

Cooper swings into reelection bid

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

State Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Ok Park) came out swinging as he launched his re-election bid for the 15th District seat recently.

Cooper, who admits a return to a third term will be one of his most difficult, faces a challenge by Doug Ross in the Democratic primary.

Ross was an official with the Michigan Citizens Lobby, a consumers' group, before he declared his candidacy.

"I would love to be re-elected on the substance of my record, but it doesn't always work that way," Cooper told a gathering at the Farmington Exchange Club last week.

The 48-year-old legislator is putting up his experience against Ross' inexperience and charm. Cooper said it was more important for him to stay in touch with legislation than to be popular.

MOST of my critics say that I've changed. But when you've been this close to government for 14 years, if you don't change, there is something

wrong," said the Senate majority leader.

Cooper is well-known for his no-nonsense stands on issues and demonstrated some of that tenacity before the mostly Republican Exchange Club membership.

He blasted the majority of his Senate colleagues who voted for the single business tax, the thrust of which, he says, places a hardship on small businesses.

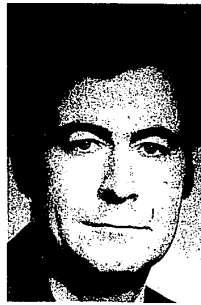
"All that bill does is accommodate the large companies. But small businesses are important. We're not getting any new jobs because of this bill. All it does is shift the impact of taxation."

He also lashed out at the growing bureaucracy in Lansing, saying it is a danger to the "free society."

"Every bill purports to do good, but you end up having to get permission from the government," he said.

The first step toward a totalitarian government is the establishment of too many bureaus to which citizens have to report, he maintained.

To counter this trend, Cooper wants to see "sunset" laws which would mandate that agencies justify their existence.



DAN COOPER

The problem with the system now is that residents are at the mercy of bureaucrats who are either civil service or appointed and just about can't be put out of office, he said.

But while pleasing the Exchange with these stands, he got a different

reaction when it came to the issues of crime, unemployment and refurbishing of Downtown Detroit.

He lauded a bill which he got out of the Senate appropriations committee which calls for spending \$50 million for high intensity lighting in high crime areas and \$30 million for additional police.

"It certainly is better than spending \$300 million for a new prison," he said.

Although he was pessimistic at one time over the rejuvenation of downtown, he said recent actions by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young gave him room for optimism.

"We can't afford to write off big cities. The Renaissance Center isn't just an abstract idea. It is a boon to the Detroit area. Things are starting to change," he said.

Cooper is a Young supporter and helped Young in his 1973 bid for mayor.

COOPER was less than receptive to a suggestion by an Exchange member that persons on welfare and unemployment take jobs like picking up trash on the sides of roads before being eligible for a check from the state.

"You could never get a bill like that passed," Cooper said.

Law provides for delayed retirement

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impact will be, said a GM spokesman.

"We've got a task force to look at it," he added. "A lot of the fine points haven't been spelled out. It's probably going to take a few years to understand it."

One thing GM already knows is that unless something drastic happens, the increase won't affect many rank-and-file workers.

In 1976, just 11 per cent of GM retirees were older than 65. Meanwhile, 60 per cent of those who retired in 1976 were between 55 and 64, and another 29 per cent were under 55.

Students attend Economic Club

North Farmington High students Mary Jo Hall, Ann Wilson, Todd Schuller and Bob Atkins attended the Economic Club of Detroit recently.

The students heard U.S. Senator Robert Griffin speak on the Panama Canal treaties during the luncheon gathering. Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co. hosted the students.

Executives will have to retire at 65, under the terms of the new law, if they're entitled to an annual pension of \$27,000 or more and have held "bona fide executive or policy-making positions" for two or more years.

"One retirement in a small department can often mean as many as half a dozen promotions for younger guys who've been waiting around. What that's going to do to morale is something that's going to have to be looked at," said the spokesperson.

At Ford Motor Co., only one employee in 10 who retired in 1974-76 retired because of age, said a spokesman.

"It'll have some effect on us, but not a great effect," he said. "At a time when you've got high unemployment, it seems only fair to give the younger guys a crack."

FARMINGTON teachers who are wondering what the bill's impact will have on district policies will have to wait to find out.

"We have to wait until our attorney tells us what to do," says Personnel Director Robert Coleman. District contracts have a standard retirement age policy of 65. Whether those con-

tracts will be exempted from the bill until they've expired is yet to be determined.

Or the district might have to do

some renegotiating.

"I haven't even seen a copy of the bill yet, so we'll wait and see," Coleman says.

City turns thumbs down to proposed Taco Bell

Enchiladas and burritos won't be featured the downtown Farmington scene via a proposed Taco Bell restaurant.

The City of Farmington's Planning Commission unanimously rejected a site plan offered by Taco Bell, Inc. for a proposed restaurant at the corner of Grand River and Mayfield.

The restaurant was proposed for the property now occupied by a closed Mobil gas station.

Non-compliance of a zoning ordinance for the central business district was the reason for rejection, according to William Burke, commission chairman.

"The ordinance was deliberately designed to avoid density of traffic generated by carry-out service as dif-

ferentiated from eat-in services," Burke explained.

The ordinance stipulates that carry-out trade must be incidental to in-service restaurant business.

"No one was against them as a business alone or as a business with a bad reputation," Burke said. "But we expressly designed the ordinance to avoid traffic."

PARKING problems caused by limited parking spaces and a large amount of traffic on Grand River have been concerns of city officials for some time.

The Taco Bell request was tabled at a commission meeting two weeks ago to give the commission time to conduct a traffic survey.

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