

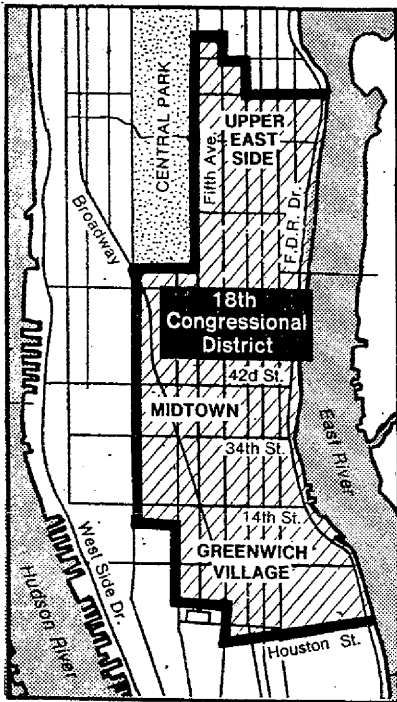
Another Election Drive Begins: The Race for Koch's House Seat

By FRANK LYNN

With one election campaign barely ended, another began yesterday as the first of a half dozen expected candidates started running for Mayor-elect Edward I. Koch's seat in the House of Representatives nearly two months before he will vacate it.

Assemblyman A. B. Pete Grannis was the first hopeful out of the starting gate in the House race, which is significant not only because it involves Mr. Koch's successor but also because the East Side 18th District includes many of the city's most influential and wealthy constituents—a constituency that inspired its description as the Silk Stocking District. However, it also includes middle-class Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, as well as some of the city's worst slums on the Lower East Side.

The Koch seat will be filled in a special election, probably in mid-February, but



unlike in general elections, the candidates of all parties will be nominated by county committee members—978 of them in the case of Democrats—rather than in a primary.

However, the special election is viewed by many politicians as only the opening round in a three-stage election that will consume the better part of next year.

The new House member will barely take

his or her seat in February when opponents can start preparing for another challenge in the regular primary election in June or September and the general Congressional election next November. "A very bloody year," said City Councilwoman Carol Greitzer, one of the Congressional aspirants.

A Three-Stage Contest Is Seen

The same scenario may be followed in choosing successors for two other victors in last Tuesday's election—the City Council President-elect, Carol Bellamy, and the Manhattan Borough President-elect, Andrew Stein, who will be vacating State Senate and Assembly seats, respectively.

The Stein Assembly district is wholly within the Koch Congressional district, while the Bellamy State Senate district includes a small portion of it on the Lower East Side as well as the Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Fort Greene and Williamsburg areas along the East River in Brooklyn.

Some maneuvering by relatively unknown contenders has already begun in both state districts but nothing comparable to the politicking that began in the Koch district even before he was elected to City Hall.

The Democratic county committeemen, otherwise known as election district captains, are usually unsung and ignored. But in the next two months they will be courted by mail and telephone calls and at kaffeeklatches and cocktail parties. The Republican, Liberal and Conservative county committee members will do it the "old politics" way—leave the decision to their district and county leaders.

The courting of the Democratic committee members has already begun, par-

ticularly by Mr. Grannis and City Councilman Carter Burden, who lost a bid for the City Council president nomination and spent almost \$800,000 of his own money in the process.

Former Representative Bella S. Abzug, who has lost two primaries in two years—one for the United States Senate and one for Mayor—used to represent the West Side, is also seeking the nomination along with Mrs. Greitzer. Neither woman was prepared to announce a candidacy yesterday, however.

Also "exploring" a possible candidacy—as politicians like to put it—is Allard K. Lowenstein, a peripatetic former Nassau County Representative who is now a delegate to the United Nations and has sublet an apartment on the East Side. However, a Congressman does not have to live in his own district and many don't.

Mr. Grannis needed Mr. Burden, Mrs. Abzug and Mr. Lowenstein at his news conference yesterday at a campaign headquarters that still had boxes of literature left over from the campaign of City Councilman-elect Antonio G. Olivieri.

Referring to their election losses, Mr. Grannis said: "I don't view Congress as the employer of last resort, as a place to employ unemployed politicians." He added that Mrs. Abzug was trying to "position herself" for another run for the United States Senate in 1980.

However, Assemblyman Mark A. Siegel, who deferred his own ambitions for the House to work for Mrs. Abzug, said that she would shortly write a letter to the county committee members "promising no to run for the Senate in '78."

Also interested in the Koch seat are several political unknowns—Roger Waldman, a Democratic state committeeman; George Spitz, a weekly newspaper columnist; and Thomas Baer, a lawyer who said he was prepared to spend up to \$250,000 for the job. He said that he had already hired Patrick Caddell, the pollster, for "five figures."

On the Republican side, State Senator