Friday, October 20, 1995

From Washington:

JOSEPH SOBRAN

The Technical Stuff:

WASHINGTON - Most of us followed the Simpson trial were riveted by the lawyers' oratory in their summations. It was thrilling. We assumed it would be decive. We've all seen courtroom dramas in which all the facts are laid out, the balance is even, and everything depends on the Ciceroan brilliance of the advocates.

But as we look back on that trial, it seems to have been decided largely outside the courtroom - by jury selection, the exclusion of evidence, the two sides' decisions not to call this or that witness, and other procedural and strategic factors. Theic decision may not have made much difference, compared with what most of us think of as "the technical stuff.

A lawyer knows how critical the technical stuff can be. That's why the best lawyers are the ones who never go to court.

Better to get a case dismissed or a charge reduced than have your client's fate hinge on the uncertain reaction of 12 strangers, no matter how eloquent you are.

In the same way, a constitutional principle, once established, can result in outcomes in advance. For most people constitutional principles sound like technical stuff, as compared with the concreteness of what we call political "issues." This is a pity, because it means that most Americans still don't know their own heritage and won't be able to call on it in difficult moments. We have left town.

As the Simpson acquittal has shown again, Americans are furious and frustrated about the state of the country. But part of their frustration is due to their own inability to diagnose the central problem... they may be tempted to pursue the old and dangerous solution of giving dictatorial power to someone.

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At every level, I understand how it all works." She has served as a Town of New Fremont councilperson and continues to serve on the recently reconstituted Conservation Committee for the Beaver River Central School District.

"As a legislator, I plan to keep in touch with the town leaders," she said. "I can't wait to get into it. I really look forward to working with legislators.

Those are the contours of a candidate running for office for the right reasons. Joanne thinks the legislators and the "conservative" department heads have served the people of Lewis County effectively in the past, and she wants to join the team. She states that she is not running against any person or idea. She just wants to be a good representative.

Joanne worked the farm with her husband and feels she can represent agricultural interests effectively. She acknowledges that a number of people have stated to her that, "we really need a woman" on the board. Joanne wants to do the job. "I am approachable and will continue to be as a legislator," she explained. "If anyone wants to talk about the campaign now, they should just phone me (376-3242). And after my elections, we can talk about county government, they should do the same at the same number.

Joanne has been attending the local meetings and the hearings about the hospital already. She said her time had run out. She admits, "I love this stuff!"

Joanne Diob has announced her candidacy for the Board of Legislators at the right time for the right reasons. She brings a lifetime of experience, a positive attitude toward her work and a passion for the political process to the election. It's that combination of traits that will help her work to improve the quality of life for all of us in the GRASS ROOTS.