

It's official: Lucas for guv

By Teri Banas
Staff writer

Wayne County Executive William Lucas attacked Gov. James Blanchard's leadership Wednesday as he announced his candidacy for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in Detroit's Westin Hotel.

Noting it was Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Lucas said his candidacy provides a chance to "make American history." He went on to proclaim: "Let the adventure begin."

Lucas said he would elaborate on issues later in the campaign but yesterday knocked Blanchard's administration on a number of issues including joblessness.

Wayne County's first executive criticized state employment figures as being too low, saying the figures conceal the number of unemployed who have left the state.

He blasted the temporary 38 percent state income tax invoked by the state in 1983, challenged workers' compensation rates, and criticized what he said was a percent increase in government spending.

He attributed Michigan's economic recovery to the actions of the Reagan Administration which, he said, created nine million jobs and reduced the prime lending rate and inflation.

LUCAS SAID taxes must be reduced and prisons should be built but he declined to specify how spending could be reduced. He said the answers would come as the campaign progressed.

Generally, he said, more prisons can be built by using government bonding abilities by "tapping rainy day funds." To re-evaluate government spending, he recommended



William Lucas accepts cheers of supporters as he announced his candidacy.

reducing the services and "reorganizing priorities."

He said he opposed abortion and the death penalty and favored "truth in sentencing" in the courts.

Lucas said he is not in accord with every aspect of national Republican philosophy but said, "I am not running for national office, but local office. I don't have to support every tenet of the national party."

HE INDICATED he could not automatically count on the support of blacks whose votes usually go to Democratic candidates

"I am going to have to work for it," he said.

Appearing on a platform with his wife Evelyn, who held a bouquet of red roses, he pointed with pride to his six children and seven young grandchildren. "They're what the American dream is all about," he said.

Daughter Patricia Lucas Perry, a dentist and mother of two, said the family has supported Lucas' decision to become a Republican and run for governor because he has "the right stuff." She said Lucas and his family discussed the possibility of running for governor at a family meeting last spring.

Perry said the Lucases are a very close family the members of which all live within 10 minutes of each other.

YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT was attended by a variety of people including media representatives, family, friends, supporters and several persons who wandered into the Westin Hotel ballroom where one of four announcements were made yesterday. Other announcements were made in Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit.

Sporting a Blanchard lapel button, Lorenzo Moner, who works as a clerk for the county commission, said he thought Lucas' speech lacked substance.

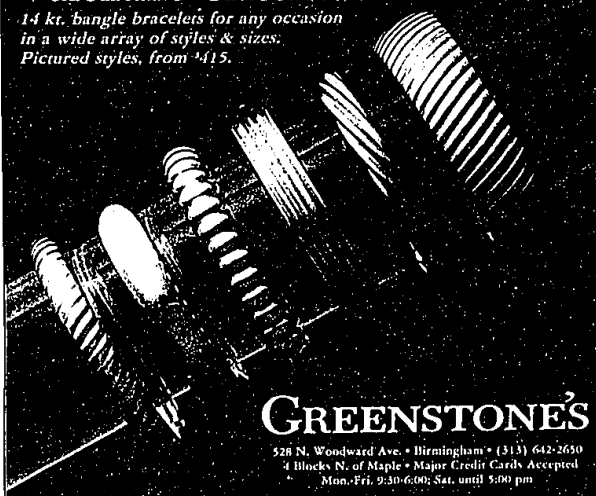
He said Lucas will have to fill out his platform in order to distinguish himself from the other probably GOP candidates — Oakland County Executive Dan Murphy and Brighton businessman Richard Chrysler.

Canton Township Supervisor James Poole declined to say whether he would support Lucas' candidacy but said he liked Lucas' point about the jobless leaving the state for employment elsewhere.

Poole noted that while political groups in western Wayne County appear to be interested in Chrysler's campaign, he believes Lucas will be a frontrunner among western Wayne GOP voters.

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