Griffiths sees future for ERA and state

Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths painted an plimistic picture of Michigan's future a limost 300 people attending the an-ual Michigan Week Community wards Breakfast Friday at the Or-hard Lake Country Club.

ard Lake Country Club.
And she got in her traditional licks
womens' rights, as well.

ens' rights, as well. lly, the auto industry is the bigest hope — but we're trying to diver-ify," said Griffiths, who is co-chairwoman of a state task force on high technology.

She urged a coalition of labor, business and government, such as the Japanese have molded, to move the auto in-

High techology never will replace the auto industry, she warned. At best, it could employ 100,000-200,000 people over the next 10-20 years, she said. "And it will never employ them at

"And it will never employ them at auto industry salaries. Nevertheless, we (Michigan) have to have our share."

ROBOTICS AND molecular labora-tories, particularly in the East Lansing (Michigan State University) and Battle Creek area, are eyed for the state, Grif-

iths said.
"It is natural for us to encourage robotics. When Europe thinks mechanization, it thinks of Michigan." The clothing industry is fifth largest in the United States, she told the breakfasters. "We have been supplying more than our share of the designers." She described a significant number of Detroit's Cass Technological High

School graduates as headed for New York design schools and then off to jobs in Europe.

"We would like to bring them home,; create a Michigan School of Design. We should look at all of this and use the creative people we have in the state.

"It should work out to create a really solid area of employment." Food processing and awarding long-term contracts to timber companies to manage state-held forests are other areas of diversification, she said.

any church, foundation or educational institution can inherit every dime you women," said Griffiths, who introduced the Equal Rights Amendment when abserpersented Michigan in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She urged women (and men) to lobby:

• To abloid inheritance taxes on goods and property passed between bushand and wife.

• To allow deductions for domestic help,

"Property and goods can't pass untaxed between husband and wife, but

Bikers could benefit from rail abandonment

The nostalgic wail of a train whistle tay never be heard again if plans are arried out to abandon the Grand runk Railway.

The 32.8 miles of track, from Ponti-ac to Lakeland in Livingston County, has 7.88 miles running through West Bloomfield.

And some township officials are in-terested in turning the track into a blke or walking path.

Abandonment only would occur after-legal notices and public hearings deter-mine the line no longer is cost effec-tive, said John David Williams, Grand Trunk public relations spokesman. Stressing talk of abandonment as only potential," Williams said it could

happen in "six months, 10 years or nev-

er."

Icaring of the possibility, West
Bloomfield Township Trustee Raymond Holland urged township officials
to get together with the land conservation board and the parks and recreation

commission to dedicate the rail path.
"It's a beautiful scenic pathway that
could be turned into a bike and walking
path," Holland said.
Township Supervisor John Doherty

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he believed Grand Trunk would sell the railway. "It's a valuable piece of property," he said, "They pay taxes on it."

Township Supervisor John Doherty agreed,
"It should be looked at," he said.
"We've already talked to the (Oakind County) road commission to look at the possibility of correcting the Orchard Lake Road alignment, said Doherty.
Township attorney Paul Bibeau said

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Hills woman succeeds in business

feet men, Laforet said. It's important or any person to have a marketable em to sell before opening a business,

them to sell before opening a business, per advises.

It is no good to have an idea that quont fly. So it's best to do some solid tharket research to make sure you can survive in business after you've sold you're wares to your family and friends.

"You must have the entrepreneur aprict and be willing to risk your own money, time and overtime. It's a mistake to believe a banker will take a chance on your investment if you're not willing to put up your own money. Finance yourself for six months, estab-

live in the proposed housing complex. About 20 percent of all the units will be subsidized housing, according to Peck's

plans.

"It's interesting how quickly we got to 200 names," he said. "That proves there is a market here for senior citizens."

lish a track record and then go to the bank."

Laforet warns women not to fall into the trap of the "do-it-yourself syndrome. Delegating authority and paying for legal and financial expertise leaves more time for doing what the businesswoman does best, she advises.

LAFORET DECIDED in 1975 to go onto the health care business. She and her partner started in a one-room office and did everything from screening and interviewing nurses to marketing and payroil functions.

She now employs about 40 persons

and payrol functions.

She now employs about 40 persons to perform these tasks and maintains her businesses couldn't grow if she continued to attend to all the details.

"But right now, we are not legally able to give anybody an application."

in-house stores and shops, walking paths, a duck pond, courtyards and greenbells would render the housing development a departure from the typ-ical senior citizen complexes, Peck and

Developing personal, professional and business goals is another key to success, Laforet said.

"You've got to be sure your invest-ment will pay more than a money mar-ket certificate in a local bank. If you decide to do your own thing, you can't take off at 2 p.m. for the golf course.

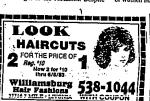
"Nine out of 10 businesses fait in the first year. Five years is the next criti-cal time. Nobody wants you to fail and be one of these statistics. A dream insi-enough. The risk is yours and so is the potential. Set goals, make decisions and keep balance in your life."

Laforet opened one of her agencies in the height of the recession. Despite

that, the "bad" single business tax and other high costs, of doing business, she runs a successful, \$4 million operation with a staff of more than 1,500.

ABOUT THE SBA, Laforet says the agency doesn't provide direct government financing for new businesses. But, working with the private sector, the SBA guarantees loans for women who quality.

The SBA provides management as-sistance. Other resources for potential women entrepreneurs are colleges and universities, chambers of commerce, trades and professions and the Michi-gan chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners.



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