

Olsen says his experience beats Baucus' footwork

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Arnold Olsen, former champion on the comeback trail, jabbed at new contender Max Baucus Tuesday in the fight for the Western District Democratic Congressional nomination.

Without mentioning names, the five term congressman, dethroned by Republican Dick Shoup in 1970, hinted that fancy footwork was no match for experience in the quest for the Democratic title in the west.

The 32-year-old Baucus is conducting a more than 600-mile hike through the 23-county district from Gardiner to Yaak. He stopped in Helena to pay his \$425 filing fee for the privilege Monday.

The veteran Olsen said that he's already made the trip many times and plans to spend his campaign time in eyeball to

eyeball confrontations with the voters jawboning with them.

"I have walked the streets of this district and this state many times," Olsen said in a statement. "I have been in every county of the district from Chester to Dillon and from Libby to Gardiner."

Olsen, now a Helena lawyer, said he doesn't believe the people will buy the "hard or soft sell that is peddled to them in publicity stunts."

He said he believes only a "grass-roots, sun-up to sun-down campaign acquaints the voters best with the candidate and the issues."

Olsen's statement was delivered while Baucus rested his feet in Helena before resuming his conditioning work.

Olsen, who has announced he will try to regain his old title, said he'll file as soon as he believes it is timely.