

Task force studies uses for recycled newsprint

AP — Saving landfill space by boosting the use of recycled newsprint will be the goal of a joint effort of the Michigan newspaper industry and state government, Gov. James Blanchard says.

The governor will chair a task force that will try to work out the amount of recycled newsprint used by the state's papers.

"Michigan is a national leader in reducing and recycling solid waste. We must do more to encourage recycling and create new markets for recycled materials," Blanchard said last month in a speech at the winter meeting of the Michigan Press Association.

Newsprinters use about 7 percent recycled newsprint. The task force's target is to boost that to 24 percent by 1995.

Publishers said meeting that goal depends on their ability to obtain recycled newsprint that's competitive in price, quality and supply.

The newsprint recycling task

force has as its members publishers, printers, recycled newsprint manufacturers, and representatives from the state Departments of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Members of the task force are: Richard Agnina, president of Suburban Communications Corp., the parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; Malcolm Applegate, publisher of the Lansing State Journal; Jim Brown, president of Inco Development Corp.; Benjamin Burns, publisher of the Macomb Daily and the Daily Tribune; Lelf Christensen, president of Manistique Papers Inc.; Robert Giles, publisher of The Detroit News; James Grisso, publisher of the Gaylord Herald Times; David Hales, director of the Department of Natural Resources; Robert Hall, publisher of the Detroit Free Press; Warren M. Hoyt, executive director of the Michigan Press Association; Pete Kraeger, production director of Booth Newspapers; Alan Lenhoff, special proj-

ects director for the Detroit Newspaper Agency; Larry Meyer, director of the Department of Commerce; Ray Pike, publisher of the Mount Pleasant Morning Sun; Karen Spang, publisher of the Hamtramck Citizen; John Stafford, publisher of the Greenville Daily News; H. Allen Wamsley, publisher of the Huron Daily Tribune; and F.T. Weaver, publisher of the Jackson Citizen Patriot.

On other subjects, Blanchard said this year's legislative session still can be productive, but he expects to see a lot of jockeying on the budget.

Some observers expect this year's session to become bogged down in battling between Blanchard, a Democrat who's expected to seek a third term, and Senate Majority Leader John Engler, R-Mount Pleasant, who plans to announce next month that he'll oppose Blanchard.

The governor said he expected the main battling to be on the budget.

"Even though revenues will be up \$300 million, demand for those dollars will be upwards of a billion and everyone will promise everyone they'll get more," he said.

Blanchard also said:

- A maximum effort must be made to make sure every Detroit citizen is counted in the new census and keep the city's population from

dropping below a million, which could mean a loss of millions of dollars in federal revenues.

- State drug czar Donald Reigis, a former prosecutor and former judge, has a better grasp of the drug problem and possible solutions than national drug czar William Bennett. He said that meant no disrespect to Bennett, but recognized that Reigis had a better background for the job.

Democratic chair ruffles GOP feathers

AP — Democratic Party Chairman Tom Lewand recently ruffled Republican feathers by sending a letter to supporters of Senate Majority Leader John Engler urging them to keep an open mind about the governor's race.

"He's a shill and a lap dog for the governor," said Rusty Hills, a spokesman for the Michigan Republican Party. "Tom Lewand is the pit bull of the Democratic Party. Negative politics is his stock in trade."

In the letter, Lewand, a Bloomfield Township resident, praised Gov. James Blanchard's record and accused Engler of attacking him with distortions.

"At a minimum we ask for your fair consideration — free of the dis-

tortions and attacks that have already begun," he wrote.

Engler, R-Mount Pleasant, will announce next month that he'll oppose Blanchard, a Democrat expected to seek his third four-year term.

Engler rejected any notion that he's been "distorting" Blanchard's record. "We don't have to misrepresent the record of this governor. We just have to get his record out," he said.

"I think it's sort of silly and it's irritated a lot of our people. It's something that frankly, I think is unworthy to line a bird cage," said Dan Pero, Engler's campaign director.

"I find it very offensive. It seems to me that whenever Jim Blanchard says something negative about John

Engler that Tom Lewand's lips move and that ain't going to work."

PERO SAID Engler had sent out letters critical of the governor, but had signed them himself and spoke out in person against Blanchard's record, instead of using a surrogate.

"John Engler's willing to go out and lay it on the line. The people of this state want to have Jim Blanchard defend his programs, not his cronies," he said.

Pero described Lewand's letter as filled with distortions and silent on the fact that Michigan has the nation's second-highest unemployment rate and one of the nation's heaviest tax burdens.

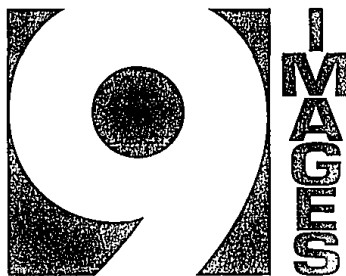
Lewand, a Birmingham resident, said the letter went out to several

hundred people listed on Engler's exploratory committee and who might not actually back Engler all the way.

"We're just trying to inform people. We want to keep them apprised of all the facts about him," Lewand said. "I just think people have had a chance to watch him campaign and really need to understand that a leopard can't change his spots."

"I didn't say anything bad about John Engler. All I did was lay out some of the facts that have been reported about John Engler. There were more positive things about Jim Blanchard and his accomplishments in that letter than material about John Engler."

Blanchard's press secretary Tom Scott declined to comment on the letter, saying it was up to Lewand.



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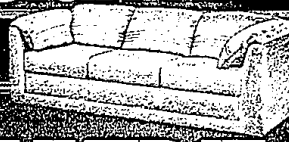
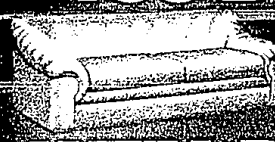
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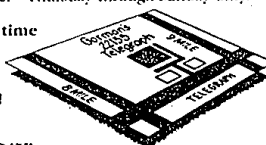
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