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## VISIT

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that our government should encourage and support our fundamental values," Quayle said. "And now as the election approaches it will be your turn. And the future of who will be the next congressman in this district is in your hands..."

Although Quayle made no mention of Smith's involvement in the country's savings and loan crisis, reporters questioned him about the issue in a press conference that followed his speech.

The Democratic National Campaign Committee filed a formal complaint with the House Ethics Committee two weeks ago, accusing Smith of violating House rules by his involvement with three Oregon savings and loans. Smith is accused of lobbying federal regu-

lators of the industry, while being director and later board member of one of the institutions, and possibly profiting from the failure of another.

When a reporter asked the vice president about the S&L crisis at the press conference, Quayle referred to the general issue, speaking about the costly solution to the crisis without directly addressing Smith's actions.

"You have to realize that we are trying to correct the S&L problem..." Quayle said. "Obviously any broad illegality, people are going to pay the price."

"... But unfortunately you cannot outlaw stupidity, and you can't outlaw bad judgment, and you can't outlaw errors," he said. "Now that's part of it. There's been illegality and

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## Smith continues to ride political roller-coaster

By Joe Kidd  
Emerald Associate Editor

The vice presidential attention Dan Quayle's one-day slip through Salem gave battling incumbent Denny Smith on Monday is but one peak in the roller-coaster campaign the congressman is trying to ride to re-election.

For every shot of support the five-term Republican congressman has received, a slap of negative attention has seemed to follow in his race against Democrat Mike Kopetski for Oregon's 5th District.



Mike Kopetski

### Analysis

Indeed, some of Smith's woes have been self-inflicted in his run against Kopetski, producing one of the country's closest races for a congressional seat in this election.

Allegations of slippery involvement in the nation's savings and loan crisis have raised eyebrows around the state. And last month, Smith's use of an aggressive campaign ad featuring the voice of Adolf Hitler in the background provoked sharp rebukes from around the country.

But beyond Smith's own actions, outside forces have particularly targeted his candidacy. Both the National Democratic Party and the National Abortion Rights Action League

are gathering efforts and dollars to unseat Smith, 52, seeing the close race as a chance to squeeze a Democratic ally into Congress.

The combination of Smith's perceived vulnerability and his multifaceted opposition has produced one thing: an election race in which image making and breaking have towered over the actual issues at hand.

The theatrics of this year's contest are rooted in Smith's narrow win over Kopetski, 40, in the 1988 election. In that race, then two-term state Rep. Kopetski lost to Smith by only 707 votes. The Congressional Quarterly's *Politics in America* says Smith won by a surprisingly narrow margin because

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