GOP finds sobered Dems in mood to negotiate

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In the opening weeks of 1983, Gov.
James Blanchard and his Donnocratic gaders in the Michigan Legislature were confident they could bowl over Republican opposition.

That has changed, say two veteran Republican lawmakers.

No longer are they the cocky, We're-gonna-do-it-our-way, it's our government' types, said Republican pack Kirksey, a fourth-term state representative from Livonia.

His neighbor, Rep. W.V. (Sandy) Brotherton, ReFarmington, agrees, Their attitude on the floor is one that aya, "We'll give you Republicans a chance to go along and work with us—but if you step too far out of line, we'll wield the big stick," said the fifth-term lawmaker.

THE MOOD in Lansing has "changed and changed again," in Kirksey's ords, since Blanchard took office Jan. as the first Democratic governor in

Democrats put up all 58 votes to mass

anaiysis

Blanchard's personal income tax increase in the House. In the Senate, 19 of
the 20 Democrate held together for the
tax vote, with a lone Republican senator providing the 20th vote.

At that point, bipartisanship in Michigan government was at a modern low. It
was an unsuast sitution because
Michigan voters had been picking Republican governors (George Romney
and William Milliken) and Democratic
legislatures since the late 1650s.

Out of necessity, the parties learned
to get along. From the mid-1970s, major decisions were made by Milliken
and the House and Senate leaders of each
party, then simply ratified whole
type of the party of the party of the party
that changed when a Democratic
governor had to rely on his party alone
to raise the income tax rate from 4.6 to
6.35 percent. Republicans freely acknowledged a necessity to raise taxes

WHY, THEN, Is the mood changing back to one of bipartisan dealing?

"Democrats underestimated voter reaction to the income tax increase," answered Kirksey. They miscalculated the lasting quality of that resentment to that vote. Now, the minority has some ability to maneuver.

"The threat of recall has had a sobering effect on the Democratic legislators and the governor. He is no longer bragging about saving the state from financial ruin. He is now on the defensive.

financial ruin. He is now on the defen-sive.

"In the last six weeks, things have-returned to the situation of the last leg-islative session," said Kirksey.
Criticism of Blanchard appoint-ments, the effort to put a tax rollback on the ballot and the "bad press" Demo-crats have received over the threat of

crais have received over the threat of reapportlomment have sobered them, Brotherton added. Officially, Republican Party Chair-man Spencer Abraham opposes the re-call effort against Hanchard. So do most GOP legislators. But they clearly



Rep. Jack Kirksey Democrats "miscalculated"

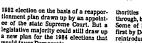
enjoy seeing Democrats squirm as the recall movement continues to burn.

REAPPORTIONMENT is an issue that hangs quietly in the background.

Republicans reduced their minorities in both the House and Senate in the

'The threat of recall has had a sobering effect on the Democratic legislators and

'Bad press' over the threat of ment has also ared the Democrats.



1982 election on the basis of a reapportionment plan drawn up by an appointee of the state Surcess Gourt. But a legislative majority may be sufficient of the state Surcess of the state Surcess of the state Surcess of the state Surcess of the state of t

IF DEMOCRATS are willing to ne-gotiate as they did in the 1970s, it's not over every issue, the Republicans find. "Their bill to give transportation au-

Rep. W.V. Brothe

thorities the power of taxation went through, but not in a day," said Kirksey. Some of his amendments, rejected at first by Bennocratic leaders, were later reduction of the control over the control over placement of the mentally ill had barely passed in the Scenate and was in trouble in the House, Kirskey said.

Brotherton chuckled over an appropriations bill that had been heavily amended on the House floor to add \$23 million to help "out-of-formula" achool districts, and then \$28 million to help "in-formula" districts — to the acute maharrassment of Democratic leaders. Brotherton sees more room for negatiation on less partisan issues — notable consonie development and medicality. These are due to be taken up in the fall session.

Help Blanchard 'dig out' — **Fishman**

Calling organized labor his "family."
Sam Fishman of Southfield was unanimously elected president of the Michigan State AFL CIO.
Delegates to the state federation's 15th constitutional convention in Defroit also re-elected Walter L. Oliver as Jecretary-treasurer and selected members to the union's orccutive council. Fishman told delegates. "Organized labor has been my life, and the working men and women of organized labor has been my life, and the working men and women of organized labor has been my life, and the working men and women of organized labor has been my life, and the working up through the ranks of the United Auto Workers, where he headed that union's Commantly Action Program in Michigan for 12 years. After the UAW reaffilliated with the state AFL-CiO last year, Fishman was elected executive vice president of the state federation.

FISHMAN CALLED for continued vigorous political action to promote labor's agenda in state and federal government.

bor's agenda in state and federal government.

"Today the bargaining table will determine what we get for our labor, if we are working, white what we do at the ballet box will determine whether we are working and whether there is anything to bargain over."

If the praised Gov. James Blanchard and Democratic state legislators for cleaning up "the biggest budget mess in the country" created by "20 years of Republican incompetence."

He criticated recall efforts aimed at Democratic officials, saying, "The same crowd who got our state and our people in a \$1.7-billion hole now want

to blame Jim Blanchard for grabbing a shovel and digging us out.

"Ye are going to stand behind Jim Blanchard," Fishman said, "In fact, we're going to grab a shovel and help him dig Michigan out."

He said that Michigan labor is willing to "hand a shovel" to business and industry so they can "dig with us."

"BUT WE WILL not permit Michigan and Michigan's clitzens to be buried by rip-off proposals made in the name of "improved business climate", he said.

He criticized the Reagan administration as "indifferent and insensitive to the pain and suffering of working men and women.

"After engineering a priceable of the said of the pain and suffering of working men and women.

the pain and suffering of working men and women.

"After engineering a miserable depression and cutting our benefits, cutting taxes for the rich by billions more, the Reagan administration is promising us, The cheek is in the mail." he said. "Our reply is: As far as wo're concerned, your cheek bounced three years ago. "Your promises came back stands of the second of the second

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seen the basic bumanity of our mem-bers expressed in the day-to-day prac-tices of ordinary decent people who care for each other," Fishman told the convention delegates.
"People who look after each other on the fob, and once the whistle blows and

the work day is over, extend their con-cern and compassion to their friend-ships, their neighborhoods, their com-montities and their state."

He halled outgoing President Wil-liam C. Marshall as "a very special friend" of Michigan workers.

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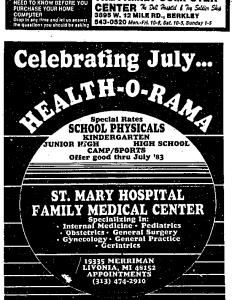
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