

Right...left... who's on first?

By TIM RICHARD

analysis

Democrats are liberal and Republicans conservative—correct?

Not among Observer & Eccentric area state representatives. Suburban Democrats had as much chance of winding up to the right of their Republican colleagues as to the left.

The source of this paradoxical intelligence is the Conservative Party of Michigan, which admittedly has an axe to grind. Rep. Kirby Holmes (R-DUCA) lamented in a cover letter: "The basic tone of legislation in 1975 was for greater government controls, more extensive and restrictive licensing, higher taxes and fees, and discriminatory or special privileges."

Whether Holmes and the Conservative Party's principles agree with yours, the group has performed an valuable analysis, rating Lansing lawmakers on a scale of 0 to 100. If you're a conservative, you'll like representatives with high numbers; a liberal will give gold stars to those with low numbers.

THE LOWEST rating, 4, went to Speaker Bobby Crim (D-Davison); Rep. Joe Forbes (D-Oak Park), whose district includes eastern Southfield; and Rep. William Ryan (D-Detroit).

On the right, Rep. Sal Rocca (D-Sterling Heights) rated a 58. Rocca's district includes part of Troy. Holmes himself got an 83 from his Conservative allies. He might have done better except that he voted in favor of increasing unemployment benefits. The most conservative person in the House is Edgar Fredericks (R-Holland), at 85.

Here is how other area representatives were rated:
Mel Larsen (R-Oxford), north Rochester area—29.
W.V. Brotherton (R-Farmington), western Southfield area—35.
Ruth McNamee (R-Birmingham), including Rochester proper and part of Troy—40.

James Dedefaugh (R-Birmingham), including Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield—52.
Area Republicans, then, ranked as political moderates, flanked on the right wing by Democrats such as Rocca.

FOUR MAJOR and a dozen or so lesser issues were analyzed. "Bad" bills, by far the majority, provided for greater appropriations, increased taxes, regulated business and catered to "feminist" demands.

A major bill in the Conservative analysis increased the state income tax from 3.9 to 4.6 per cent after voters in 1974 repealed the sales tax on food and prescription drugs.

It was supported by Dedefaugh, Forbes and Mrs. McNamee. Opposing it were Larsen and Rocca. Abner was Brotherton.

The business activities tax was seen as a bad thing because "it slightly lowers tax for big business, greatly increasing tax for small business, provides approximately \$2 million more tax."

This major item in Gov. William Milliken's program was supported by Forbes, Larsen and Mrs. McNamee. Opposed were Brotherton, Dedefaugh and Rocca.

THE BILL to increase unemployment compensation to a maximum of \$7.07 was opposed by Conservatives. Voting yes were Brotherton, Forbes, Larsen and Rocca. Opposed were Dedefaugh and Mrs. McNamee.

The controversial teachers strike bill—aimed at permitting but limiting such strikes—was passed by the Conservative Party.

Favoring the bill were Brotherton, Forbes and Larsen. Opposed were Dedefaugh, Mrs. McNamee and Rocca.

State police won't issue ID's

Secretary of state offices in time will be handling applications for state identification cards.

A new law effective Jan. 1 assigns the personal identification process to the secretary of state. The state police previously issued the cards.

Cost of the cards, which carry a photo and right thumbprint of the hold-

er, will be \$3 and duplicates and renewals will cost \$1.50.

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