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## U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson focuses on Hoopeston during break

That voice you hear on the other end of your telephone this week might just be U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson.

Johnson, home for the August recess, is spending much of his time contacting constituents to get their thoughts and opinions on issues facing the 15th District.

"This is our Hoopeston week," he said Sunday during a break at Henning's Root Beer Stand. "It's a good chance to find out what we can do individually and collectively. There's no better way to find out what's going on than one on one."

Over the weekend, Johnson called about 150 people. "So far, overwhelmingly, the majority has been receptive," he said.

Issues among local residents are the same as those facing Congress, including Social Security and Immigration and Naturalization Service concerns, the 2002 Farm Bill and the war on terror.

Saying the U.S. has been "largely successful" in Afghanistan, Johnson said while he favors ousting Saddam Hussein, he has questions about President Bush' plan to expand the war on terror to include Iraq. "We need to root out evil in the world," he said. "If that's all it was, it would be an easy vote."

However, not knowing how many troops would be needed, who our allies would be and who would take charge in Iraq if Hussein were deposed are questions that must be answered before action is taken. Johnson would not speculate on what his vote would be if he had



U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson, right, visits with Don Ervin at Henning's Sunday.

to cast one before knowing more facts. "I want to keep my mind open," he said.

Greed among corporate executives is also an issue. Johnson is happy with a corporate reform bill, calling it "a good piece of legislation" but "not a silver bullet." Corporate reform is an area that has been ignored for a decade or more but one that demands serious attention now. "We need to go after them the same way you would a robber," he said.

When Johnson returns to Washington, he and his colleagues will tackle the war on terror and several other issues including:

- an energy bill that is "tremendously important to this community because an integral part of it is renewable

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