be reached for comment. He also has repeatedly denied having anything to do with Campbell's candidacy.

The contribution is the first direct link between the Baugh campaign and Campbell. When questions arose about the candidacy of Campbell--a political unknown and newcomer to Orange County--Baugh initially denied knowing her, then acknowledged that the two had met and attend the same Newport Beach church.

Baugh and Laurie Campbell also worked together in the late 1980s in the Sacramento office of a major California law firm.

Baugh worked at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe from Sept. 10, 1987, through Feb. 22, 1991, handling commercial litigation. Laurie Campbell worked as a secretary in the firm's Sacramento office from April 27, 1987 through Oct. 10, 1988.

Campbell was removed from the ballot in October after a Sacramento judge ruled that her nomination papers had been falsified. She signed under oath that she had gathered nomination signatures. The petitions had actually been circulated by two unidentified men

The Orange County district attorney is now investigating the falsification, which is a felony. Supervising Deputy Dist. Atty. Guy Ormes has also said the office is "investigating Baugh's ties to" candidate Campbell, as well as his campaign disclosure statements.

Ormes said Baugh "has promised to come in and talk with us on Monday."

In campaign finance reports filed shortly before the polls closed Tuesday, Baugh said he received the \$1,000 contribution from Rick Campbell, then returned it several weeks later on the day Laurie Campbell filed for the 67th District race. She paid a \$699 filing fee on that day.

Meanwhile, Baugh was expected to join his new Republican Assembly colleagues Thursday for a fund-raising tournament at Big Horn Golf Club in Palm Desert, the kickoff to a three-day policy planning summit.

The summit, called to craft what insiders are dubbing a "contract with California," is expected to include much back room debate on who will assume the speakership. The current Speaker, freshman Brian Setencich of Fresno, will likely be challenged by Orange County Assemblyman Curt Pringle, who has the backing of Baugh and other conservatives, as well as the state GOP and Gov. Pete Wilson.

Times staff writer Eric Bailey contributed to this report.

Article #6—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Indicted on Felony Charges in Campaign Ploy

Baugh Indicted on Felony Charges in Campaign Ploy

Politics: Two GOP aides are also accused of helping a Democrat into Orange County race. Republicans call the case 'grandstanding.'

March 23, 1996|PETER M. WARREN and MICHAEL G. WAGNER and DEXTER FILKINS | TIMES STAFF WRITERS

SANTA ANA — In a case that cuts to the heart of California's GOP leadership, a grand jury on Friday indicted state Assemblyman Scott Baugh, the Orange County Republican whose tainted election victory allowed the party to seize control of the Legislature's lower house.

Baugh, of Huntington Beach, was charged with four felonies, including falsifying campaign reports and persuading another person to commit perjury. He also was charged with 18 misdemeanors for allegedly concealing the source of campaign money.

The grand jury also charged Rhonda Carmony, campaign manager for Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, with orchestrating a GOP scheme to manipulate the Nov. 28 special election for the 67th Assembly District seat in Baugh's favor. Also indicted was Baugh's chief of staff, Maureen Werft, who, grand jurors say, lied on her ballot application and voted in Baugh's election even though she did not live in his district. The charges against both women are felonies.

The indictment of Baugh, 33, culminated an investigation that has laid out in extraordinary detail the lengths to which GOP operatives were willing to go to secure the ouster of maverick Assemblywoman Doris Allen (R-Cypress) and Baugh's victory--in order to take control of the Assembly.

After the hearing, Baugh stood outside Superior Court Judge David O. Carter's courtroom and denounced Orange County Dist. Atty. Michael R. Capizzi. He accused Capizzi of timing the indictment to fall just days before Tuesday's primary election, when Baugh faces two Republican challengers.

"This is obviously a political ploy," Baugh said. "It's a witch hunt, and it's politically motivated to be brought . . . days before an election.

"The voters of the 67th Assembly District demanded conservative leadership in that district," Baugh said. "I'm that true conservative and am voting that true conservative platform. And Mr. Capizzi and the district attorney's office don't like that."

Capizzi responded that prosecutors had targeted corruption of the electoral process and were enforcing a law enacted by initiative--the Political Reform Act.

"Fair and honest elections are the cornerstone of a democracy, and that is something we take seriously," he said. "This is Orange County, California. . . . We are not Chicago."

Carmony, Werft and their attorneys declined to comment Friday.

Extent of Investigation

Still unanswered is how much two of the county's top elected officials--Rohrabacher and Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle--knew about a GOP scheme allegedly orchestrated by some of their closest aides.

Pringle figured prominently in a detailed, 65-page affidavit released Thursday in which investigators laid out their version of the scheme. Three GOP operatives, including a former Pringle aide, pleaded guilty this month in connection with the plan to draft Democrat Laurie Campbell into the race to draw votes away from Baugh's main Democratic opponent.

All three named Carmony as a leader of the effort. Campbell told investigators under oath that Baugh had said Pringle gave his "blessing" to the scheme.

Pringle, Rohrabacher, Baugh and Carmony have repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

Friday morning, prosecutors were tight-lipped about the future of the investigation. But they made it clear they were not stopping with Baugh.

"This investigation is not over," said Deputy Dist. Atty. John Conley. "It is continuing."

The Baugh investigation has driven a wedge into the state GOP, with some party leaders calling for the resignation of Capizzi, a fellow Republican.

Baugh, Carmony and Werft surrendered Friday morning in Orange County Superior Court. Baugh, wearing a double-breasted blue blazer, strode into court holding hands with his girlfriend, Wendy Ward, whose campaign loan to Baugh figures prominently in the indictment.

Party Reactions

Carter released Baugh and the others without bond. The judge agreed to wait until after Tuesday's election to order booking photographs of the three, saying he did not want the photos to turn up in campaign literature of Baugh's opponents.

If convicted, Baugh faces as much as seven years in state prison.

The indictments, though largely anticipated since Thursday's affidavit, brought a thunderous reaction from leaders in both political parties.

"This is obvious political grandstanding by Capizzi," said Michael Schroeder, the state GOP's vice chairman. "Any doubts regarding the honesty and integrity of his office have now been dispelled by the fact that he waited until Friday before election day in order to take these actions, knowing full well that Baugh would not have a fair opportunity to respond before election day."

Assembly Republicans rallied around Baugh after the indictment, declaring him innocent. They predicted that the indictments will not harm GOP efforts to reelect Baugh, maintain control of the Assembly and push through a conservative agenda.

Article #7—Los Angeles Times: Baugh Appears to Weather Challenge

Baugh Appears to Weather Challenge

Assemblyman calls his early but substantial lead a 'repudiation' of last week's felony indictments.

March 27, 1996 | MICHAEL G. WAGNER | TIMES STAFF WRITER

SANTA ANA — Calling his significant lead a "repudiation" of the felony charges brought against him, Assemblyman Scott Baugh said his supporters had seen through the last-minute attempt by Orange County Dist. Atty. Michael R. Capizzi to influence the election.

"The voters have repudiated Mr. Capizzi tonight," a defiant Baugh exclaimed before family and friends Tuesday night.

Capizzi, who ventured into the post-election Republican gathering at the Westin South Coast Plaza hotel in Costa Mesa, said, "People have been supportive and encouraging us for our doing our job.

"The overwhelming number of Republicans are supportive of the laws," Capizzi continued.

In one of the most closely watched legislative races in the state, it appeared that voters would return Baugh to Sacramento.

With about half of the precincts counted, one of Baugh's challengers, Cypress Councilwoman Cecilia L. Age, said the incumbent had an almost insurmountable edge. "It's just disheartening that after an indictment people would still vote him back in," said Age, who early Tuesday evening also trailed the other Republican challenger, Barbara A. Coe, an activist for the passage of Proposition 187.

For more than a decade, the 67th Assembly District, a predominantly white, affluent and solidly Republican area covering the north coastal portion of Orange County, was home to a sleepy legislative seat.

That changed last June when Republican Doris Allen (R-Cypress), the district's incumbent for 13 years, ignited a firestorm after former Speaker Willie Brown arranged for the Assembly's 39 Democrats to support Allen as Brown's successor, thus denying the GOP control of the lower house.

Outraged Republicans immediately launched a recall campaign. Allen was ousted last Nov. 28, and replaced by Baugh, a 33-year-old railroad lawyer. In the winner-take-all special election, Baugh, the handpicked choice of Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach), easily defeated Democrat Linda Moulton-Patterson, the former mayor of Huntington Beach.

But a controversy over that special election was touched off when The Times reported that Laurie Campbell, a Democrat with ties to Baugh, had been put on the ballot to dilute support for Moulton-Patterson.

Orange County Democratic Chairman Jim Toledano complained to the Capizzi that the election had been tainted. A lawsuit was filed in Sacramento and a judge there ordered Campbell stricken from the ballot.

Investigators later discovered that Republican aides for Rohrabacher and Pringle had hurriedly arranged for Campbell, a legal secretary who once worked with Baugh at a Sacramento law firm, to file nomination papers.

Three of the aides involved recently pleaded guilty to election fraud.

Last Thursday, Baugh, Carmony and Baugh's chief of staff were indicted by the Orange County Grand Jury. Baugh was charged with four felonies for allegedly filing false campaign reports and convincing his former treasurer to commit perjury. He also was charged with 18 misdemeanors. He faces up to seven years in state prison if convicted.

Another key legislative race in Orange County, the state Senate's 35th District, was also touched by the Willie Brown-Doris Allen episode.

Incumbent Ross Johnson (R-Irvine), who filled the seat after Marian Bergeson was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors, was challenged again by fellow Republican Gil Ferguson, a former assemblyman for 10 years from Balboa Island. The two waged a nasty battle by mail in the March 1995 primary.

In this year's race, Ferguson, a friend and ally of Allen's, was accused by Johnson of being part of a cabal to prevent Republicans from controlling the speakership.

Ferguson vehemently denied Johnson's assertion.

After early returns showed Johnson leading by a substantial margin, Ferguson conceded defeat and said he will not run for office again. "It doesn't make any difference what message you have if you don't have the money to deliver the message," he said.

"I said in the past I took Gil very seriously, and I did," Johnson said.

Term limits led to a five-way Republican scramble in the 71st Assembly District, for the seat being vacated by Mickey Conroy, the flamboyant lawmaker who tried unsuccessfully to legalize the paddling of youths caught defacing property with graffiti.

Conroy, who is stepping down because of term limits, is seeking to become the member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors from the 3rd District.

The race was close between Republicans Jim Beam and Bill Campbell with about half the votes counted.

In early returns in the Assembly's 70th District, incumbent Marilyn C. Brewer (R-Newport Beach) was significantly ahead of Jacob F. "Jim" Rems, of Irvine, a land surveyor and member of the Lincoln Club.

Finally, in the 73rd Assembly District, an area split almost evenly between south Orange County and northern San Diego County, incumbent Bill Morrow (R-Oceanside), led early against Bart Garry, a 28-year-old Dana Point attorney.

Article #8—Associated Press: Assembly GOP leader agrees to pay \$ 47,900 fine

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

July 27, 1999, Tuesday, BC cycle

Assembly GOP leader agrees to pay \$ 47,900 fine

SECTION: National Political

LENGTH: 338 words

DATELINE: SACRAMENTO

Assembly Republican floor leader Scott Baugh has agreed to pay a \$ 47,900 penalty for 11 violations of California's Political Reform Act during his first race for the Assembly in 1995.

The civil settlement resolves a case that originally involved four felony and 18 misdemeanor criminal charges filed against Baugh by Orange County District Attorney Michael Capizzi for campaign law violations in Baugh's 1995 election.

Sacramento Superior Judge Joe S. Gray approved the settlement Tuesday.

Four others, including Rhonda Carmony, former campaign manager and now wife of Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of Huntington Beach, pleaded guilty in 1997 to misdemeanors for other election law violations and received probationary sentences and fines.

Baugh, R-Huntington Beach, and his campaign aides were originally accused of financing a dummy candidate to split Democratic votes. Related charges included falsifying election documents, concealing campaign contributions and failing to report various fund transfers as required by the Political Reform Act.

Capizzi's original complaint against Baugh was dismissed by an Orange County judge and a second complaint was eventually turned over to the attorney general's office after Capizzi was removed from the case last year on grounds of conflict of interest.

On the recommendation of Attorney General Bill Lockyer, a Democrat, Judge Francisco Briseno dismissed the remaining two felony and 10 misdemeanor charges against Baugh in March and referred the case to the state Fair Political Practices Commission for possible civil penalties.

Baugh's settlement with the FPPC acknowledges that his campaign illegally accepted an \$ 8,800 cash contribution, failed to properly report the source of another \$ 1,000 contribution and then illegally returned that contribution in cash.

"The resolution of these campaign reporting errors through the FPPC is the solution I have sought for nearly four years," Baugh said. "I am happy to have this matter resolved and laid to rest."