

affairs of state

Coors-Invesco-Pepsi Justice Center

By Julia C. Martinez
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A battle is said to be brewing over the naming rights to Denver's new justice center. And the naming process hasn't even opened yet!

Insiders say Mayor **John Hickenlooper** is making a big push to name the new center after former Republican Gov. **Ralph L. Carr**. Several prominent Denverites who disagree with hizzoner, but hesitate to do so publicly, wish to see former District Attorney **Dale Tooley**'s name on it.

Carr was governor from 1939 to 1943. He spoke out in defense of the civil rights of Japanese-Americans, arguing that it was inhumane and unconstitutional to place them in internment camps.

Tooley was elected Denver district attorney in 1973 and served for 10 years. He was a prominent Democrat. Supporters say he had a strong human rights record and encouraged minorities to get involved in the political process.

The mayor's spokeswoman **Lindy Eichenbaum Lent**, said "While Mayor Hickenlooper is certainly intrigued by Governor Carr - a man who risked his career to speak out for justice - we anticipate that a

number of potential names will be advanced by the community and we look forward to that process." Asked about his lobbying for Carr, she said, "The mayor has merely expressed to some people that Ralph Carr would definitely be deserving of such an honor."

Why fight? Just sell the naming rights.

"Representative" Doug Bruce?

State Republicans are playing coy about their legislative election plans for next year. Even **Douglas Bruce**, whose name is being bandied about as a possible candidate for the state House of Representatives, is not being his usual candid self.

But his detractors are bracing themselves, which is a natural reaction anytime Bruce's name comes up in an election cycle. Bruce is a testy, outspoken, non-practicing lawyer known around the statehouse for long-winded diatribes during legislative hearings. He became a household name in 1992 when he authored and successfully passed the revenue-limiting constitutional amendment called the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Here's how some see the Bruce candidacy unfolding in 2008: Republican Sen. **Ron May** of Colorado Springs is term limited after next year. Rep. **Bill Cadman** of the Springs would run for May's seat. Bruce, an El Paso County commissioner, would run for Cadman's seat.

(May declined to say if he plans to step down early, so Cadman can be appointed to his seat and get a leg up on the competition before November.)

And Bruce? He declined to confirm that he will run for the legislature. "I will address the issue of running for commissioner in November," he said.

Is he eyeing Cadman's legislative seat? "I'm trying not to start a campaign. People don't like a perpetual campaign," he said.

Does he expect Cadman to run for May's seat? "I'm assuming Mr. Cadman is running since Ron May is term limited."

Is he running for Cadman's seat? "I hereby announce that I'm not running for president," Bruce declared.

Pushing fire-safe smokes

With all the new anti-smoking legislation passed by Colorado lawmakers in recent years, are fire-safe cigarettes next on their agenda? Yes, as a matter of fact.

Twenty-one states have passed laws to require self-extinguishing cigarettes. Many of the laws take effect in 2008 and 2009 to give tobacco companies time to alter their manufacturing process and retailers time to clear their shelves of regular cigarettes.

Sen. **Bob Hagedorn**, chairman of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, said he is definitely contemplating taking it up in 2008.

Advocates of fire-safe cigarettes say that smoking-related fires kill as many as 900 people a year and cause millions of dollars in property damage.

Until now, the tobacco industry has opposed a federal law but with so many states passing their own laws, the industry is becoming more amenable to having a federal standard.

Julia C. Martinez (jmartinez@denverpost.com) is a member of the Denver Post editorial board.