

Schools still big issue for Milliken's No. 2 man

By TIM RICHARD

Tax limitation became an issue in Michigan so suddenly that people have forgotten what their biggest concern was only six months or a year ago.

And that concern, said James H. Brickley, was the declining quality of education.

The Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, now on leave as president of Eastern Michigan University, said:

"Quality of education got sidetracked with the tax revolt. The answer will be competency testing—and the effort is coming out of Detroit."

"Competency declined because we (in public schools) no longer have standards. Attendance alone would get you through."

BRICKLEY, 49, answered questions from Observer & Eccentric news staffers on what he hopes to bring to the No. 2 spot if Gov. William G. Milliken is reelected Nov. 7.

Brickley served as Milliken's lieutenant governor from 1971-74, then found the EMU job.

When Milliken's second lieutenant governor, James Damman, was maneuvered out of running this year, Milliken astounded the political world by recruiting the ambitious Brickley back.

Will Milliken or Sen. Robert Griffin resign after the election some time and throw the post to Brickley?

"No, he said. 'I don't see Gov. Milliken leaving for four years. I don't plan to leave the lieutenant governorship for four years.'"

At EMU, Brickley was paid \$55,000 a year. As lieutenant governor, he would make \$41,000. Why switch?

"I don't like that part of the deal," he said of the salary cut.

"But Gov. Milliken persuaded me I could help him. I told him (last winter) he should run again because he brought something to the office. He turned the tables on me by asking me to run with him again."

"I made that decision (to run) more quickly than any other decision of my life," Brickley said, referring to the famous private conference in an Ypsilanti motel room where party leaders put together the GOP "dream ticket" of Milliken, Brickley and Griffin.

WHY, THEN, did Brickley leave the lieutenant governorship four years ago?

"In 1974 I was in my early 40s. I figured he (Milliken) may run again in 1978. I may be lieutenant governor 12 years."

"Lieutenant governor is a low-identity job. I got a little worried about spending my 40s as lieutenant governor."

"I went to a position (at EMU) that does have a lot of responsibility."

Brickley is sure Milliken won't run for a fourth term in 1982. Brickley could run for governor or take on Democratic U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle. It's no secret. He isn't coy.

ALTHOUGH EDUCATION will be his top inter-

est in Lansing, Brickley said he won't "be a lobbyist for higher education."

Nor does he worry about an "educational establishment" controlling education policy.

He saw no harm in Wayne-Westland Schools Sept. 17 when he served on the EMU board of regents—although Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley recently ruled Dyer is in a conflict of interest situation and must give up one post or the other.

Nor did Brickley share the concern of former State Board of Education member James F. O'Neill that the state's education policy-making body has six present or former teachers among its eight members.

"They were elected, and the people elected them," Brickley said. "I don't want to say that people with education positions are unqualified to serve if elected."

A FORMER FBI special agent, Brickley served on the Detroit Common Council and later was chief assistant Wayne County prosecutor and U.S. attorney for eastern Michigan before his first term as lieutenant governor.

Here's how he stands on other issues:

• Headlee tax limitation amendment (Proposal E)—"We're already living under it. But we need the Headlee amendment if a Democrat is elected governor."

• The tax revolt—"What we need is a spending revolt, not a tax revolt. People are revolting against taxes, which is a symptom of spending. The people are voting for candidates who promise them the most spending programs. We have to get the people to want less spending programs."

• PBB—"I hear these stories (about PBB-caused damages to livestock and humans) and they never turn out to be true. We have the lowest PBB tolerance limits in the country—20 parts per billion compared to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's 300 parts per billion. The state moved very quickly, very decisively at the time (1974). The state did a good job under the circumstances. Maybe the governor is at fault for not bringing this out."

• Proposal B (prohibiting early parole of convicts)—"I have personal experience from Wayne County. We had a person who was out on three different bonds at once. I would like to tighten parole as much as the constitution allows."

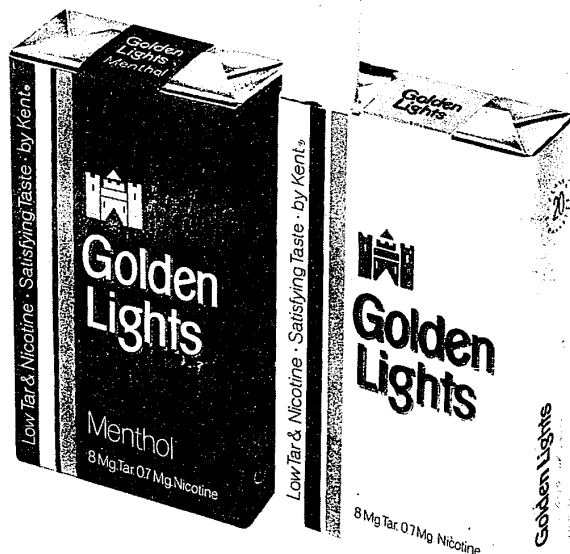
• Need for more prisons if Proposal B passes—"That is a beautiful problem. I'd be delighted to have that problem. We should keep building prisons. Let's have excess prison capacity. Then felons will know the people have the will and the capacity to hold them."

• Proposal G (to allow collective bargaining by state police troopers)—"I'm opposed to G. One group of state employees shouldn't be singled out. The rest of state government doesn't have it (collective bargaining). But the polls show it passing. If it does, it will be a tribute to the prestige of the state police. It won't be the end of the world if it passes."

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