

# Dems back Blanchard, worry U-M regents

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Michigan Democrats gave Gov. James J. Blanchard a blank check to solve the state's fiscal crisis but gave direct orders to the University of Michigan Board of Regents to sell its stock in companies doing business with South Africa.

"They're giving Blanchard the same latitude I wish they'd give me," said U-M Regent Thomas Roach, who lost in his state convention effort to argue down the resolution on South Africa.

Otherwise, last weekend's convention was "tranquillity," in the words of Detroit Mayor Coleman Young — "nobody got punched out, not much bad names and bad language."

The climax came at 2 p.m. Sunday in Detroit's Cobo Arena when the 2,000 delegates by acclamation elected Rick Wiener, 35, state chairman to succeed Libby Maynard. Wiener's nominating speech was given by Blanchard himself.

**DELEGATES** approved a resolution urging "all Democratic legislators . . . to support the governor in his efforts to resolve this (financial) crisis."

No one mentioned either a permanent income tax increase (Blanchard's proposal), a temporary income tax increase (some legislators' proposal), a graduated rate income tax (a perennial Democratic favorite) or a sales tax (proposed by the business-labor Economic Alliance).

But in one of the few split votes of the day, the convention shouted its approval of a resolution asking all public college boards to sell their stock in companies doing business in South Africa "so that business as usual cannot go on."

It was a victory for state Rep. W. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, author of a law requiring divestiture. Bullard also argued in favor of the resolution from the convention floor, noting such policies had been adopted by religious groups, labor and even the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Bullard's act takes effect April 1.

"While South Africa must learn they must begin to change and grant the fundamentals of human dignity to all citizens," Bullard said.

"THAT RESOLUTION gives me a problem two ways," said Roach, an Ann Arbor attorney who was re-elected to the U-M governing board last November.

"First, it follows an unconstitutional law. The state constitution, since 1850, gives the regents power over the expenditure of funds. It's an important constitutional issue. For 15 years, the legislature had run the university."

"Gov. Milliken, when he signed the law on his last day in office, suggested it might be unconstitutional. It's probably the unanimous feeling on the board that it's unconstitutional and that we should attack it."

"Second, it's not an appropriate response to South Africa's apartheid. Everyone agrees apartheid's immoral, unconscionable. That's a given."

"But how do we best end it? We own stock in many Michigan companies — Ford, GM, Chrysler, Barrington, Kellogg — which have divisions or subsidiaries in South Africa."

"Divestment is a symbolic act which, when done, accomplishes nothing. If we sell our stock, who will buy it? Someone with a more responsible position?"

**ROACH SAID** the U-M board in 1978 adopted a policy requiring companies in which it held stock to report progress in such areas as desegregation of the work place, equal pay for equal work, training and promoting blacks to supervisory and management positions and providing equal medical benefits.

"Ford Motor Co. is one of the best achievers," said Roach, citing promotions, housing and health care, wages and dealings with black unionists.

"These things are resulting in change in South Africa — too slowly, but change. They are more effective than to sell our stock."

He said two consulting firms monitor such corporate practices for a fee. When Black & Decker, the tool making firm, refused to comply, U-M sold its stock. He added that stock in a second firm, which he did not name, might also be sold.

**IN OTHER business**, the convention resolved to oppose President Reagan's proposed arms buildup, advocated a local content bill for auto parts, asked corporations to exercise "a social responsibility" on plant closings, and urged a boycott of Apex (formerly Cunningham) Drug Stores.

On education matters, the Democrats accused Reagan of "undermining" separation of church and state with a tuition tax credits proposal, asked Michigan congressmen to make education a priority of the federal government, advocated training in the schools in computer programming and electronics, asked improvement in the quality of vocational education, and asked colleges to work to eradicate racism and prejudice on campuses.

MEETING IN congressional district caucuses.

## Aide expects tak hike OK

Gov. James Blanchard's chief of staff said he was optimistic the House of Representatives would "reach a solution" this week on a temporary 38-percent increase in the state income tax.

Tom Lewand, in an address before the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce Monday, said he was confident representatives from both parties would pledge their support for a proposal tying the proposed state income increase to the state's unemployment rate.

"There's an unprecedented spirit in the Legislature to acknowledge the severity of the problem and tackle the right solutions," said Lewand.

**THE HOUSE** is expected to vote this week on the proposal. It was approved last week by the House Taxation Committee on a party line vote, with Republicans objecting.

The centerpiece of the House Democrats' plan to eliminate a projected \$900 million budget deficit, the proposal calls for the tax increase to decline gradually as the state's unemployment rate goes down.

The bill would raise the income tax to 8.35 percent, retroactive to Jan. 1. Included in that increase is a 0.35 percent surcharge to eliminate an estimated \$800 million deficit accumulated from previous years.

Democrats elected local officers and representatives to the Democratic State Central Committee, governing body of the party between conventions.

17th District officers: Chair, Marie Weigold, Detroit; vice-chair, Mark Glazer, Royal Oak; secretary, Lorenzo Moner, Inkster; treasurer, Ann Malberg, Southfield.

17th District State Central members: Shirley

Leopold of Huntington Woods, Fran Robinson of Dearborn Heights, Kay Penner of Royal Oak, Mary Massara of northwest Detroit, Nancy Lennon of Ferndale, Phil Resleigh of Redford Township, John Dewan of Madison Heights, Paul Jackson of northwest Detroit and John Shepherd of Southfield.

18th District officers: Chair, Don Tucker, Franklin; vice-chair, Vicki Kremin, Rochester; secretary,

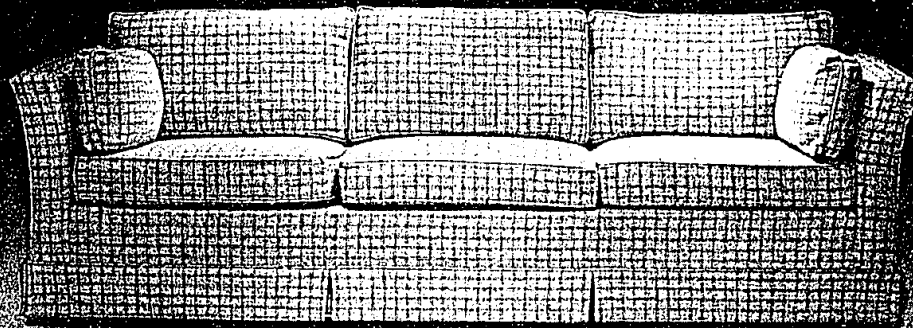
Earl Dargin, Bloomfield Hills; treasurer, Cicely Brookover, Walled Lake.

18th District State Central members: Don Carmack of Utica, Allen Sipher of Farmington Hills, Harry Moss of Southfield Township, Bill Ward and Kathleen Brown Hayward of West Bloomfield, Linda Lash of Avon Township and Gail Nolin of Sylvan Lake.

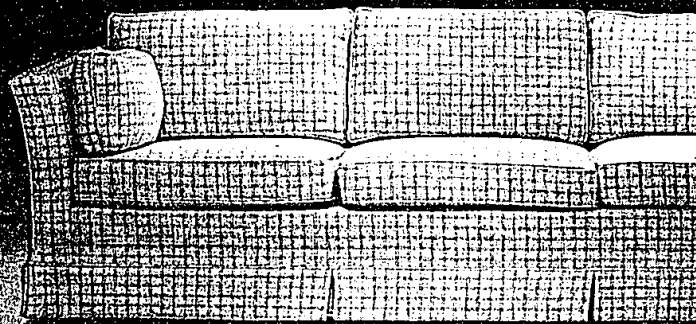


Thomas Roach  
U-M regent

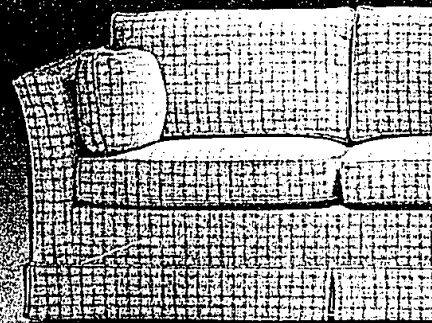
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