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# Huber blisters Senate tax hikes

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

Robert Huber is a hard-line Republican who calls himself an experienced conservative, speaking for the country. He favors excise taxes over income taxes and likes Reaganomics. He says if students can't afford tuitions at big-name universities, they should attend community colleges near their homes.



Robert Huber

There are too many vested interests," he said, explaining that charitable organizations would protest, as well as homeowners now able to deduct their mortgage interest payments.

When it comes to federal aid to Americans, Huber balks at the idea, saying citizens are unwilling to pay more taxes to support more government programs.

Such is the case with college tuitions. Presently, college costs are rising faster than inflation, with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University announcing 15-percent increases.

"Where do people think federal or state aid is going to come from? People don't want to pay more taxes." "They (students) are going to have to look to lower-cost education from the community colleges, which are closer to home. And I expect a lot of students will have to work full time in college."

HUBER TAKES his hard-line approach abroad to American foreign policy. He doesn't force any transitional problems with George Schultz replacing Alexander Haig as secretary of state.

While Huber said American's top priority problems include jobs, changing the economic climate and cutting the cost of government, he maintains that apathy is the country's number one problem.

"American citizens just won't become involved in politics. They don't vote. So we have a government by an organized minority that has saddled itself with demagogues."

"They over-reacted by cutting, and now they're over-reacting again because of the budget deficit." Instead, Huber favors waiting it out.

"From a statistical point of view, the economy is turning around. We can see it in the charts. We just have to wait a little longer," he said, adding that the politicians "had a lot of courage to increase taxes so close to an election."

THE PROPOSED flat-rate income tax, with zero deductions, gets Huber's approval, even though he doesn't think it can possibly fly.

"It's a great idea, but it won't work."

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

State Sen. Kerry Kammer said he wants to put more state funds into education, drastically reform Michigan's workers' and unemployment compensation laws and see M-275 extended northwest.

The two-term legislator from Clarkston is making a bid for the Democratic nomination for governor. He said he's not a traditional Democrat, influenced or supported by big labor.

"My attitudes are different. I support business interests because, unless we have employers in this state, we won't have jobs," Kammer said. "Michigan ought to be something other than a social experiment for labor," he added.

KAMMER SAID he supports the M-275 extension from Novi to Clarkston because of the western Oakland County lakes area's heavy population growth.

"We have to take a realistic attitude about the downtown areas. I'd like to create some inducements to recreate a strong commercial and industrial business activity in urban centers," he said.

"But if the people are moving out of the urban area, it's government's role to meet their transportation needs," the senator said.

ON EDUCATION, Kammer proposes what he calls the "20-percent solution," or Senate Joint Resolution 0.



Kerry Kammer  
"attitudes are different"

A proposed constitutional amendment, it may be put to Michigan voters in November. It would set aside 20 percent of the total state budget (excluding federal funds) for K-12 education.

"To make the jump from the present 15 percent to the proposed 20 percent funding level feasible, SJR 0 calls for phasing in the change over a five-year span, guaranteeing 16 percent in 1983-84, 17 percent in 1984-85 until the 20-percent threshold is reached," Kammer said.

Once the 20-percent guarantee level has been reached, school aid each year would be guaranteed to increase sufficiently to cover inflationary cost increases, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. It would be allowed to increase up to 2 percent each year for real growth beyond inflation, he said.

Kammer noted that in 1965, the state funded 55 percent of K-12 education. "Since then the state has been shifting the burden on the local governments through property taxes and tuition," he added.

Kammer said he has more educational endorsements than any other candidate, notably from the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

WHILE GIVING more money to education, Kammer wants to take some away from general assistance programs.

"I support a 6-percent reduction to the general assistance budget to make it competitive with neighboring states. We've got to bring AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) in line."

"I also don't exclude workfare. We need to give people (on welfare) the tools to involve themselves in meaningful work," Kammer said.

KAMMER, LIKE other candidates,

said he supports making Michigan a competitive business state.

"But before we work on bringing other companies into Michigan we have to figure how what we can do to retain the ones we have," he said.

"We have to determine what's causing our rates (for unemployment and workers' compensation insurance) to be higher than surrounding states. Why do we have so many abuses?"

"I voted against the single business tax in 1975, and I'm still against it. We should switch to a profits tax," he said.

KAMMER WAS Pontiac city clerk for two years before toppling veteran Republican state Sen. L. Harvey Lodge in 1974. Prior to that, he was a regional manager for an insurance firm. In 1978 he was re-elected unopposed from a north Oakland district that included Pontiac.

Kammer said he gained his economic background from his work on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He is the chairman of the subcommittees on school aid, the Department of Education and the Department of Natural Resources.

He is also a member of the Agricultural Subcommittee and the Capital Outlay Subcommittee.

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