

Where does Headlee stand on social concerns?

On your mark, get set, go. Well, we're still a tad removed from the gubernatorial "go" mark when it comes to Farmington Hills' own citizen-politician, insurance executive Richard Headlee.

But no longer can — or will — the Crackerbarrel be pelted and kicked for daring to say Headlee has joined the rest of us mortals in the pursuit of power.

Actually, the guy has to be given credit for "Yes-ing" up. A lot of his supporters would have rather seen him kid around with the public a little more by forming an "exploratory" committee.

But if anything, Headlee is his own person. Those around him who may have thought they could foist their ideology on him without question undoubtedly are surprised.

Now, I'll admit the temptation exists to pen an "I told you so" column. But this state is in critical shape, and gloating is the last thing we need — even from a know-it-all curmudgeon columnist.

The future is what counts. And the gubernatorial

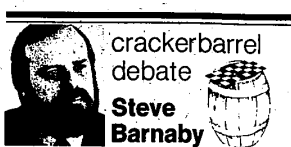
future indicates we're going to see a lot of position-shifting between Headlee and arch-rival Lt. Gov. Jim Brickley.

INDEED, BRICKLEY is coming out with conservative banner flying. Last weekend at the Michigan Press Association convention, Brickley unfurled the banner.

He huffed and he puffed and told us about what wonderful things the new federalism will do for the state of Michigan. I always thought cloning was reserved for science fiction until I heard Brickley doing his Ronald Reagan imitation.

Headlee, on the other hand, is actually talking about being a "moderate-conservative" — whatever that is.

But unlike previous statements, Headlee has tossed out the moderate signal to see how it will fly. After all, if mentor George Romney was a moderate, why not Dick Headlee?



It will take much more than intimidating 'he is moderate' to build the coalition needed to win. Headlee's public statements still revolve around the evils of the federal government and the glories of conservative economic policy. Naturally, this only can be expected to continue. But what about the moderate side of the "moderate-conservative" equation?

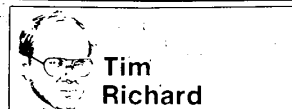
THE PUBLIC HAS yet to hear how Headlee stands on capital punishment, civil rights, the state tourist industry, public use of land, the elderly and programs for youth, road financing, transit financing, school financing.

With answers to those kinds of issues, maybe the public will have a more vivid image of the real Headlee. Maybe he's a bedrock conservative like many believe. Maybe he is something other.

Only if he is willing to speak out on these issues will we know.

Meanwhile, we've got to figure out what in heaven's name is happening on the other side of the tracks to the Democrats.

Now there's a primary difficult to decipher. It sure would be nice to know how potential and declared Democratic candidates felt about issues — besides the fact they dislike Reagan economic policy.



Colleges play banker to the state

Gov. William Milliken's proposed delay of state aid to colleges is almost tougher to deal with than a cut. Colleges are being forced, in effect, to become creditors to the state without assurance the state can pay them back.

"Our cash flow problem will be serious," Dr. Richard McDowell, president of Schoolcraft College, said last week.

And Kenneth Lindner, vice president for business, added Schoolcraft's aid cut "is about 10 percent of our budget, which is around \$14 million."

BEFORE DOING too much moaning, however, let's get the facts in order.

The state owes the local community college \$1.3 million for the months of July, August and September. That is the final quarter of the state's fiscal year 1982.

Milliken, required by the constitution to cut spending when revenue falls short, proposes to withhold this amount until the new fiscal year starting in October. At that time, the state treasury would pay Schoolcraft its fourth quarter payment from fiscal '82 and its first quarter payment for fiscal '83.

The catch, of course, is whether the economy will improve enough to generate the revenue. Dr. Gerald Miller, state budget director, says it will. Our legislators love and admire Miller about as much as the Roman Senate loved and admired Julius Caesar.

SO HOW IS Schoolcraft supposed to operate from July through September?

First, operations are slower in summer. Those months are the first quarter of the college's '82-83 fiscal year, so it's not as if the current budget will be affected.

Second, the college will borrow. It already borrows \$1 million in tax anticipation notes during summer, and now it will borrow \$2 million. The prospect doesn't excite McDowell and Lindner, who would rather use dollars for education than for bank interest charges.

Third, the college is sitting on other costs. Now that Barbara Geil has been promoted from registrar to vice president for student affairs, John Toomey, director of financial aid, will pick up the job of registrar, too. Adelard Raby, the new controller, is picking up some of the duties of the departed manager of business services.

Fourth, enrollment is up, and with it tuition income. That happens at most community colleges in a recession. This winter it was a rise of 3.12, or 4 percent, more than the previous winter record, and credit hours are up 2 percent. That will help cash flow a bit.

Fifth, the college has worked to make its food service operation self-supporting. One more budget drain has been plugged.

Milliken's budget cuts, though politically unpopular, are probably the least painful way he could have handled the situation.

THE REAL TRAGEDY, however, lies in another direction.

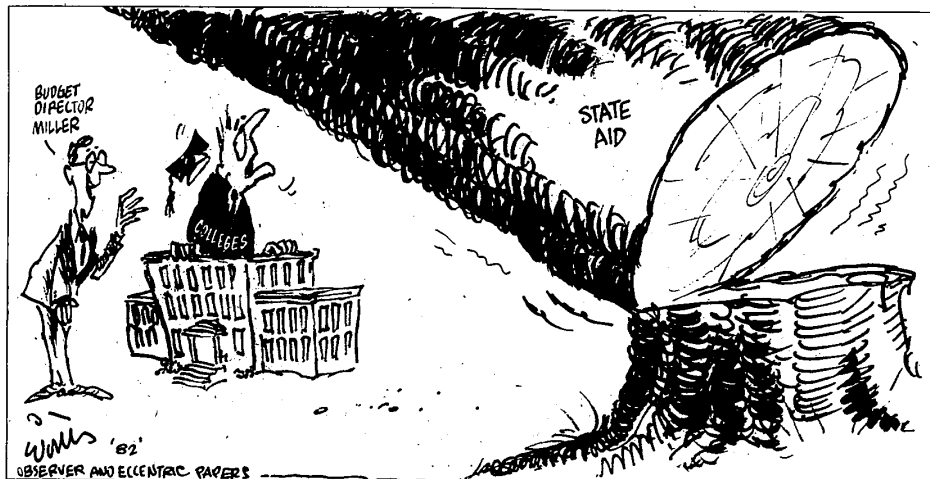
McDowell is going great guns seeking deals with local industry — technical training for workers, supervisory training for foremen. He was good at that in Pittsburgh. That's why Schoolcraft hired him.

He sees that as a crucial role for community colleges as Michigan desperately seeks to diversify its economy and attract new industry. Indeed, the community college, he'll tell you, has a bigger role in economic recovery than virtually any other institution.

And he asks, isn't cutting an asset like a community college counter-productive to the state's goal of recruiting and serving industry?

In the long run, the real harm of Michigan's revenue shortfall may not be to cause colleges to turn banker, but to hamper their role in economic development.

'Don't worry — I'll save you in October'



New federalism vague to communities

What will new federalism mean to local communities? Will chuckholes be patched on Main Street in Rochester? Will innovative educational programs be introduced in Garden City?

Or is it a con game? As state Sen. Doug Ross, a Democrat whose district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield, said, "We don't want someone to pay our newsboy in return for us paying their light bill."

Most local officials say it's too early to tell the results of the program outlined in President Ronald Reagan's State of the Union address. Reagan said he wanted to turn over 40 programs costing \$47 billion to state and local governments. During a transition period of eight years, \$28 billion in revenue would be shifted to the states. After that, the federal money would be cut off.

Early reactions were along partisan lines. Republicans, like state Sen. Bob Geake of Northville, backed the President. "I support the plan in principle. A number of federal services... should be handled by the state in cooperation with local governments," he said.

Democrats like Sen. Ross were skeptical. "We have to make sure it's not simply a shift of Washington's financial problems onto us," he said.

IT'S DIFFICULT to evaluate new federalism because so much is unknown. The president didn't have many details last week. His proposals must be approved by Congress where much haggling and dealing will take place.



Also, the state of Michigan is at a critical period in its history. Its unemployment rate leads the nation. Businesses are cutting back investments in the state. By most estimates, Michigan is in a depression.

The day before the president's speech, Gov. William Milliken announced that because of the state's depressed economy, \$225 million in state aid to local governments and higher education will be held back and repaid in fiscal 1983. Some cities such as Livonia have already responded by cutting their local budgets.

Traditionally, Michigan has had an excellent economy. Thus, on a per-resident basis, it has contributed more money in taxes and taken back less in federal programs than most other states. That situation has changed, and now this state desperately needs federal programs. It's ironic that now the president is talking of turning back more money and programs to state and local agencies.

No one can predict the effect the president's proposed program will have on an economically poor state like Michigan.

ANY DISCUSSION of new federalism requires a critique of Reaganomics. For new federalism was the key economic philosophy outlined in the president's first State of the Union address. If you believe in Reaganomics, you support new federalism, and vice versa.

To be generous, the verdict is still out on Reaganomics. Unemployment is at a higher rate than a year ago. Interest rates are dropping, but they are still at an unacceptably high level.

Last week, the president said the problems of the economy were inherited, and he didn't cause them. He had no plans to change his economic approach because (according to him) the system was now in place and would begin to work at some undetermined time.

FRANKLY, THIS "trust me" approach is hard to take in the Detroit area, where businesses are closing rapidly and there is a high rate of unemployment, even among the middle class.

But it's not only Detroit that's worried about Reaganomics. So is Wall Street.

Businessmen are worried about budget deficits forecasted to be as high as \$100 billion a year. They are holding off on making investments and hiring more workers.

Will new federalism and Reaganomics make your hometown a better place to live? Hopefully, yes. But there are doubters — even among Republicans. With all of these questions there's only one certainty: The "cure" had better start working soon.

Social critics shock the 'old school'

Many strange things have happened along the journalistic trail since The Stroller took his first steps along the river of printer's ink more than a half-century ago.

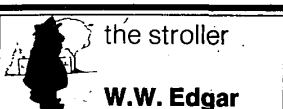
One of the strangest came during the recent Super Bowl week when several visiting sports writers admitted they were bored and took out their boredom on Detroit — even going to the extreme of calling it a "dump."

Reading some of these comments, The Stroller couldn't help wondering what would have happened to him had he done much the same when he was a constant traveler on the sports trail.

More than that, he couldn't help wondering what his editors would have said — or done — had he forgot his assignment and wrote about the environment the assignment had placed him in.

THE STROLLER belongs to what now is referred to as the "old school" of sports writers who took their assignments seriously. And he has been in some odd places. The environment made little difference.

Some of them came to mind the other evening when he came across his old friend, Frank Angelo, recently retired as assistant to the editor of the



Free Press, and asked him:

"What do you think our mutual friend, the late Malcolm Bingay, would have done if I had ignored the practice runs at the Indianapolis 500 Mile race and wrote about the dilapidated stands and the dangerous section outside the track?"

"You would have been ordered home," Angelo answered, "and on your return, you would have been told that you were sent down to Indianapolis to cover the automobile race — not the social functions and conditions away from the track. And he would have made it very plain. But I guess editors of today are a more generous lot and not of the 'old school.'"

THIS GOT The Stroller to thinking of some of the places he has been assigned to in the course of covering the top sports events.

Aside from Indianapolis, where he became bored with all the discussion of fuel consumption and tire fabrics, he covered many of Joe Louis's fights in Harlem. That was not the most pleasant place to be at night.

Another place he recalls with some unpleasantness is the south side of Chicago. It was in that section, at Comiskey Park, where Louis knocked out Jimmy Braddock to win the world heavyweight championship.

On the night before the fight, when the sports writers were guests at the park, Wilfrid Smith of the Chicago Tribune had his car set on fire in the parking lot. And he had no recourse but to watch it burn. But he covered his fight assignment.

THERE WERE NO worse accommodations than the press box at Holy Cross College in Massachusetts. The box was high up on the top of the stadium wall. The only way to get there was to climb 97 rickety old wooden steps.

But none of us took our feelings out on the school. As the late Malcolm Bingay would say, "You were assigned to cover the football game, not to comment on conditions. They are just part of the hazards of your occupation."