

Dr. Geake Gets GOP State Nomination

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

Dr. Robert Geake of Northville, winner of the Republican nomination to run for the State Board of Education, will campaign in support of Gov. William Milliken's educational reform program.

He said he believes school taxation should become "a state function rather than a local collection" and that he favors the governor's reform package.

Presently an at-large trustee of Schoolcraft Community College, Dr. Geake parlayed strong support in southeastern Michigan and among GOP liberals in general to a narrow state convention victory over three opponents.

The convention gave him a unanimous vote of confidence in the end, but not before Geake proved his mettle in a full roll call vote.

HE OUTPOLLED all three opponents in the original balloting without achieving the necessary majority of the delegates. Nine delegations then quickly changed their votes to unanimous for him.

The ninth to do so, the Wayne 19th Congressional District, moved for a unanimous convention vote, which was summarily adopted. The Wayne-19th his home district, originally cast 27 votes for

Geake and two for Douglas Mueller, another favorite son. Mueller, president of the South Redford school board, missed a planned shot at the second ballot position when nomination strategy flazied.

Instead, the convention made David Robinson, a University of Michigan Dearborn Campus admissions director and a black, its choice for the second state board slot without opposition.

MUELLER, RELATIVELY unknown in party circles, ran strongly on the first ballot against Geake. Mrs. June Shada and Eugene Sikorski of West Bloomfield although Mueller expected only to gain exposure for a shot at the second spot.

His mentor, 12th District State Sen. N. Lorraine Beebe, was attempting to get the situation of the chairman for the second nomination when a motion to close nominations was made and quickly adopted.

Dr. Geake credited Mrs. Beebe's support of Mueller for the close first position race. The Dearborn Heights senator of abortion reform fame is a former teacher. Her Senate district includes South Redford School District.

While Geake had campaigned for the nomination since last spring, Mueller tossed his hat in only two weeks before the convention. Then he missed personal campaign opportunities because of a two-week business trip.

IN THE ORIGINAL balloting, Geake carried all of Wayne County except the 14th District, headed by conservative Richard Durant, which gave 62 of its 65 votes to Mrs. Shada; the 15th, of downtown Detroit, which gave 18 of its 21 to Sikorski; and the 16th, which gave 25 to Mueller and 21 to Geake.

The 15th and the 16th were among the nine later switching to unanimous support for Geake. Geake garnered 37 of 44 Washtenaw county votes, 46 of 62 Oakland-19th votes, 80 of 93 in the Oakland 18th, 13 of 17 in Monroe County, 32 of 61 in Macomb, 91 of 101 in Kent, seven of 15 in Livingston, 60 of 72 in Genesee and all seven of the Wayne-2nd (Plymouth and Northville).

He is an educational psychologist residing in Northville Township and serving the Plymouth State Home.

ALTHOUGH it cast its original strength to the conservative favorite, Sikorski, Berrien County was the first to switch to Dr. Geake and start the landslide to his nomination.

In subsequent statements to Observer Newspapers, Dr. Geake said he will devote campaign efforts to the campaign of Gov. Milliken and the entire ticket, with "special emphasis on the campaign of Robert Swanson." GOP candidate for state representative in his home 35th District.

Presently represented by Democrat Marvin Stapples, the district is "a swing district, and the opinion of the GOP leadership is that it can be won," said Geake.

"I intend to continue my activities on the Schoolcraft Board while campaigning," he said. "If I'm elected in November, I will resign from the Schoolcraft Board."

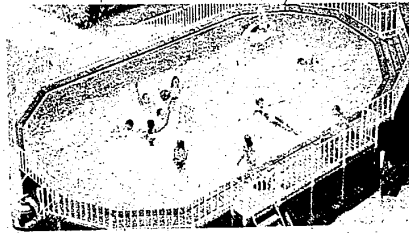
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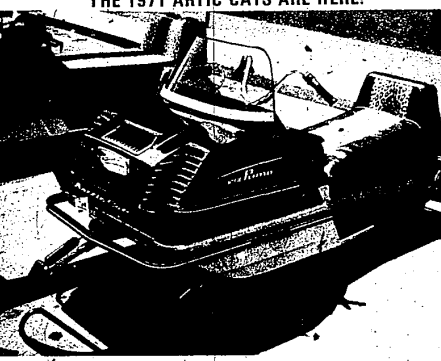
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