# Turnaround started, but state faces uphill climb - Blanchard

Michigan's economy has turned around and is on the way up, "but we still have a long way to go," said Gov. James J. Blanchard.

Blanchard.

Our recovery is fragile," the first-term Democratic governor told the Economic Club of Detroit, lavishly and repeatedly praising the corporate leaders Monday for their role in reducing unemployment from 17 percent to 10.3.

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"We liken the improvements to a marathon rather than a 100-yard dash," he said, stressing that the automobile capital's turnaround would take many years.

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IN A POLITICAL plug, Bianchard asked business to oppose Proposal C, the "Voters' Choler" constitutional amendment on the Nov, 6 ballot.

If adopted, Proposal C would roll back state taxes to their 1981 levels, mandate voter approval of all tax increases, and requires 60-percent majority votes for fee increases by city councils, school and college boards.

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"It would derail our financial recovery." Blanchard said, citing the Immediate repeal of the personal temporary income tax increase approved by him and the state Legislature in 1933.

"It would mean we've turned our backs on our own future. It would mean we've made a conscious decision to be the credit deatheast of America."

A portion of the tax was dedicated to paying oif \$1.7 billion in accumulated state debts. Blanchard insisted that putting the state financial bouse in order was the first step toward making the state more attractive.

Murphy-Spreen debate

. Oakland County Chamber of Commerce is apos-soring a noon luncheon and debate Sept.25 between the candidates for Oakland County executive. Republican incumbent Daniel Murphy and Democrat challenger Johannes Spreen will debate in Roma's of Bloomlield. Cost is \$10 per person. Res-ervations may be made by calling the chamber at 644-3683.

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THE FIRST Democratic governor in 20 years idiculed the Volens' Choice proposal for requiring an 80-percent vote of the city council "to increase deg licenses in Ferndale." The provision also would apply to college tuitions, skating rink fees and any non-tax fee charged by an agency of government.

"Voters choice would end our roads and bridges program by repealing the (1982 two-cents a gallon) gasoline lax increase," he said. "For the litst time in 10 years, we're improving our roads and bridges faster than they're wearing out." He said Voters' Choice would cut." whillon from the discretionary part of the state budget — a part that supports much

of higher education.

Proposal C is the initiative petition effort of a half-dozen anti-tax groups, whose thrown spokeman is Richard feadlee, Blanchard's 1982 Republican opponent for

Blanchard's 1928 Republican opposent for governor.

Blanchard labelled as a "imnokescreen", this week's effort by state House Republicans to push through a resolution saking Congress to call a constitutional convention to adopt a balanced budget amendment. He said Republican Prestdent Ronald Reagan is blowing election-year smoke "to svoid dealing with the current, huge budget deflict."

Blanchard said the president could achieve a balanced budget simply by submitting one to Congress. The governon-edition of the submitting one could be supply the control of the submitted of the submitting one could be submitted to the submitted of the submitted

call for "serious spending cuts and some form of a tar increase."

BLANCHARD'S comments on Voters' Choice and the balanced budget amendment overshadowed his own avowed purpose for speaking to the Economic Clubtospread the word that "we — you and I — are turning this state around' from the "II nancial basket case" It was in 1983. Items:

While even some newspaper editorials say Michigan's personal income tar is highest in the Union, 30 other states have higher rates.

Far from being alone in raising taxes in 1983, Michigan was among 38 states which did so.

Unlike many other states, Michigan did not raise business taxe for profitiess small firms, cut unemployment compensation costs by \$110 million and stimulated competition in the workers compensation business to cut rates \$10 percent.

### Jobless rate at 4-year low

Summer jobseckers dropping out of the state's labor force helped lower Michigan's August unemployment rate to 10.2 percent.

That was its lowest level in more than 4% years, according to A.R. Janowski, acting director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESCO).

Janowski said the decline was seasonal and duclargely to students Leaving the labor force after giving up their summer job searches.

The statewide jobless total fell by \$5,000 in Aug-

ust to 456,000. In July, 506,000 — or 11.8 percent of the state's work force — were unemployed. A year ago, in August of 1923, Michigan's Jobless rate war ago, in August of 1923, Michigan's Jobless rate war. The loss of summer Jobseckers cansed the state's labor force to decline by 52,000 during the menuly to 4.5 million. Total employment also fell, dropping by 13,000 to 396 million.

The drop in unemployment caused the state's jobless rate to reach its lowest level since January 1980, when the rate was also 10.3 percent.

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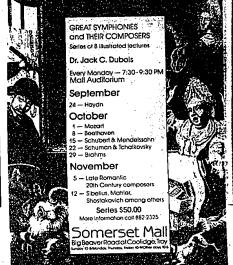
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