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FRIEND OR FOE? HARSHBARGER CAMP OFFERS TWO VIEWS OF WELDAs a Democrat seeking his party's gubernatorial nomination, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger is highly critical of former governor William F. Weld as he appeals to party faithful at small gatherings and at fund-raisers. But when he wants to raise big campaign donations from a list of pro-Weld Republicans and independents, Harshbarger's campaign committee has nothing but praise for the former GOP governor. "Scott Harshbarger and Bill Weld have a lot in common," states a letter that the Harshbarger campaign committee has sent to potential donors. Those words are part of a fund-raising pitch signed by 14 Republicans and independents. It was sent last week to Weld supporters, inviting them to attend a breakfast next Thursday and donate \$100 to \$500 to Harshbarger. "If you're like us, you think Governor Weld was right," the group states. "As you know, Bill Weld won't be running for Governor again. But ... the good news is that Scott Harshbarger is running for governor. " "I was shocked to receive it," said Peter Blute, executive director of the Massachusetts Port Authority and former two-term Republican congressman, of the fund-raising letter. "It is surprising that a Democratic gubernatorial candidate is implicitly saying that Governor Weld is a great governor. That seems to be for the Cellucci campaign to say, not Harshbarger."But out on the stump, Harshbarger has little praise for Weld's 6 1/2 years in office. "He's a real Weld basher," said one Democratic activist who did not wish to be identified. Appearing before Democrats, the attorney general frequently attacks the former governor for pushing casino gambling as an economic development tool. Weld resigned in June in the middle of his second term. Harshbarger has also sharply criticized Weld for pushing privatization of public services. Dwight Robson, press secretary for the Harshbarger campaign, dismissed any notion that the attorney general was changing his tune depending on his political audience. He said the complimentary words about Weld came from the those who signed the letter. "You have to ask them if you want more detail," he said. This story ran on page B04 of the Boston Globe on 12/06/97. © Copyright 1997 Globe Newspaper Company. ----- I N T E R A C T I V E Send this story to a friend... Is this story important? Enter a search term: © Copyright 1997 Globe

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