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Headlee launches Reagan bandwagon

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Richard Headlee is back in action. Headlee, well-known in the state since successful passage of the 1976 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, has formed a committee to promote president Reagan's programs in Michigan.

"We're attempting to provide speakers to keep people aware of what's going on in Congress," said Headlee, president of Michigan Citizens Supporting the President.

"Our information is coordinated with the White House. We plan to send news releases and call press conferences as things happen."

Headlee, of Farmington Hills, already has addressed gatherings in Mt. Pleasant, Richmond and Traverso City. "I'll continue to do this," he said.

The committee's membership is drawn mostly from Reagan's Michigan presidential campaign team, although Headlee says bi-partisan Reagan supporters are being sought.

"Grass roots legislation is in the best interest of this country," he said. "We

need reduced government and reduced taxation."

REPORTS THAT he plans to run for governor in 1982 is something Headlee would neither confirm nor deny.

"I can't say that I don't think about it," he said. "People have accused me of running for office since 1962."

A native of Iowa, Headlee testified before Congress on tax rate reform in 1962, served as national president of the Jaycees in 1963-64, was a board member of the U.S. Chamber of Com-

merce in 1964-65, and was campaign manager for Governor George Romney in 1966.

Headlee joined Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Corp. on Twelve Mile in Farmington Hills as president in 1978.

"I may be better off to take up causes as an individual than as a politician — I don't know," he said. "If I run for office, I may disenfranchise myself."

"It's not my nature to be controversial. I don't enjoy arguing. I enjoy doing things with people and for people. But I don't lust for power."

Right now the committee is still in the process of forming its leadership.

"I'm just a great believer that government should provide services for people that they can't provide for themselves."

"Government shouldn't be a self-serving bureaucracy. The big spending bureaucratic element has destroyed the value of the dollar."

Headlee, a graduate of Utah State University, sold accounting and financial systems at Borroughs before joining Hamilton Life.



Richard Headlee

Presidential tax idea is favorite for locals

By Gary M. Cates
staff writer

Riding on the crest of last week's legislative victory for his tax cut plan, President Reagan also is enjoying support from people on the street.

In an informal poll taken the day after Congress passed the tax bill, area residents expressed general support for the Reagan presidency.

"I think it's (the tax cut) great. It shows he's getting support," says Judy Hourigand of Livonia.

"I like what he's done. We all want our taxes cut," says Eve Samra of Farmington.

The tax cut is the largest in U.S. history, and Reagan predicts it will provide signs of economic recovery by the end of 1981.

The tax cut was part of Reagan's campaign platform, which he promised to act on quickly if elected.

"I think he's keeping his campaign promises. He's trying hard, and will make a good president," says Robert Hicks of Oak Park.

"I'm very impressed (with Reagan). I've been waiting a long time for an administration that shows attention for the middle class," says Annette Minard of Farmington Hills.



Annette Minard

"We are on the right road," Reagan said after his tax cut passed the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives by a vote of 238-195. He also maintained that with continued progress, the country would reach an era of prosperity.

"He seems to be on the right track," says Frank Frenck of Farmington. "I

don't know if his policies are going to work. I just hope he can straighten out Social Security."

The minimum monthly Social Security benefit is expected to be dropped as part of the president's economic plan. Reagan has asked that the \$122 monthly minimum be dropped, yet Congress still has to decide on the question.

"He's (Ronald Reagan) OK, as long as he keeps Social Security in there," says Southfield resident Jan Holten.

"Sounds to me like he makes a lot of sense," says Marion Sommerville of Farmington.

"I THINK we needed a president like Reagan," says Robert Furest, a Florida resident visiting in Farmington. "I think he's going to be alright."

"We've been ready for a new experiment, and he's coming on with it," says the Rev. Dean Parker, of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington.

"He's a good president, better than Jimmy Carter," Livonia resident Mark Testa says.

Not everyone was impressed with Reagan and his work in Washington. Some feel that he has forgot the middle class.

"I don't think he's doing anything for the middle class," says Shirley Mackey of Farmington Hills.

Better deal is sought for high IQ children

By Gary M. Cates
staff writer

The group's members range from students to millionaires to persons on welfare to doctors and other professional persons. The group is Mensa, the high-IQ society.

Mensa is an international society based in London with more than 52,000 members in 90 countries. The group has local monthly meetings, special interest groups, and other activities such as hikes. Its members must place in the top two percent of the general public when tested for IQ.

The chairman of American Mensa is Gabriel Werba, a Farmington Hills resident who recently was re-elected to his second term as the national chairman.

"I became interested in Mensa after a copy of Life magazine did a major story on the group," he says. "Being new to the Detroit area when he saw the story, Werba was interested in meeting new persons. 'I said, 'My God, these seem like my type of people.'"

He then took an IQ test, and after qualifying, was offered membership in the group.

WERBA RECALLS that when he first joined Mensa in 1964, there were only a handful of members in Michigan. "There were 18 or 20 of us, and we decided to get together at a tavern," he says.

"We needed someone to set up meetings and call the group, so I was elected president of the local group," he says.

Werba, also executive vice president of Anthony & Franco, Inc., a public relations firm in Detroit, moved from local president to serving as Mensa's national ombudsman for eight years.

After serving as ombudsman, Werba became first vice chairman and later national chairman in 1979.

"Most organizations are formed because of common interests," explains



Gabriel Werba

Werba, "but the people that join Mensa have absolutely nothing in common except high IQs."

"Usually we join organizations because they sort of reflect ourselves. When we talk to these people, they have the same experiences, backgrounds or beliefs. In Mensa, the people have totally different backgrounds, and I find that fascinating."

The members also have so many interests that it really doesn't matter what you are interested in, he says.

"You might go to one meeting and be bored, but go to another meeting and it can be totally different," Mensa has over 100 different special-interest groups.

"Mensa can be taken on any level, intellectually or socially," he says, "it is a smorgasbord of interests."

MOST PEOPLE join Mensa because they like the social and intellectual challenge, Werba says. "There are very

few places you can go to work out intellectually."

Werba recalls going to a Mensa meeting in New York where he heard puns that had triple meanings.

Many women enjoy Mensa membership because, "they don't have to hide their intelligence," Werba said.

For many years, women have been told to hide their intelligence, Werba explains. They were told to do so in high school so they could get dates, and in married life so that they would not embarrass their husbands, he says.

Although the members of Mensa are all considered to be extremely intelligent, the group does not dwell on it, Werba says.

"They don't take themselves that seriously, they don't take the IQ that seriously," he says.

"These people realize that intelligence by itself won't get you that far. The IQ doesn't mean that much, it's what you do with it."

Many of the members are active politically, yet, Werba says, Mensa avoids political involvement.

"We want to be a sort of umbrella organization. People of all political parties can come and discuss issues."

Regardless of a member's political persuasion or special interest, Werba claims that anyone can find acceptance in Mensa.

"Within the group nobody asks what you do, or how much money you have."

MENSA HAS helped change the lives of some of its members, Werba claims.

"Some of the members did poorly in school, but after they took an IQ test they found out that they were really quite intelligent. Once they realized their potential, they made a change in their career. Mensa has helped them in this realization," he says.

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RANDY BOSTIS/staff photographer

Yvonne Whiston holds Percy who suffered through a bout with an animal trap. Percy made it home, but many animals aren't so fortunate. Ms. Whiston would like to see something done about that.

Percy makes it home Residents irate over traps

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Yvonne Whiston of Farmington came home from work one night last month during a thunderstorm. She worried when Percy didn't greet her at the door.

"He's afraid of storms," she said of Percy, the stray cat she adopted two years ago.

"I knew something was wrong. Usually he'd be on the porch waiting for me."

It was three days before Percy turned up in a leg trap normally used to capture wildlife like raccoons or opossums.

He was spotted limping through a neighborhood backyard, his right front paw clamped tightly in the spring-operated jaws of the trap.

It took three weeks and two operations for Percy to recover from his ordeal. Two toes were amputated. The Whistons paid more \$200 in veterinary bills.

The cat isn't stalking much lately. "He stays close to home," said Mrs. Whiston, who is angry because the same trap that nabbed her cat is still in the vegetable garden across the road.

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Suspect uses false name

Farmington police say a youth arrested for trespassing and breaking and entering last week used a false name, as reported in the July 27 story.

The juvenile, a ward of the state of Michigan, identified himself as Thomas Renaud, after police arrested him for breaking into the Farmington High School press box.

The real Thomas Renaud, a Farmington resident, was a previous foster parent of the juvenile, says Sgt. Tom Cox.

"Thomas Renaud had nothing to do with the crime," he says.

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