

Copies of *Challenging the Incumbent* are available outside my door in the History Dept. Remember, you must read and be ready to discuss on Tuesday. Hope you enjoy the book.

Discussion questions for Sidlow's *Challenging the Incumbent*

1. Were you surprised by the outcome of Pressl's race against Phil Crane? Why? Could he have won? Did he make any mistakes? Why did he lose?
2. Was Pressl a credible candidate? What aspects of his background helped or hurt his campaign?
3. Was Pressl well served by the professionals he hired to help him? What services did they provide?
4. Why did the press end up ignoring Pressl's race? Should journalists have paid more attention? Why?
5. Does this book confirm or disprove any of the theories of incumbency advantage that we have discussed over the last two weeks? Which ones? Why?
6. What ended up happening to Phil Crane and IL 8? (Use google and find out.) What lessons about incumbency does the subsequent history teach us?
7. Did you find anything surprising in this account of U.S. congressional elections?