

# Teamwork: It helps improve state economy

By Joanne Mailazewski  
staff writer

IT WAS show-and-tell. For the second time in less than six months, H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc. of Farmington put its best progressive foot forward and displayed what can be done to turn the economic page for Michigan business.

The Krueger company's story — documenting the cooperation between the private sector and government — was told again Monday. This time, Gov. James Blanchard and state Commerce director Doug Ross showed off the company — its \$3.5 million in computers and a new way of doing business — for former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb of Virginia. The company serves the auto, farm implement, truck and off-highway equipment industries.

On a two-day tour of Michigan, Robb, chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council, spoke to the Detroit Economic Club Monday on ideas for revitalizing America's economy.

The tours of H.R. Krueger and Percepton, a machine tool company in Farmington Hills, were designed to show Robb "what Michigan is doing" to improve its competitive-

ness, Blanchard said at a press conference at Krueger's Monday. The Percepton tour was Sunday. "We're trying to take an older industrial economy and make it into a progressive technological economy," Blanchard said.

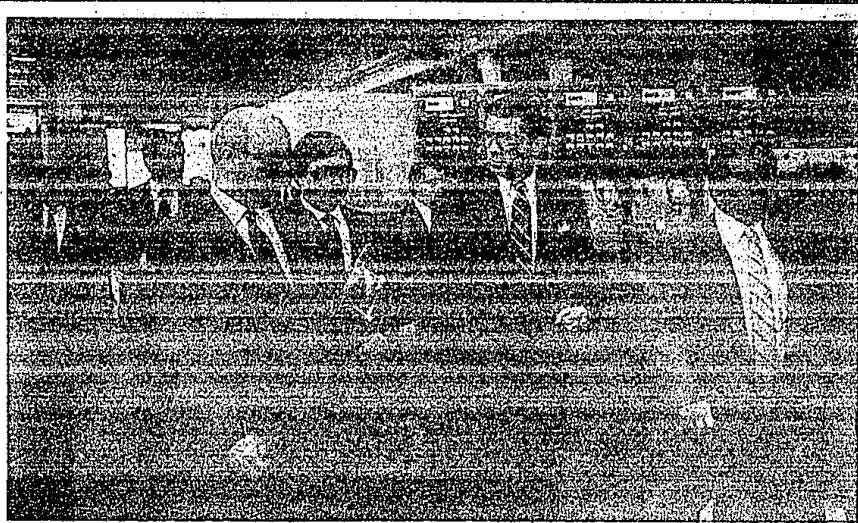
THE MICHIGAN governor told Robb of the state's attempts to form a partnership between the public and private sectors to increase jobs and manufacturing investments.

"Our goal is to offer the highest quality product and provide the best services available to our business customers," Ross said.

"This is accomplished by promoting the development of supportive capital, technological, and skilled-labor infrastructure in Michigan and offering interested businesses information on how to take advantage of that infrastructure."

Blanchard told Robb how, through programs such as the Michigan Modernization Service, based on the century-old Agricultural Extension Service, the government can become "a catalyst instead of a harmful obstacle" for business.

Just as the agricultural services offers farmers help, the modernization services offers the same to manufacturers, particularly small-to-medi-



Bruce Moore, H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc. president; Gov. Blanchard, former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb and Democratic Leadership Council director Al From tour Krueger's manufacturing plant on Grand River.

um-sized firms. The program helps manufacturers "who are looking for better access to private and public resources that can help them modernize their companies in order to compete better," Hoss said.

H.R. KRUEGER was the state's first participant in the Michigan Modernization Service when the program was experimental in 1981. Though the company spent \$3.5 million in computers, a problem remained. Someone had to teach management and labor how to think in new ways.

"We dove in the deep end of the pool," said Bruce Moore, H.R. Krueger president, adding that the company found itself far in front of the machine tool industry and its customers.

The state's experimental program — combining governmental, business and educational resources — provided the company with an analysis of its operations and performance. It also provided access to consultants, assistance in designing a

custom employee training program for the new computer technology and grants to pay for the training programs.

Today, employees perform 70 percent of the machine tool designs on computers. The goal is to reach 80 percent with the remaining 20 percent of the conceptual work completed on the traditional drafting boards, Moore said.

"It (the program) motivated the people," he said. "With the training, we are thinking in terms of 3-D geometric designs."

ROBB'S TOUR of Michigan businesses was designed to provide the former Virginia governor with ideas that can be used as the foundation of what Blanchard called the new "Democratic capitalism."

In his speech to the Detroit Economic Club, Robb outlined ideas for revitalizing America's economy. He addressed proposals to create new jobs, encourage more equality and ways to equip workers with education and skills.



Former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb makes a point during his Monday morning visit to H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc. of Farmington.

Staff photos by Randy Borst



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The sign at right is at the southwest corner of Orchard Lake and 10 Mile roads in Farmington.

# Beautify Civic group eyes fresh start

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

For more than 25 years, beauty has been the goal for this Farmington group.

Although the years have brought change to the city of Farmington Beautification Committee, keeping the city beautiful remains its ideal.

With a rich history of beautification efforts, the group is entering its 20th year of honoring businesses, community groups and residents for efforts at the annual Keep Farmington Beautiful Awards Presentation.

"That's really our role — to help citizens be aware of cleaning up and sprucing up," said Carol Kurth, committee chairwoman.

Over the years, the committee developed an awareness for the need for site planning, landscaping, beautification, tree planting and replacement and creation of several small parks throughout the city.

Many of these concepts are now coordinated by other city organizations, leaving the committee to re-group and begin anew.

ONE OF those groups is the Downtown Development Authority and its related committees — plus a newly formed downtown merchants group — which have taken responsi-

bility for improving the city's central business district.

Creation of the authority frees the Beautification Committee to concentrate on other areas of the city, Kurth said, coordinating possible themes and styles with the authority and other downtown groups.

Kurth is calling for new committee members, not only to bring fresh ideas, but to bolster the group whose membership has fallen during the past several years.

"We have a good past, but have had a lull for the past four years. There are a lot of things the DDA has no jurisdiction over," she said. "Membership on the committee has fallen."

She attributed the drop — from the committee's maximum allowable membership of 18, to the current six — to the large numbers of women returning to the work force. Kurth would like to have 10-12 active members, with both men and women members.

Committee goals for 1987 include improving the four points and signs into the city, updating the awards ceremony, and beginning a program of upkeep for existing small parks throughout the city.

The group will also review the organization of its annual Flower Sale held in May to coincide with Com-

munity Pride Week and continue to make April's Arbor Week special with a traditional Arbor Day tree planting — possibly on the front lawn of city hall.

PROMOTING THE city in other ways — possibly getting involved with the Founders Festival activities and parade — will also be a goal this year, Kurth said.

The Beautification Committee is not restricted by the same rules city commissions or councils must follow, Kurth said. Those appointed to serve need not be residents of city of Farmington, but simply have an interest in keeping an attractive and vital city.

Members are recommended by the committees-at-large, and appointments made by Mayor William Hartsock.

Three new members are already being considered, she said.

"We have applied to the city council for the past two-three years," Kurth said.

Hartsock has taken an interest in expanding the committee for 1987, Kurth said. Recently appointed Councilwoman Shirley Richards was an original member of the group and a past chairwoman and also actively supports it, she said.

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