

Headlee endorses barber first, then Buchanan

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SHAWN LA MIREX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Richard Headlee has retired from Michigan to Utah, but he can always find a reason to return.

"I had to get a haircut," he quipped while Abe Aon, Headlee's barber for 25 years, trimmed his silver locks. "I also see my accountant, my two sons and six grandchildren here."

Headlee, a father of nine and grandfather of 46, retired as chairman of the Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co. in Farmington Hills and returned to his native Utah, taking up residence in Park City. But the man whose name is most associated with the constitutional amendment that saves Michigan taxpayers millions of dollars every year, said he announced his support for GOP presidential candidate Pat Buchanan in Aon's barber shop because he wanted to counter the impression that the candidate was anti-immigrant.

"Abe supports Pat Buchanan,"

■ (Returned to Michigan because) I had to get a haircut . . . I also see my accountant, my two sons and six grandchildren here.

*Richard Headlee
Buchanan supporter*

Headlee said, to which his friend nodded.

Aon, who is active in the Optimist Club, Beautification Committee and other civic groups, came to the United States from Israel 30 years ago and has been cutting Headlee's hair for 25.

"He's tough to please," Aon said with a smile.

But it didn't sound like Aon had anything to worry about.

"He's the best barber in America," Headlee said, adding another endorsement Tuesday.

would not throw up a protectionist wall, but he does believe in fair trade, Laabs said.

"The party has wanted a Ronald Reagan to come along to defeat Clinton," he said. "Now that he's here, they don't want him. There have been a lot of brokered deals. They have actually made the (Republican) party P.C. (politically correct)."

Buchanan supporter Cindy Horn of Sterling Heights, said she was "very pleased" with the endorsement and had followed the conservative commentator's career for a long time.

"I would like to see a real man running the White

House," she said, referring to controversial First Lady Hillary Clinton's role in the presidency. "Pat Buchanan is Godly, he's against abortion and he's against more government."

Laabs said Buchanan's fighting spirit and campaign style had overcome his opponents' larger war chests — so far.

"It could be over after Tuesday," he said of this week's eight primaries. "But I think he can do well in Michigan."

Headlee, a veteran of the campaign trail, said he wouldn't predict.

"I think he needs to win Michigan," he said.

Fire leaves few clues

By the time nearby residents reported a fire at a house on Country Ridge Circle in Farmington Hills, there was little firefighters could do.

The fire, reported at 4:01 p.m. March 2, caused at least \$250,000 in damage to the house and \$152,000 to its contents. No one was home at the time, firefighters reported.

"By the time firefighters arrived (eight minutes after the call), the second floor had already fallen into the first," said Lt. Mike Garr of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Although residents as far as

three miles away had seen the smoke, neighbors were not aware of the fire until it had already been called in by residents of the Emerald Forest subdivision south of the Country Ridge subdivision in the far northwest corner of the city, Garr said.

Although firefighters have no reasons to be suspicious of the fire and the resident told police that she left something on a stove and left the house, the investigation is continuing.

"There is a lot of stuff to dig through before the cause can be determined," Garr said. "There is no kitchen left."

In town for a film: Barber Abe Aon applies comb and scissors to Richard Headlee's locks at Aon's Farmington Hills shop Monday.



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