

REGION

Sauerbrey goes from politics to new radio talk show

BALTIMORE (AP) — Could Ellen Sauerbrey be the next Rush Limbaugh? WBAL Radio thinks so.

The defeated gubernatorial candidate is getting her own evening call-in talk show beginning Feb. 13, the station announced yesterday.

In her new forum Mrs. Sauerbrey said she intends to "continue to voice the things that concern me." She said she will focus not only on Maryland issues, but issues in Washington and on the international scene.

The show is scheduled to air from 8

p.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays until the Major League Baseball season starts in April. If the season is not delayed by the ongoing baseball strike, WBAL will broadcast Baltimore Orioles games during that time slot.

Mrs. Sauerbrey said the station approached her about the show after the November election, which she lost to Democrat Parris N. Glendening by less than 6,000 votes. The Republican said she decided to wait on making a decision until her legal challenge to the election wrapped-up. Her suit was re-

jected earlier this month in Anne Arundel Circuit Court.

"I said I can only think of one thing at a time," Mrs. Sauerbrey said.

Jeff Beauchamp, vice president and station manager of WBAL Radio, said the new program will be a "traditional issue-oriented talk show," not a partisan platform.

"It's kind of an experiment for Ellen and for us," said Mr. Beauchamp. "It won't be Ellen Sauerbrey bashing Parris Glendening."

Mrs. Sauerbrey said she wasn't sure

she would be good at hosting a talk show, but said it provided "a great opportunity for me to stay actively involved in issues."

Mrs. Sauerbrey is not new to the airwaves. Last fall she filled in twice for talk show host Zoh Heironimus on WCBM radio.

WBAL is aware that adding another political conservative further shifts the station's programming to the right, Mr. Beauchamp said.

"I'd say the daily lineup is conservative ... but hopefully, the callers will

provide balance," he said. "We want to encourage callers who disagree. They won't be cut off at the knees."

The addition of Mrs. Sauerbrey's show will mean several programming changes at the station, including the shift of "The Ron Smith Show" back to afternoons and the elimination of WBAL's two-hour afternoon news program.

Interest in Mrs. Sauerbrey sprang from the station's desire to return Mr. Smith's talk show to an afternoon time slot, Mr. Beauchamp said.

Mr. Smith's show moved to nights last year when WBAL added Rush Limbaugh's nationally syndicated show. Mr. Smith scored high ratings at night, but the station wanted to move him back to days when there were more listeners, Mr. Beauchamp said.

Mr. Glendening has accepted an offer from the station to do a hour-long program on Saturday mornings.

Former governor William Donald Schaefer appeared on a similar program while in office.