

# Dem education candidates see grim years ahead

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Jubilant — that's what Michigan Democrats felt when they looked at their victory prospects at last week-end's state convention in Flint.

"Painful" — that's how most Democrats nominated for the governing boards of state universities see the years ahead.

"I'm going to support an extension of the 1-percent increase in the state income tax," said Detroit's Mildred Jeffrey. She was nominated for a second term on the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

"I'm not saying the increase should be permanent — one or two years," added Jeffrey, 71, a former UAW official and veteran of women's and liberal political wars.

Other nominees weren't ready to join her in advocating extension of the income tax, but all saw higher education as being in grave danger from recession-caused cuts in the state budget. Presidents of two universities last week said their state appropriations have been cut 22-25 percent in a single year.

"SHE'S CORRECT, but it's political."

ly suicidal," said another prominent state Democrat, who asked to remain unidentified. "If the leadership made that kind of decision, I'd campaign for it."

After almost two months of late-hour sessions, the Michigan Legislature in May voted to raise the personal income tax to 5.6 percent from 4.6 percent, limiting the increase to six months — from April 1 to Sept. 30.

This week, the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee is due to take up Gov. Milliken's proposed \$150 million in state budget cuts. Higher education expects to lose \$35 million in those cuts. Jeffrey, for one, hopes the legislators will reject Milliken's cuts.

Meanwhile, in Flint, Democrats Sunday nominated the rest of their state ticket by acclamation.

Martha Griffiths was cheered as she accepted the nomination for lieutenant governor, after being asked by gubernatorial nominee James Blanchard. So were Secretary of State Richard Austin, who will be seeking his fourth term, and Attorney General Frank Kelley, seeking his seventh elected term. So were Supreme Court Justice Blair Moody Jr. and court nominee Michael Cavanaugh.

THEN THE convention took a 10-



Thomas Roach  
colleges "in crisis"

minute recess, the TV cameras disappeared, and even many of the 3,000 delegates departed. Those who were left nominated two persons for each four education boards.

"Higher education in this state is in crisis," said Thomas Roach, 53, University of Michigan regent from Ann Ar-

bor. Roach was nominated for a second term. "Public appropriations have declined by one-third as a percentage of support. Tuitions are rising 40 percent, more than double what it was 20 years ago."

"Reagan is dismantling (federal) educational aid to our young people by 62 percent in one year, if he gets his way," added Sarah Goddard Power, 47, also of Ann Arbor and also nominated for a second term on the U-M Board of Regents. "The tuition tax credit (advocated by Reagan) will only help a few, not the ones who need it."

Power wouldn't join Jeffrey in advocating extension of the income-tax increase unless gubernatorial nominee Blanchard supports it. But she conceded it's a "high possibility."

Of U-M's situation, Power said, "We'd only have to lose six or eight or 10 key people in research to suffer real deterioration."

"PUBLIC EDUCATION is starving for funds," said Carroll Hutton, 61, of Highland, the party's nominee for a first term on the State Board of Education.

Asked about Jeffrey's proposed extension of the income-tax increase, Hutton replied, "I don't rule out any options. I'm not prepared to say what I'd do at this time." Hutton is assistant dean of continuing education at Oakland University, Rochester, and a former director of the UAW's education department.

"Taxpayers have to decide whether they want excellent higher education," said Michael Einheuser, 31. Einheuser was nominated as Jeffrey's running mate for a second term on the Wayne State board.

"Michigan used to be in the top five of state budgets for higher education. Now we're in the bottom five. We may have to support it (extension of the income tax)."

While the WSU governing board job is politically thankless — compared to his former jobs as executive assistant to Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and member of the Wayne County Charter Commission — Einheuser said that in his youthful first term, "I probably took more than I gave. Now I have a chance to give more than I take."

"We have an outstanding new presi-

dent (David Adamany), and I owe it to him to stay on. It ain't gonna be easy. I can help him take some heat for tough decisions he has to make."

"IT'S HARD to believe the next several years can be worse than the last eight," said John Bruff, Macomb County attorney, who was nominated for a second term on the Michigan State University board.

Rather than make across-the-board cuts, said Bruff, the MSU board cut some programs with declining enrollments and reduced some entire colleges to departmental status. Bruff called public hearings on the cuts "traumatic and time-consuming."

Many angry MSU faculty members looked for another candidate to run against Bruff.

Bruff's running mate will be House Speaker Bobby Crim, 51, of Davison, who is retiring from the Legislature. "I'm not ready to say yes, that (extending the income-tax hike) has to be done," he said.

Crim said a "coordinating board" is needed for universities' program offerings.

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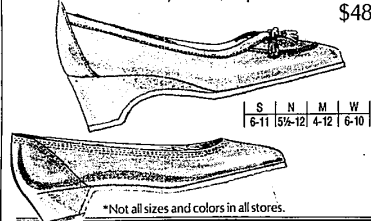
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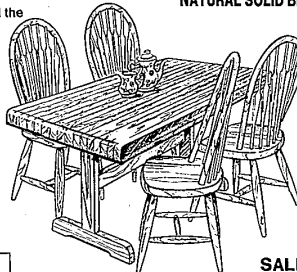
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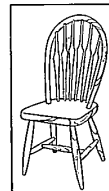
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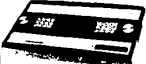
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