These Democrats seek shift to mainstream

Call them mainstream Democrats, or neo-liberals — call their programs progressive or regressive — members of the Democratic Leadership Council are battling for the heart of their party in 1992 and be-

yord.
With a membership list including
Michigan Gov. James Blanchard,
senators Sam Nunn, Chuck Robb and
House leader Richard Gephardt, the
group has amassed a heavyweight
roster of party leaders.

group has amassed a heavyweight roster of party leaders. Now, it seeks to take its message to the voters — specifically middle class suburban voters with household income between \$20,000-\$50,000

"THESE PEOPLE are the key," said DLC executive director Al From, in town Tuesday for an adress to dalkand County Democrats. "The county of the county of the

To do so, From said, the organiza-tion seeks to maintain traditional party commitments to economic op-

Group seeks to take its message to the voters - specifically middle class suburban voters with household income between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

portunity and civil rights, but with a twist.

"Philosophically, we believe that if you enjoy the benefits of living in America, you should be willing to put something back," From said.
"It's the kind of thing John F. Kennedy was talking about."

National service, having young people voluntarily perform various community improvement tasks in return for college aid, is one way group members seek to put their philosophy of the property of the p cutting troops."

Health care service, especially for the elderly, is one aspect of the

group's national service plan. Boesting local police forces through members of a national police core trained in an ROTC-like program, is another aspect. (For more on where the DLC stands with regard to the issues, see related story.)

DLC members will meet in New Orleans on March 23:24 to "form a new national consensus," said From, an Indiana native and former political strategist for the Carter White House and director of the House Democratic Causes.

Democratic Caucus.

Democratic Caucus.

The national consensus, he said, would replace the special interest group politics that has dominated recent Democratic politics.

That idea attracted Birmingham businessman Marvin Meltzer to the

group.
"IT'S A common-sense approach,"

Melter said. "Itather than going from inderest group to interest group, we have a national consensus to guide us."

At the national strategy session in New Orleans, Nunn will outline a plan for U.S. aid to emerging democracles and Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., will deliver the group's proposal on cleaning the environment. But recapturing the White House won't be far from anyone's mind.

"It's the president that sets the more than a sense of the s

"To beat Jackson, you have to at-tack him the way you would any

Dems show Hart, determination at county dinner

By Pat Murphy staff writer

Jane Hart, widow of Sen. Phil Hart, has never been shy about her Democratic leanings. Thus it stands to reason she'd come out of a self-imposed exile in the Carlibean to endorse a candi-date Democrats view as a rising star.

the Carlibbean to endorse a candidate Democrats view as a rising star.
This one happened to be her nephew, Walker O. Briggs IV, who has a decidedly uphill battle against incumbent William Broomfield, the most senior Republican in Congress.
In a rare public appearance Hart endorsed her nephew and other Democratic candidates during the 30th Annual Phil Hart Dinner Sunday at Roma's of Bloomfield. About 1,100 people attended the 325-per-person fundraiser.
Jane Hart — who was arrested for protesting the Vasibal insellight since her husband died in 1976. But she came back to help her nephew — and put some spirit in the Democratic party.
TRADITIONALLY REPUBLI-

TRADITIONALLY REPUBLI-CAN Onkland County has been the reletin of old and stodey practices, something young Briggs can help change, Hart said.

Briggs, 33, is the great-grandson of Waiter D. Briggs, former owner of the Detroit Tigers. He was also as strunch Republican, Hart said, as were Waiter O. Briggs the second and third.

"It took (the Briggs family) three generations to get their eyes open,"

and third.

"It took (the Briggs family) three generations to get their eyes open," she said, referring to her nephew's choice to run as a Democrat.

Hart's talk was preceded by several speakers, including Gov. James Blanchard and Sen. Carl Levin, who could both face serious challengers this fall. Blanchard's most likely opponent is GOP Senset Majority Leader John Engler while Levin will face the winner of the primary between Bill Schuette and Clark Durant.

To the delight of the partisan crowd, however, the speeches were short, with Blanchard and Levin saying they are ready to run on their records.

In keeping with the festive exong, Blanchard said an Oakland County man, Dwayne Stephens of Fernddale, scored the winning basket at the Michigan State-Pudue basketbail earlier in the day, Blanchard graduated from MSU.

Levin said the easting of tensions in Europe should enable the United States to divert money from milli-

tary to domestic spending.

He decried "gadgets in the sky,"
a reference to the Star Wars defense system, and said it is time to
put more money into the environment, education and other programs to strengthen the nation.

Levin said he is heartened about
being "targeted" by Republicans, a
reference to GOP claims he can be
defeated, despite being an entrenched incumbent.

"IF I WASN'T targeted by Re-publicans, I'd wonder what I had stood for over the last 12 years," Levin sald.

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.Guv serves up humor

Once a boss, always a boss, according to Gov. James Blanchard, who took a good-natured jab at U.S. Rep. Sander Levin at the 30th Annual Phil Hart Dinner at Roma's of Bloomfield.

Annual Phil Hart Dinner al Roma's of Bloomfield.

Blanchard was obviously in a good moof Sundan Fresh from seed moof Sundan Fresh from seed to the seed of the see

A GOPer or 2 seen among the Dems

Democrats weren't the only ones courting goodwill Sanday at the 20th annual Phil Hart Dinner.

State Sen. Budy J. Nichols of Waterford Township and Rochester District Judge James P. Sheeby were there, results the figure and politics in general. Both are annually recommended to the considerate styling in the Aug. 7 primary. At least six candidates are said to be considering blod, with the lop four vote-getters campaigning in the November election for one of two newly created judgeships on the Castand Circuit Court.

Nichois, a Republican, was elected to the state Legislature 1982 and the land on the inside.



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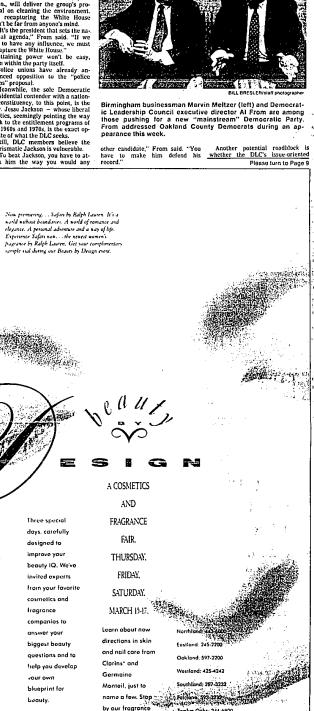
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