

Riegle joins convention crowd

CHICAGO — No sooner had Don Riegle retired to Traverse City than he was back — in Troy — working at two jobs.

"We moved from Traverse City to Troy last week," said Riegle, 58, who retired from Congress in 1994 after 18 years in the Senate and 10 in the House of Representatives.

"It was difficult to get in and out of Traverse City. We had to relocate to the metro area," he said as he shook every hand at the Chrysler Corp. brunch Sunday honoring

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer. "I'm on the faculty of the business school at Michigan State University, so I'm in and out of East Lansing each month," said Riegle, who was an ABD (all but dissertation) candidate for a Ph.D. in business and a capital investment analyst with IBM when he first ran for Congress in 1968.

"And I'm chairman of Shandwick. That's a London-based company that bought Casey Communications of Troy. It's the largest, independent public relations company in the

world. Their accounts are Chrysler, McDonald's, Northwestern Airlines and MasterCard.

"I spend a lot of time in the Washington and Detroit offices," said Riegle, whose business card lists a Washington address on 15th Street not far from the White House.

He compared notes with Jim Sharp, an Oakland University trustee.

"I'm here with the Democratic Business Council," said Sharp, who is with City Management Corp. in Detroit.

AAUW prepares for book sale

All things must come to an end including the Birmingham Branch of AAUW book drive. The group will remove its books barrels on Sept. 6-8 from the local stores in preparation for the Book Sale at the Birmingham Masonic Temple on Woodward.

The 69th annual sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21; from noon to 6 p.m. then 6:30-8 p.m. on Sunday; and from 8:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. Monday. Collectors or readers interested in getting a sneak peek can attend the Friday, Sept. 20 Preview Sale from 6:30 to 9 p.m. There is a \$5 admission.

Money raised during the book sale will benefit local projects and provide scholarships. The group will resume their home pick-up service for next year's fund-raiser Oct. 2. Call 851-8361 or 644-5163 for book pick-up.

Blanchard leaves Canada for Clinton

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — "I want to ask you one question: Why did you leave that wonderful job?"

The insistent questioner was Vicki Barnett, Farmington Hills council member, sometime legislative candidate and also chair of the 11th Congressional District Democratic organization.

Her target was James Blanchard, former (1983-90) governor of Michigan and, until early this year, for nearly three years, U.S. ambassador to Canada in President Clinton's administration.

"The president asked me to come home," Blanchard replied. "I came back to work on his campaign. If I could have taken a leave (of absence), I would, but you can't do that under the law (which provides for three-year terms)."

"And the last time I looked, he appointed

me."

Barnett has an affinity for Canada and assured Blanchard that Canadians "just loved" him.

Blanchard and wife Janet maintain addresses in Beverly Hills, Mich., and Arlington, Va., and are among several husband-wife teams in the state delegation.

Blanchard, little changed except for substantial gray in his locks, saw historical parallels between the 1948 re-election campaign of Harry S. Truman and the '96 campaign of Bill Clinton.

First, both are campaigning against two-year-old Republican takeovers of Congress. Second, Clinton is doing a train trip through Michigan reminiscent of Truman's "whistle-stop" campaign.

"This is probably the last great political train ride of this century," Blanchard said,

pointing to stops in Wyandotte, Holly, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. "The press will be surprised. The convention will follow the train trip.

"I remember saying to Bill Clinton after the '94 election, 'This (GOP control of Congress) is a regrettable turn of events. But there's no question now you can contrast what you think with Congress and the antics of Newt Gingrich (House speaker)."

"Bill Clinton is the leader we want. This is a chance to regain control of Congress. (U.S. Sen.) Carl Levin will work hard."

(Republican Gov. John Engler has already cut loose from Ronna Romney (Republican Senate nominee)."

Barnett, with husband Mark Stekloff, is attending her first convention as a delegate, though in 1988 she worked on the national credentials committee at the Atlanta convention.



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