Blanchard asks Ford, Lodge freeway repairs

etait writer

Education is the lone "untouchable," the single sacred cow in Gov. James J. Blanchard's budget for his second year in office.

"In my zero (increase) budget, I am proposing that education be singled out for special treatment," the 41-year-old chief executive told the Michigan Legaliature Wednesday evening in his State of the State Message. In other areas the state's first Democratic governor in 20 years will cut state employment through attrition, create a second Youth Corps for sumer jobs and continue support of an equal rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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AS EXPECTED, Blanchard proposed an early rollback of last year's temporary 1.75 percent like in the state personal income tax—but only if the Logislature exercises "(tough-as-nails spending discipline."

The temporary tax rate declined by 0.25 percent Jan. 1 and is scheduled to decline another 0.25 percent the first day of 1985, but Blanchard's budget could "accelerate that rollback... to Oct. 1 of this year — a tax cut of almost \$1.00 million."

For the metropolitan Detroit area, Blanchard said he would announce "specific rehabilitation programs for Michigan's expressways," including major reconstruction of the Edsel Ford and John Lodge freeways in Detroit.

The governor left Oakland County supporters of an M-275 and Northwestern Highway extention guessing. "This administration does not stress new construction," he said, but added he would ask the Department of Transportation to prepare a long-range plan for a few mey freeways by April 30.







"tough as nails"

He made no mention of granting the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority power to levy an operating tax of its own, or even of power to go to the voters for money.

WITHOUT RELEASING any num withOUT RELASING any num-bers, Blanchard said he will propose nearly an 8 percent Increase in state aid to K-12 schools and a 10 percent hike to the 13 state universities — "If they will freeze their tuition."

Otherwise, universities will be in for only a 6 percent increase, he said. He made so mention of community college tuition.

only a 5 percent accessor, and configuration made no mention of community college tuition.

But Blanchard sent out a confusing message on his plan to create a scholarship fund aiding 5,000 "high achieving" high school graduates who plan to attend college in Michigan.

In his speech to legislators, Blanchard said it would serve students "primarily from families of ordinary means." But in the detailed text of his

40-page message, he said the grants will go to students "regardless of financial means."

In a pre-speech briefing, press secre-tary Rick Cole there was "some dis-crepancy in wording" but couldn't elab-

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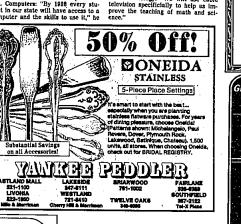
said, likening the program to the feder-al Apollo space project. His budget will have grants to increase the use of com-puters in classrooms and to train teachers and administrators in their mae.

teachers and administrators in their use. Prandamentals: "In my view every lichage high school graduate should have at least four years of English, three years of English, three years of eather, and the years of eather, and years of eather, and years of eather, and government, a half-year of computer science and retrieval to years of a foreign language."

3. Scholarships: Cole said in a press briefing that this would be "a new, free-standing program" and not a repacagaling of other state scholarship programs that have been unfunded.

4. Technology: "We will use cable

4. Technology: "We will use cable television specificially to help us improve the teaching of math and science."



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