

Cry of the city

GOP trumpets urban issues theme

By TOM LONERGAN

"If we work for the cities, the cities will vote for us."

As more Republicans gather in Detroit next week for their party's national convention, that theme — from U.S. Rep. William Green, R-New York, — may likely be repeated until it reaches a crescendo.

This week in Cobo Hall, 14 members of the Republican Platform Committee reviewed draft proposals for an urban policy that will attempt to merge the party's recognition of such urban issues as housing, employment and transportation, without "looking to Washington for a solution," as one committee member from Carbondale, Ill., put it.

of this whole platform."

Like Green, Rep. Heckler, an urban GOP moderate, urged party policy drafters to favor rehabilitation of existing housing stock in the nation's core cities and older suburbs.

Urban transportation was among the issues the subcommittee discussed earlier this week during hearings.

The GOP draft policy calls for surface transportation block grants for cities, patterned after community development block grant programs for

sector and young people."

"We have been complaining about CETA (the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act) . . . that isn't working," said U.S. Rep. John Roussetol, R-Calif.

Before Congress changed the CETA act last year, cities, particularly Detroit, relied on the federal program to call back laid-off municipal workers.

Republicans favor future CETA programs, according to Roussetol, that are more towards private sector initiatives."

The GOP draft said mass transportation was the "first line of responsibility" of local governments. The federal role, according to the policy draft, was to provide technical and financial support.

Regarding unemployment, particularly among the inner city poor, the draft policy favored tax incentives to encourage private industry to employ in the inner city.

The draft called for "programs that seek to match the needs of the private



Republican Platform Committee members Nancy Chase (Michigan), left, and Margaret Heckler (Massachusetts) were among those who reviewed urban policy draft proposals.

ONE OF THE image reasons Detroit was picked for the Republican National Convention was to show that the party could appeal to the traditionally Democratic urban voter.

"Seventy percent of the American people live in urban areas," said Stephen Danzansky, a platform committee member and lawyer from Washington, D.C.

"We are not electing people in inner cities, and we could if we drafted a policy that speaks to urban needs," he said.

Platform committee members spent a large part of the week listening to videotaped testimony from city politicians across the country, including congressmen, like Green of New York, state legislators and others hoping to influence the GOP platform to be adopted by the full convention next week.

"WE HELPED move our population to open spaces," Rep. Green said. "Now we must encourage homesteading in our energy-efficient cities."

The New York Republican urged the party's platform writers to consider giving renters, as well as homeowners, a tax break.

"There is nothing more desperate than the housing crisis that we face," said U.S. Rep. Margaret Heckler, R-Massachusetts, a platform committee member.

"The American Dream of a home you can call your own is almost impossible for young people across the country."

She said the country was "without a housing policy," which, she added, should be "one of the most basic areas

Keeping tabs on Mickie saps energy

By ARLENE FUNK

Trying to keep up with Deborah Gaffke just might be too much activity for hot, summer days when energy conservation is a blessing.

The 25-year-old Ms. Gaffke — better known as Mickie — wears many hats: owner of a dance school, performer and teacher.

Soon Ms. Gaffke will be taking on a new task when she begins sharing her collection of 100 films with students and community groups. She plans to run the movies, which run the gamut from early silent films to musical comedies during registration next month for classes at her Mickie's Dance Company in Canton.

The films, protected by copyright, will be shown free of charge. The group includes both full-length early films and "editions" or condensed versions of later ones which could cost several hundred dollars if complete.

"MOST KIDS have never seen Fred Astaire," said Ms. Gaffke. "He's smooth, cool and precise. (Charlie) Chaplin is my favorite. He's an innovator."

Why would a young woman invest up to \$1,700 in a collection of films which she orders from catalogs? Why would she spend hours looking at old films and pinch pennies to buy them?

Ms. Gaffke said early film stars are an inspiration. She enjoys watching the range of emotions expressed on the faces of silent screen stars and gets dancing ideas from musical productions. "If I'm interested, I'm going to put my whole heart into it," said Ms. Gaffke, who graduated from Franklin High School in Livonia. "You get what you put into something."

"I'm energetic," she added.

Ms. Gaffke's hobby developed three years ago after she read a book about the early comedy team of Laurel and Hardy. She soon began reading other books and ordering films from catalogs.

"I'd like to meet other film collectors, especially women," said Ms. Gaffke.

IN THE MEANTIME, her other activities were bubbling. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Ms. Gaffke has a degree in dance and drama education.

She has owned Mickie's Dance Studio on Lilley and Warren for two years. She teaches contemporary dance at Scholcraft College and is set to teach aerobic dance through the Plymouth-Canton school district's community education program in the fall.

Aerobic dance uses dancing as a means of strengthening muscles, heart and lungs. In addition, she and her partner, Rick Montes of Livonia, give dance performances.

Ms. Gaffke's green eyes flash and her wheat-colored pigtail bob as she discusses how she juggles hobby and career.

Forgotten are her sprained wrist and blistered toes, battle scars of a dance show which she and her students performed last week at Plymouth-Canton High School auditorium.

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