

County GOP stages low-key powwow

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

It was a night for Oakland County's Republicans to shine, but their convention last week was lackluster.

"We do our damndest to try to interest people in politics," said one Republican county commissioner. "Then they come here and we bore them to death."

The high point of the evening at Avondale High School for more than 300 precinct delegates and 150 guests, elected officials and candidates was a reception for Gov. William Milliken and his keynote address.

From then on it was a night of caucusing and choosing 172 delegates and 172 alternates for next week's Republican State Convention in Detroit. The state convention will nominate candidates for 13 offices including lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state.

OAKLAND COUNTY is a wealthy, influential Republican stronghold. Its delegation will wield considerable weight when the convention opens

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Friday night in Detroit's Cobo Hall. For that reason, it is usually well-courted by a host of political candidates, especially those who must gain the favor of the delegates to see their names on the November ballot.

In addition to the usual cast of Republican party regulars, State Rep. Melvin Larsen of Oxford, considered by many to be a shoo-in for the convention's nomination for secretary of state, and State Supreme Court Justice James Ryan, who wants to keep his seat on the bench, as well as a number of persons seeking seats on the state board of education and the boards of

the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University were on hand pressing flesh and passing out literature.

MILLIKEN'S SPEECH may have been a disappointment to conventioners who expected a Rockwellian pep talk.

Standing beneath a red-white-and-blue "Sweep the State in '78" banner, Milliken reminded Oakland's Republican troops a sweep of any kind would be an uphill battle. A victory for a Republican in any statewide battle, keeping in mind the Michigan's political makeup, is tough, he said.

However, he stressed his nine-year record. The message differed little from the tone set by his television commercials aired in the final days of the primary campaign.

He said Michigan has made impressive gains in improving the economic climate. "The record will show," the governor said, "solid accomplishments have moved the state forward."

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Houses sell fast in subdivisions

New subdivision houses sell quickly—often before they are even a hole in the ground, the United States League of Savings Associations reports.

Only one of every three developer-built houses is unsold by the time construction is finished, the league says.

According to data in the league's newly published Fact Book, developer-built houses accounted for 56 per cent—or 819,000—of the 1.45 million new single family homes built last year. The rest were built by, or for,

persons who already owned vacant land and wanted new housing.

The majority of the new houses were financed by savings and loan associations, the league said. Savings associations financed the purchase of 840,000 new houses last year, an all-time high.

Of the developer-built houses, 22 per cent were sold before construction was begun and another 45 per cent were sold during the construction phase. Only 33 per cent of the homes were unsold once they were built, a significant drop from the 39 per cent of developer-built homes which were unsold upon completion of construction in 1976.

Moving?

Feds offer free advice

One person in five makes a household move every year.

The Interstate Commerce Commission (the federal agency that regulates interstate movers), says that a smooth move requires advance planning. Check the mover's reputation, know the limits of liability you've agreed to for your shipment, and consider the need for outside insurance.

For details, write for a free pamphlet, "When You Move—Do's and Don'ts," from the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 599F, Pueblo, Colo. 81109.

Heating aid program

looks for skilled help

A federally funded home weatherization program for Oakland County low-income and senior citizen homeowners is looking for volunteer helpers.

People who have had some experience with caulking, weatherstripping and installing insulation are wanted.

The project, operated by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency to serve low-income persons in the two counties, has weatherized over 750 houses during the past three years. For more information, call 373-7767.

Fears prove unfounded; crime misses Jeffries

When the Jeffries freeway opened last November, many businessmen along the route feared it would increase the possibility of holdups.

Gasoline stations along the Schoolcraft service drive feared the "easy on, easy off" pattern would make their locations ideal targets for bandits.

Police, too, admitted the possibility of a boost in crime since a criminal can escape faster on I-96 than on surface streets.

To date, these fears have been groundless, according to police figures. Police say the only problem causing concern on the Jeffries is traffic where drivers exceed the 55 m.p.h. speed limit.

Capt. James Mogan said there has been no increase in holdups due to the freeway.

"There is always the danger of a

gasoline station being held up and we get our share. But those along the Jeffries have not been targets."

LT Russell McQuaid of the road patrol bureau said the freeway is well patrolled not only by Livonia police but by State Police and Wayne County Sheriff units.

"We have had no increase in holdups along the Schoolcraft service drive. There is a car assigned to the Jeffries on a 24-hour basis and actually we have a better chance of catching a fleeing criminal on the freeway than on the surface streets."

LT Richard Widmaier, head of the Livonia police traffic bureau, said patrol cars spend 15-20 per cent of their time patrolling the freeway.

"In addition, we have set up emergency patterns should a situation arise," he added.



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