

PORTER SUES ENGLISH FOR DEFAMATION

At a news conference held today at 11AM in the Executive Offices of the Erie Democratic Party on 9th and State Streets, Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress running against incumbent Republican Phil English, announced that he is filing a law suit against the English campaign.

“I am instituting a defamation suit against the English campaign for the malicious misrepresentation of my ideas in their political advertisements,” said Porter. “My lawyer, Mr. Alan Natalie of Erie, has filed a Writ of Summons in the matter and will be filing all of the remaining papers shortly. Because this matter is now in litigation, I will not comment further on the details of the suit,” Porter went on, “but I do very much wish to comment on the kind of campaigning which seems to abound in today’s sorry political climate.

“When a candidate like Mr. English engages in the kind of character assassination he does, the usual response for the adversary is to engage in some kind of retaliatory advertising. That is exactly what I have decided not to do. My response to Mr. English will be to hold him accountable in a court of law and not to join him in polluting the election process. His kind of ads, the kind which Karl Rove has encouraged throughout the Republican Party, are a disgrace to the democratic process and a shameful expenditure of the contributions given to him. They appeal to the very worst in the electorate and in the process avoid any real discussion of the issues which are so important to the voting public. I simply will not participate in that kind of campaigning.

“My ads,” said Porter, “which can be viewed on my website for all to see, deal with the important issues of our day and compare Mr. English’s positions on those issues with mine so that the public may choose between us. To stoop to Mr. English’s way of campaigning would only further insult the public and disgrace our democracy.

“It is a shame,” continued Porter, “that so much of the media is forced to run the trash we see. It is even more of a shame that so much of the media does not counter the trash by sponsoring debates or printing comparisons of candidates’ positions which would lift the election process out of the gutter to a level of importance for the people who vote. Given the severity of our times with respect to war, health care, job outsourcing, global warming, political corruption, and many other issues neither the tactics of people like Mr. English nor the irresponsibility of so much of the American media can be justified. As for me, I will not stoop to Mr. English’s level nor stop discussing the issues.

“All of my positions are available on my website and all of my advertisements deal with those positions and only those positions. Mr. English’s character will have to speak for itself.”