Worker training is key issue - Clinton

By Tim Richard staff writer

Gov. Blll Clinton said he's the only presidential contender to support a plan requiring employers to spend 1 percent of payroll on training their existing workforces. And the Arkansas Democrat, lead-ing the polls prior to Tuesday's pri-mary, said, "I would like to have (former Michigan Gov.) Jum Blanc-hard in some capacity in my admin-istration."

istration

istration." The interview, during a drive be-tween campaign stops Friday, con-centrated on retraining the existing workforce, a key issue in Michigan as General Motors prepares to close, Jants with 9,000 workers. "No maiter what government pol-leis we have, within the workforce we must mobilize for change." Clin-ton said.

ton said.

Ion said. "In America, companies spend a little more than 1 percent, on aver-age, for training and education on average. Bui it's skewed. We spend 70 percent in each corporation. "Our European and Japanese com-petitors, who have higher rates of growth than we do now, spend more down and down the line, and try to put more decision-making in froni-line workers.

line workers. "I think we ought to give adequate incentives to business to spend it, and if they don't I would ask them to put into a National Skills Develop-ment Center."

THE IDEA comes from "Ameri-ca's Choice: High Skills or Low, Wages," by the National Center on Education and the Economy. That bipartisan panel was headed by for-mer Labor Secretaries William Brock (Republican) and Ray Mar-shall (Democratile). One member was Arkanas first lady Hillary Clin-ton.

was Arkanass first lady Hillary Clin-ton companies that didn't do their exhraged for it by the government. Clinton en this country for educa-tion, and he "absolutely" supports the same group's idea of national ed-ucation performance standards for al students. "When we irradict the maintonal ed-ucation goals, we asked for stand-ards in live subjects with the optical for dating more on, with reliable na-tional texaminations at fourth, eighth and 12th grades."

and 12th grades

ON BLANCHARD, a key Michigan supporter, Clinton said, "I would very much like to have him involved. He's a very glited man. "When we worked together, most people though he was one of the pro-mier, innovators among the gover-nors.

inler innovators among the gover-bors. "He and I were confronted, when we were elected in 1982, with states that had very depressed economies; no national strategy to revitalize. So we thought of things we (states) could do. "Michigan has a very good skills development program, initiated in

the Blanchard administration; a very good venture capital program; and a terrific college savings program, ini-tlated in the Blanchard administra-

totes in the backgard administra-tion. OTHER topics, Clinton said: • He would give communities and regions flexibility in using feder-al transportation lands for mass transit, including construction and maintenance of rapid rail transit. "One of the things 17d like to see badget, is increase our investment in rapid transit. — high-speed rail. More and more people will want to use it."

Arkansas voters put "right to.
work" — a measure abhorrent to or-



ganized labor in Michigan — into the constitution decades ago, "and they have realfurned it recently. My own position is we don't want an anti-la-bor or anti-union administration be-cause we don't want to give the fur-wage economy, which is happening to 60 percent of our people (national-by)."

 He dislikes must proposed con-Ife dislikes most proposed con-stitutional amendments except per-haps an executive line-item veto. Michigan and Arkanasa have such a veto, and President Bush wants one. Clinton said, "It would add some dis-cipilne to our spending process," adding he uses it up to 20 times per legislative session.

Bell competitor unveils plan to build fiber optic network

IO DUING INC. Michigan Bell Telephose Co. has reompetior. City Signal unveiled its plans to build an advanced, multimillon-dollar filter onlis network, business-to-business dollar filter onlis network, business-to-b Michigan Bell Telephone Co. has a competitor. City Signal unveiled its plans to build an advanced, multimillon-dollar fiber optic network in Wayne, Oakland and Macomo. counties to city and township offi-clats invited from 30 municipali-ties.

clais Invited from 30 municipan-ties. "The fiber optic network has the-ability to link business, education, and medical and government insti-tutions with others around the state, nation and world,"said Brad. Evans, company president. He spice at a breakfast meeting Oak-land Community College's Auburn

'Who shot JFK' is program topic

COUNTRY FOLK ART

"Who Shot JFK." a multimedia presentation by assassination expert tool farris will be presented by pm. Thursday, March 19 at the Universi-y of Michigen-Dearborn. Harris: a political satirist, bills his presentation as a "comedy/scare tactic" but backs his contentions -discounting the Warren Commission Report - with hard evidence and a bibliography of sources. The program is free and open to

The presentation is sponsored by the UM-D Student Activities Board. Additional information is available from the campus student activities office, 593-5390.

the public. It is scheduled for the University Recreation and Organiza-tions Center, near the north end of the UM-D campus, Evergreen Road, between Ford Road and Michigan

City Signal, based in Grand Rap-ids, has been certified by the state Public Service Commission as a public utility band authorized to provide certain services in compe-tition with the telephone company, its fiber optic network in Grand Rapids and Kent County has been providing service for more than a year.

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