

Education chief unlikely to return

By Tim Richard
Staff writer

Three weeks ago, Donald L. Bemis talked about staying on as state superintendent of public instruction. True, Republicans had won a 5-3 majority in the Nov. 6 election. True, incoming Republican Gov. John Engler wanted to replace him.

But Bemis' contract had 2 1/2 years to run, and in mid-1990 Attorney General Frank Kelley said the board couldn't bounce Bemis.

"Things moved rather quickly — a week or 10 days," said Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester, new president of the state board, in a massive understatement.

After the Tuesday evening nor Wednesday morning meetings. "It was uncertain 'til the last moment what he would do," said board member Barbara Dumas, R-Grosse Ile.

"This seemed to be a good way out for him," said member Cherry Jacobus, R-Grand Rapids.

"He hasn't said so," said Beardmore, "but he'll be looking for other full-time things to occupy his time. He's too young (55) to retire."

"Clearly John Engler was not a booster. More than once he said Bemis should seek something else to do."

BEMIS' LETTER said he would use the time to "examine quality education issues... being utilized by other states" and study "the potential for the privatization of various aspects of the Department of Education."

"He's still superintending," said Beardmore when asked what procedure would be used to replace Bemis.

The board appointed Deputy Su-

perintendent Gary Hawks as acting superintendent.

Beardmore, one of the board's GOP heavyweights, said members hadn't met with Engler on the Bemis situation.

"We met one time — April or May — at our request just to talk with the Senate Republicans. That was the only time," Beardmore said.

But newly elected Republican Dick DeVos of Grand Rapids told the Associated Press that Engler called him just before Christmas to talk about getting rid of Bemis. "He just reaffirmed his interest that Mr. Bemis be removed," DeVos said.

BEMIS HAD spent his working life in Ute School District of Macomb County, rising to superintendent in 1971. In mid-1988 the state board tapped him for state superintendent.

Bemis professed to be non-partisan but was championed for the post by Democratic Gov. James Blanchard.

Under the constitution, the governor is a non-voting member of the state board. Usually, however, gov-

ernors have sent aides to sit in at board meetings.

"Blanchard came to the meeting when Don was sworn in," Beardmore recalled, "and one other time — to make a presentation, and then he left."

Of three persons who have represented Blanchard to the state board in his eight years as governor, only one — Tom Baldwin — could be called "very active," Beardmore said.

Engler's representative to the board, Mike Addonizio, said nothing in his first meeting.

AS ACTING superintendent, Hawks will face the immediate job of cutting the Department of Education budget by \$5 million.

Engler vowed not to cut and to schools, community colleges or universities, but the Department of Education itself is "taking the same 9.2 percent cut as anybody else," Beardmore said.

The department has about 2,000 employees. Its budget is separate from the school aid budget.

Monday, January 14, 1991 O&E

(O&E)

Congressmen differ on U.S. use of force

Like colleagues throughout the nation, U.S. Congressmen representing western Wayne and Oakland counties were divided in Saturday's vote authorizing the use of force if Iraq troops aren't withdrawn from Kuwait by Tuesday.

Republicans William Broomfield of Birmingham and Carl Pursell of Plymouth voted in favor of authorizing military force. Democrats William Ford of Taylor, Dennis Hertel of Harper Woods and Sander Levin of Southfield voted against immediate use of force, preferring to give economic sanctions more time.

Broomfield, one of four primary sponsors of the resolution for force, said the resolution would "not commit President Bush to use military

arms. It only gives him that option. In the president's hands it will be a very credible and powerful negotiating tool."

Levin, D-Southfield, was against authorizing the use of force and in favor of an alternate resolution calling for continued economic sanctions.

"I have then asked myself how I would vote if the several thousand might include one of my own four children. Because in this vital instance I cannot answer in the affirmative for my own family, I must answer in the negative for others."

The joint resolution passed 250-183 in the House, 52-47 in the Senate.

Quartet plays at OCC

Saxophonist George Benson and his quartet will be featured in concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College.

The concert, in "The Performing Space" of Building F, is the first of

six scheduled at the campus. Admission is \$7 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

The campus is at 2900 Featherstone Road, two miles east of the Pontiac Silverdome. Information is available at 340-6546.

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Michigan National Corporation, Farmington Hills, Michigan intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to acquire 1,000 shares of Common Stock, representing 100% of the voting control of Lockwood Bank Group, Inc., Houston, Texas. The entity resulting from the merger of Lockwood Bank Group, Inc. with and into Mergerco, Inc., Farmington Hills, Michigan, a subsidiary of Michigan National Corporation. We intend to acquire Lockwood Bank Group, Inc. and its subsidiary bank, Lockwood National Bank of Houston, both located at 800 Lockwood, Houston, Texas 77220. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application including the record of performance of banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, P.O. Box 824, Chicago, Illinois 60690. The comment period will not end before February 13, 1991 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262 (as revised, Press Release January 31, 1984), 49 Federal Register 5603 (February 13, 1984). Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Section 262.25 (1984). To obtain a copy of the Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the application contact Alicia Williams, Community Affairs Officer (312) 322-5910. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received by the Federal Reserve Bank on or before the last date of the comment period.

FD-203a, January 1984 (25) 1991

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The public is invited to submit written comments on this application to the Federal Reserve Board at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, P.O. Box 824, Chicago, Illinois 60690. The comment period on this application will not end before February 13, 1991. Call Alicia Williams, Community Affairs Officer (312) 322-5910 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to find out if you have additional time for submitting comments on this application or if you need more information about submitting comments. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments, including requests for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application, if they are received by the Federal Reserve Bank during the comment period.

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