

Koehler takes aim at Dixon in lone debate

By SCOTT WILLIAMS
of the Journal Star

CHICAGO — Judy Koehler, the homegrown U.S. Senate hopeful from Henry, took her best and only face-to-face shot at incumbent Alan Dixon here Thursday, attacking him personally and repeatedly during their only scheduled debate.

Koehler missed few opportunities

to take the offensive during the hour-long exchange, often ignoring or putting off panelists' questions and instead hammering away with accusations against the first-term Democratic senator.

Standing nearly shoulder to shoulder with Dixon at a separate podium, the Republican challenger on several occasions turned directly toward her

opponent, at times demanding a response and even lecturing him.

"Now, Alan, you know you can't be on both sides of every issue," she said at one point in a calm, authoritative tone not unlike that of a schoolteacher reprimanding a pupil. "I think it is imperative that tonight we find out where each of us stand," she continued. "I stand for what I believe

in."

Dixon, widely known for his cool demeanor in situations of hot political crossfire, spent most of the night defending himself politely, but he occasionally seemed to lose patience with his feisty opponent.

More than once, he interrupted Koehler during her apparently well-rehearsed attacks — including when

she accused him of flip-flopping on William Rehnquist's nomination as chief justice by publicly opposing Rehnquist and then voting for his confirmation.

"I must say, respectfully, to a lady I have no personal argument with," Dixon countered, "that it is outrageous to suggest that Alan

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