

Dem group details plans for building new majority

By their magazine covers shall you know them.

The first issue of The Main Stream Democrat — a magazine that is to the Democratic Leadership Council what The Watchtower is to Jehovah's Witnesses — features Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn. The most recent issue features Michigan Gov. James Blanchard shaking hands with newly-elected Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the first black governor in the nation's history.

These are the organization's heroes. Here is what it believes on the issues:

• **Crime** — A major building block, as the group sees it, is the belief that black and white Americans are equally disturbed with violent crime and drug trafficking and will

ing to support candidates perceived as tough on both.

If there's any resistance, it's from some black leaders, DLC director Al From said, not from their constituents.

It's key recommendation, to this point, is a national police corps. Modeled after college ROTC programs, the program would provide college tuition loans. Students would begin repaying the loans after competing four years' active duty. The proposal's chief sponsors include Sen. James Sasser of Tennessee and Rep. John Lewis of Georgia. Sasser is white; Lewis is black.

• **Environment** — The DLC's major policy statement has yet to be given; however, it is expected to a

tax on polluters. Rather than forcing industries to meet the demands of government regulators, the proposed system would offer tax credits to industries that clean up after themselves and place new taxes on those that don't. Tax money, in turn, would be used to create a national cleanup fund.

• **The Role of Government** — Philosophically, the group claims it's between the government-is-everything approach of the left and the laissez faire approach of the right. While it sees government continuing to provide social service programs, it seeks improved management means to keep costs down.

• **Economic issues** — The DLC favors private investment, rather than massive public spending, to

Candidates willing to take a tough stance on crime, DLC officials say, can help rebuild a Democratic majority.

stimulate the economy and advocates business deregulation, particularly for small entrepreneurs.

• **Foreign affairs** — The group seeks a "non-isolationist" foreign policy, but hasn't yet announced its plans for Eastern Europe and other emerging democracies.

• **Homelessness** — Again, there has been no major policy statement but there has been talk of creating IRA-like accounts for the working poor — enabling them to save, while not threatening their government assistance.

• **Rebuilding the nation's infrastructure** — A national transportation tax is one of the ideas proposed, with most road work falling to the states.

Dems show Hart

Continued from Page 1

"But this is one target that will shoot back," he said, an apparent pledge for a vigorous campaign.

The most serious part of the evening was the awarding of the Timothy D. Dineen Community Service Award — established by Oakland Democrats in 1979 in honor of a tireless worker who died at an early age. In party circles, Democrats say his name is synonymous with commitment and dedication.

It was awarded posthumously to John Dewan, a UAW political operative who died last May. Dewan, was a resident of Madison

Heights, and, as vice-chair of the Oakland County Democrats, helped Blanchard get elected, first to Congress and subsequently as governor of Michigan.

Bob Lent, director of UAW Region 1, described Dewan as one of the most honest and trustworthy men within organized labor, or politics.

He announced the foundation of the John Dewan Memorial Foundation to be dedicated to two of its namesake's favorite passions — scholarships for college students and the charitable activities at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Detroit.

Group sees suburbs as key to elections

Continued from Page 1

politics will stir the passions of voters in a age of slick political packaging and symbolism.

"We believe we can (stir passions)," From said. "National service, will sound like a good idea to parents — once they find out how expensive college can be."

More of an obstacle is President George Bush, whose unprecedented popularity crosses party lines.

"Bush is popular, but I think that will fade once he gets in a crisis situation," From said.

But From acknowledged a continued strong economy could spell the end of Democratic presidential hopes for 1992.

Still, he said, the DLC isn't losing sight of long term goals.

"We have to build a constituency and we're doing that," he said, pointing to regional organizations in the south and southwest designed to help carry DLC-endorsed candidates through primary elections.

Though the group lists more than 250 current or former elected officials among its members, most are from southern or western states.

A pledge to support "a strong domestic automobile industry" is the group's first step toward building a Midwestern constituency.

The long range goal, From said, is to do what conservatives did in the days between Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan.

Armenian Genocide issue blocked

WASHINGTON — Here's how area Senators voted in the week ending Feb. 23. The House had no contested roll calls during the recess-shortened week.

"ARMENIAN GENOCIDE" IS-SUE: By a tie vote of 49-49, the Senate failed to end a filibuster against a resolution dealing with events in the Ottoman Empire, the forerunner of the Republic of Turkey. Sponsors of S.J. Res 212 needed a three-fifths majority to clear the procedural hurdle.

Roll Call Report

The measure sets April 24, 1990, for remembering "the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23."

By passing it, Congress would acknowledge the disputed historical point that genocide by the Ottoman Empire government was behind the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the period.

The State Department and many senators expressed concern that passage of the resolution would disrupt relations with Turkey, an ally and NATO member.

"I cannot believe the Senate would paper over the Armenian genocide

because of the flimsy excuse that it insults Turkey," said Larry Pressler, R-S.D., who voted to end the filibuster.

"I am deeply sympathetic to the suffering endured by the Armenians during this time period," said Robert Byrd, D-W.Va. "But I do not know whether what happened to the Armenians constitutes a genocide."

Senators voting yes wanted to move toward approval of the resolution.

Both Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

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