

## Griffiths tells seniors

## Old folks get lawmakers' ears

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

Older people are the people who have legislators' ears, Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths told a suburban college audience.

"It's not the young people who vote in this country, it's people our age," said the 71-year-old state official.

"We understand the power of the vote and know what happens when we lobby," Griffiths told 100 senior citizens Monday at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes campus.

Griffiths spoke to the group about how they can be effective lobbyists and get their ideas heard in Washington and Lansing. She also fielded questions from the audience.

"WHEN THE SENATE was considering imposing a withholding tax on interest, (Sen.) Bob Dole, who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, had 600,000 letters delivered to him," she said.

To be an effective lobbyist, said Griffiths, a former 17th District congressman, persons must have a speaking relationship with their congressman.

"Work on their campaigns, and make sure they know who you are, and pour your letters into their offices."

Griffiths, dressed in a beige blazer and lavender blouse, told her constituents she knew they understood why Gov. James Blanchard had to ask for a 38-percent state income tax increase and couldn't help bail out the state with an sales tax.

"The sales tax would have reached the money that would never be reached otherwise. It would get the drug money."

Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths  
old folks vote

"But you know that in order to raise the sales tax, the governor needs a vote of the people. He needed the money right away, so he didn't have time to wait for a vote."

BLANCHARD INHERITED A \$900 million debt, Griffiths said, and 0.25 percent of the 1.75 percent income tax increase won't end until the debt is paid off.

Griffiths blamed public ignorance for quashing the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution last year.

"The reason the ERA failed is because people didn't know their state senator or representative to write let-

ters to them. They know their people in Washington but not at home, where it counts just as much."

She warned older women to be leary of the Social Security system and to double-check their benefits.

"Don't take their word for it. Check out what your payments should be. I did, and I discovered that they were shortchanging me by \$150 a month."

Griffiths SERVED in the U.S. House of Representatives in the old 17th District for 20 years before being

elected lieutenant governor. She was the first woman appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Economic Committee. Earlier she served in the Michigan Legislature.

"The Defense Department is incapable of spending \$2 trillion in the next two years, and it's disgraceful that they're being asked to try."

"We're not going to fight wars with those (nuclear) weapons. But they (legislators) need to hear from you."

## Recall group to hold rally

A group attempting to recall Gov. Blanchard will hold a rally in Livonia from 2 to 5 Sunday in an effort to muster interest in the recall campaign.

The effort to recall the governor began after the Legislature approved a 38 percent increase in the state income tax and the governor presented a new state budget calling for some increased spending.

The rally will be in the Bivona civic center area adjacent to the city hall near Five Mile and Farmington roads, according to western Wayne County leader Mike Crockett.

The effort to recall Blanchard will require more than 700,000 signatures of registered voters in order to order a special election. The election would give all state voters the opportunity to vote for or against a recall.

## Histadrut will honor Blanchard

The Michigan Trade Union Council for Histadrut, the trade union movement of Israel, will honor Gov. James Blanchard with a testimonial dinner to night at the Fairlane Manor in Dearborn.

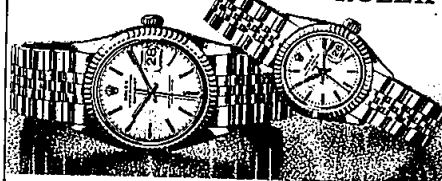
A spokesman said representatives from the AFL-CIO affiliated unions, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the

United Auto Workers and the Teamsters, will be on hand to pay tribute to the governor for what they call "his dedication to Michigan and his desire to improve the quality of life for its people."

Proceeds of the dinner will be used to establish the Gov. Blanchard Histadrut Perpetual Scholarship Fund.

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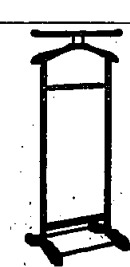


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