

Lt. Governor backs Brotherton

Damman stumps for party through Farmington

State aid to schools, the single business tax sharing and the move toward mandatory deposits on beverage containers were on the agenda of a recent trip through Farmington and Southfield.

Damman toured the Farmington and Southfield Hills and Southfield to show his support for the campaigns of State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) and 17th District Congressional hopeful Jim Haggerty.

The state has a responsibility to provide for good education," Damman said. "We can pump more money into it, but we're not doing more than other states. There is a need to provide equity in educa-

tion and approach the same level of education for all.

"High state equalized valuation (SEV) districts are provided for by the state aid formula," he said.

"It's hard for me to be sympathetic for those districts that have a high SEV and are getting state aid. If they have a high SEV they have the same opportunity to obtain funds from the state and the people as other districts."

Farmington's school district has a high SEV accompanied by a decline in enrollment.

Damman could step into the governor's shoes if William Milliken is given a post

within the Ford administration next year. "I can't speak for the governor and say if he would decide to take a post, I don't think that there's anyone who would run for lieutenant governor who wouldn't prepare for the possibility of becoming governor," Damman said.

If he did replace Milliken, Damman would not be surprised if the questions concerning his land dealings in Troy resurfaced.

"THE FACTS don't support the accusations," Damman said. "A newspaper speculated that I had used my office improperly. They apologized for the accusations, eventually," he said.

There is a lack of information about the effects of the SBT. We have no data on which to base a judgment. We've commissioned a survey of businessmen in the state, but there has been less than enthusiastic response to it.

Less than 10 per cent have replied. We need 60 per cent. If there isn't a response to the questionnaire, then we will have to take a survey of tax returns. That'll place our recommendations a year away.

The task force is recommending a change in the format of the present law. The estimated payments provision requires a businessman to predict the amount of per cent of the income he expects this year.

Damman expects the task force to recommend that the percentage of income a businessman has to predict on the present SBT form be lowered.

"We're recommending that the state relieve the small businessman of an additional burden," he said.

Although he advocates changes in the SBT, he supports the consolidation of the state's seven business taxes into one.

"Conceptually, the SBT approach makes sense. I support it because I didn't believe at the time that it would result in shifts in the tax burden as severe as it has proven to be," he said.

He rejects the idea that Michigan has a poor business climate, but adds that it

could be improved by reforms in the state's workmen's and unemployment compensation system.

"For businessmen that are interested in Michigan, the SBT is an inducement," he said.

"I don't think we have a bad business climate. That's subjective. There is a need for reform in the workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation systems. That's another area that we simply can't get the legislature to move on," he said.

"Our business climate may not be as good as it should be but I don't think it's as bad as it made out."

He also supports the tax base sharing concept but sees flaws in the proposed program.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, property tax money from Oakland County cities would be doled out to them on the basis of growth. Cities that have stopped growing would receive money to compensate for their lack of economic expansion.

"Currently, our tax base system is too complex. Most people don't understand it," he said.

"Tax base sharing would make this situation more difficult."

Having been on the Troy City Council, I know that growth is not the bonus some people think it is," he said.

However, he admitted that communities bordering a growth area often find themselves supplying more police and fire protection and coping with an increase in traffic.

"We all have to swim together," he said. "All should benefit from a community's growth."

The proposal to place a mandatory deposit on beverage containers receives his support.

"The conservation aspects of the bill interest me," he said. "It's about time we realize that our resources are limited."

"It marks a shift in the emphasis of our country. We can't be a throwaway society. We tend to most interested in conserving our natural elements."

The first step is that we have to be

more careful with our resources," he said.

Damman doesn't believe that the passage of the proposal will result in layoffs in the canning and bottling industries.

"I don't know if they'd be quite as severe as some say they will be," he said. "But I think the bill will cause some shifts in the employment at those facilities."

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State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) (left) and Mary Waggoner listen to Lt. Gov. James Damman discuss the issues during his day in the Farmington area. (Photo by Jim Hug)

3 forums slated at Schoolcraft

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College will present open forums Oct. 6, 12 and 13 in room B-209 of the Liberal Arts Building on campus.

Dr. Robert Delcampe of Eastern Michigan University will kick off the series at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6 with a discussion on "Should We Have a Baby?" He will take up whether or not a couple should have their child by birth or through adoption.

"Self Defeating Behavior" will be the topic at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12 with Schoolcraft counselor Shirley Emerson. She will explain how individuals can learn to break the self-defeating cycles of depression, procrastination, fatness, hostility, alienation, perfectionism, worry and inferiority.

At 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, Bonnie Jordan of the Ann Arbor chapter of the National Organization of Women will talk on "Domestic Violence: The Battered Wife."

Designed to show how to help a friend or neighbor, the class will consider factors

that may operate to keep a wife in an abusive relationship, and discuss options open to her.

Farmington Dems open headquarters

Philip Mastin, Democratic candidate for Oakland County executive, will be the featured speaker at the Oct. 7 meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club.

The meeting will be in the newly opened Farmington Democratic headquarters, 3316 Grand River.

It will start at 8:30 p.m. with an official opening of the headquarters ceremony. The headquarters, which will serve the Farmington area through the Nov. 2 election, opens its doors Monday.

Marne Mutchall will be office manager. Volunteers are urged to stop by the headquarters and offer their services.

Travel with ease program presented

The Farmington Community Library, 3277 Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills, is presenting a travel program to show how persons to make their vacations more enjoyable.

The program will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 in the library's auditorium.

Speakers will be Jim and Jay Form, owners of the Highland Travel Bureau. They will present a travel film on northern Spain and a slide presentation on Costa del Sol.

Also, they will talk on how travel agencies work for tourists, how to select a destination, costs of different types of transportation, passport information and many other subjects of interests to travelers.

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