# Blanchard: Clinton's old friend is also Gore's pal

NEW YORK — Everyone knows former Gov. James Blauchard Is tight with Democratic presidential nomince Bill Clinton. Leas known is that he's niso t, the

"The last time he was in Oakland County 1 introduced him at a Phil Hert dinner and said one day he will be president of the United States. He's close," Blanchard said. Blanchard turns 50 on Aug. 8 and looks thinner than in his 30s. He and wife Janch had excite schedule of speeches and events. Although listed as chair of the Michlean Clinton caucus, Blanchard is staying in Clinton's hotel. A ground-floor Clinton supporter, Blanchard may be due for a presidential appointment if Clinton wins Leas known is that he's also 1, the with running mats Albert Gore 3r.

"He supported the Chryster pack age," said Blanchard, who was elected to the U.S. House in 1974 with Gore following in 70.

"Then.Rep. Dan) Quayle tried to kill it and Bush was opposed. Blanchard unselled as chair of the Michael Shanchard said. The federal underwriting of Chryster Corp.'s loans helped asve the No.3 automaker in 1979 and propelled Blanchard into the governor's office in 1982.

"I served on the Science and Technology Committee with Gore. He and I were part of the congressional committee with Gore. He and I were part of the congressional committee on the house of the future.

Ex-Gov. James Blanchard

The irreverent Blanchard humor was still there: "Clinton was so brilliant a student at Georgetown Uni-versity that all the Jesuits thought

he was Catholic and not Baptist." Clinton and Blanchard freely borrowed each other's ideas on education and lob training as governors.



Bright lights, big city: Megan Tucker, daughter of Oakland County Democratic Party chairman Donald Tucker, looks out over the crowd at this week's national party convention at Madison Square Garden in New York.

### Dems from page 10A

She felt vindicated that Sen. Gore
who dropped out early in 1983's
presidential swcepatakes, was
picked by Clinton to be the vice
presidential nominee in 1992.

presidential nominee in 1992.

"I was out early in fall for Clinton. Then when he picked Gore, I said, 'Golly, these are my two candidates,'" Taras sald.

As of Sunday, she had cremmed in a lot of activities — the National

in a lot of activities — the National Education Association caucus "Miss Salgon" and "Jake's Wom-en" at the theater, probably a visit to the Museum of Modern Art later

in the week.

"The NEA has been very strong for Clinton; and the MEA was on

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

board very early this year. I was involved in the early meetings. I think Michigan is going to be in the forefront (of the Clinton campaign).

"Education is going to be an isaue where it hasn't been — the education president," the high school government teacher said, referring to a title Republican President Coorge Bush bestowed on himself in 1988.

#### Two veterans

Ron Thayer and Mildred Jeffrey have to stop and count carefully all the Democratic National Conven-tions they've been to.

(17) It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

"Let's see — 1956, '60 . . . this is my ninth," said deffrey, former trustee of Wayne State University and champion of women's issues. "We caucus every morning at 10 at the Hilton and have 1,200 to 1,500 women. On Tuesday the women (Senate) candidates will be there, NARAL (abortion rights league) and Mothers for Choice. "As you know, this is the year of women. They're voting in greater numbers and giving money," the Detroiter said.

u. 'My first," said Thayer, was 1972

"My first," said Thayer, was 1972 in Miami when I was working for Roman Gribbs (then Detroit's mayor). It's still exciting," said Thayer, a Clinton at-large alternate from Southfield.

"But I feel personally closest to Clinton, He was chair of the National Governors Conference which met at Traverse City." Thayer, then working for Gov. James Blanchard, helped set up the conference. "When Blanchard was chair of the Democratic Governors Conference, he picked Clinton to follow him.

"Every time I see Clinton, he gives you a bear bug. He's folksy,

warm, outgoing; he always remem-

warm, outgoing he always remembers you."

Thayer's career as a Journelist was brief, and its highlight was at the University of Detroit newspare in the 1950s when he hired as columnists a Democrat named John Grubba (now managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission) and a Republican named L. Brooks Patterson (county executive candidata).

Brooks Patterson (county executive candidate). A vice president for development at Channel 56, Thayer has spent some time with Wayne County Ex-ecutive Ed McNamars, but Thayer wants to hold back any job change announcement for a month.

#### Frequent source

One of Michigan's most quoted delegates is state Rep. Maxine Berman of Southfield, though most interviews fall to note she's a Paul Tsongas delegate.
"They sak me how's Clinton doing and the women's role, said Berman." It'll be good to get these things over with."

### Party bigwig boasts of his Michigan ties

NEW YORK --- Keith Geiger has changed in only two ways since he was a Livonia teacher and active in the Michigan Education Association. His graying hair has turned almost white. And his perpetual smile is

graying nair has, curried aimost white. And his perpetual simile is a big grin.

"We have the most - 400 delegates and alternates," said the president of the National Education Association.

"We had a staff person as part of the (Democratic platform) drafting Committee. It's more a centralist platform than in the past. But were very pleased because we have the candidate that goes with it." he said of Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

Geiger and wife Janet were on their way to guest seats in Madison Square Garden. They live in Fairfax County. Va., outside Washington.

"We (NEA) eliminated Bush real early because of his record, Zero, Jerry Brown didn't respond, to our questionnaire. We de-clared there were four viable can-didates at that time (early in the year).

"The states had the options Ten states (including the Michie gan Education Association) end dorsed Clinton only. The rest en-dorsed all four (Democratic can)

dorsed all four (Democratic can; didates) and worked to get delegates.

"As for the governor (Clinton), although we've had differences; we like his record. He comes, acroas cold until you start talking to him.

"We just talked with Gore. His record is 100 percent (opto NEA) this year and 91 percent over his career as a senator. His big strengths are in the environment and foreign affairs. That's whathe'll being to the ticket, Geiger said.

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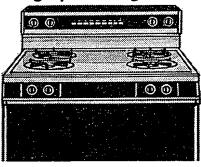
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