Engler answers readers' questions on roads, education and future

Ask and you shall receive – at least that's how it works in the You Ask cal-umn we will be featuring regularly in the Observer & Eccentric. Here are the questions you asked of Michigan Gover-nor John Engler. He sat down with Spe-cial Projects Editor Margaret OBrien in Southfield Monday to give his answers.

Q: Why are the weight limits so high queen the loads our trucks are hauling through our state?

Bill and Mary McCauley Southfield

They were set some years ago and they were set as part of the decision to require more adex no, they were set as part of the decision to require more adex and they were ready to the person and they are they are

Would you consider using prisoners

of the repairs on our road crows like
they do in southern states?

Marjoric Mughertan

Farmington Hills

Farmington Hills

"As "Well, they have a little different situation, of course. They're work-ting on roads year around down there. We don't quite have the same ability ... some of their weather is probably keep themeouts the heaven the same ability temperate henough that they can probably keep them outside in camps. We use prisoners at the present time to build sidewalks and do some other work. Also we're very careful of what prisoners we use because we don't want dangerous, violent prisoners out where they can have access to the community ... I do favor making prisoners work. We have worked very hard trying to expand the number of opportunities where we can put prisoners to work. It's good for them and helps them make a little money to pay room and board or send to the family to help support them.

What are you going to do about those Birmingham parents who are going to exempt their kids, no matter what, from the state proficiency test? Are you willing to take the test yourself and what, from
you willing to take the use,
you willing to take the use,
have your results published?
Gooff Luckersham
Troy

As "I'm willing to have my children in take the exam, And, I think that all children ought to be taking the exam. It was developed (by) teachers and educations, who developed the test in conjunction with the Department of Education, so I'm sure they did the best job they could on it. Though, there is a recognition that anytime you start a test that there are going to be some difficulties with that and that there will be, undoubtedly, improvements in the examination as its given the second—time in the couning year. I think its important in the couning year. I think its important on the couning year. I think its important on the couning year. I think its important, where they are not yet years and the difficulties with the same than the country of the difficulties with the same than the country of the difficulties.

Q: As parents of children attending public schools in Oakland County, we want to express our concern that the state has not been honoring its promise that, with the passage of Proposal A, all

school districts would receive an increase in funding in their district foundation grant, equal to or greater than the cost of inflation. When will you offer a budget that provides oil public school districts increases in their foundation grants that at least keep pace with inflation?

Joseph and Pauline Koenigsknocht
West Bloomfield

*We'll be apending \$540 million

**me'll be apending \$540 million

**mere on public detection next year. That increase is greater than the entire budget for all of Michigan's community colleges and the Department of State Police. So, it's a sizable increase in the education budget. I think it will continue to ensure that there is adequate funding for all of Michigan students. And, in fact, Michigan, like Ohio faces a future where its funding for education is secure and out of the reach of state and federal judges. In Ohio, their current system of funding higher education has been ruled unconstitutional and they're trying to structure a brand new plan. We've avoided those kinds of problems and we're closing the gap... Inc. every district is able to apond what the West Bloomfield school district sponds... We've come up to the point we'very student in Michigan is in a district wery student in Michigan is in a district were student in Michigan in the student were student in Michigan in the student in Michi

A: "It's hardly that at all. In fact, one only needs to look at Ohio where their entire system of education has been discarded as unconstitutional or New Jersey, where that previously happened, or in any other state. We now have a system of funding public education which allows for all students to be in schools that are adequately funded. And I don't think there is anything socialistic about suggesting that all students are entitled to a quality education. I think that is a very fundamental part of our democracy."

• What do you plan to do regarding
the Michigan Mandate for special
education? We'd like to know if you're even
considering the possibility of changing it.

Jill Meyers
Farmington Hills

A: "Currently, Michigan has one of the most extensive statoffederal mandated special education programs in the nation. And we can construing that. I make the most extensive statoffederal mandation, and we can construing the state of the state of a pecial education is making it the priority of education in the detriment of education of children who may be academically talented or even general education programs. I think that there need to be effort to continue to strike an appropriate balance. At this point, there are no suggestions that special education services be curtailed or any mandate be dropped.

Why are we going to pass a bill deregulating the power companies when it's going to be disadvantageous to the consumers in Michigan?

gan;
Joseph Pavco
Farmington Hills

A: "Well, I don't think anyone is sug-gesting we derogulate power com-panies. Well still have the Public Service Commission. But what is being talked about is a strategy that some states have already been moving forward on – and Michigan has already been very much

involved in the debate – which would allow customers – be they residential of commercial or industrial – to be able to have some choice as to their electricity source in order to take advantage of the lowest possible rates. Were already social today in Michigan that many of the larger industrial customers like the automobile companies are entering into long-term contracts to guarantee their rate. Those are contracts that, currently, the individual all consumers, like the austinoside of the decision (60) a case involving Michigan the way of the larger industrial customers like the austinoside of the decision (60) a case involving Michigan contracts that, currently, the individual all consumers, like the questioners, do not have the ability to enter into. And I think, just as we saw when natural gas was deregulated a few years ago, that we ended up with great price stability and, in fact, sow decreases in price. I think the same with eventually become the case with respect to electrical power.

On Under what authority did you give

Q: Under what authority did you give
\$55 million to Detroit without any
vote of the Legislature or the voters?

Elaino Gaulder

West Bloomfield Township

West Bloomfield Township

As "Under the submirity of the Legislabus ture, actually, it was a decision made by the Strategie Fund board which is appointed by the governor. They decide how monies that have been appropriated or received by the state are expended. In this case, monies that came from gambling on Indian recervations as a recult of a negotiated settlement in the federal courts, were sufficient to allow a grant in support of the infrastructure of the new stadium to be made. And that was the decision of the strategic fund board. I felt as long as the state would not be involved in the construction of the stadium not be involved in the construction of the stadium or the operation of the stadium to the only of the stadium that is grant for the infrastructure—some of the roads, some of the save infrastructure—some of the oravironmental cleanup... It could be tweed in the same light (as grants regularly made for plant and industrial investments.)"

Q: Knowing the governor's and Michelle's commitment to volunteerism, why is the Family Independence Agency considering privatizing or eliminating their volunteer program now, when instead, they should be explailizing on the publicity from the volunteer summit?

Marilyn Droz.

Farmington Hills

Farmington Hills

A: "Well, indeed we are capitalizing on what soever to eliminate volunteer states when the function with the states with the function of the name of the states of the agency is looking at, and I'm supportive of that review. The issue is this! Interpretation of the name offices we have positions that are funded for a volunteer coordinator. The question that's been raised is, couldn't we more successfully integrate the volunteer activities of the FIA with the volunteer conflices when those are in existence. In many communities we don't have those offices or access to the office may be difficult.

A: We in Farm-

Q: We in Form-lington have strict rules on recy-

As "One has to read the Supreme Court decision (of) a case involving Michigan's law, which was had been very strong in 18 limits on the importation of waste into Michigan, and that was struck under the argument that it was a violation of the federal constitution and the commerce clause. We have, subsequent to that Supreme Court decision, been in Congress lobbying for legislation that would allow states to have more control over their borders. To date, we have been unsuccessful in passing that legislation, but it remains a very high priority and something that I have lobbied members of the Michigan congressional delication to work on. In this case, I hope the people interested in this topic will tude the time to write a letter to their congressment and senators urging their support.

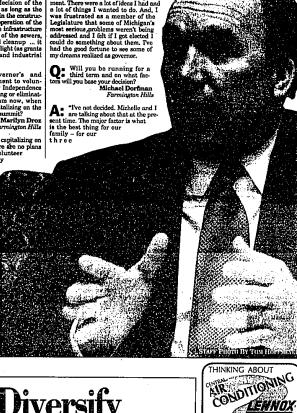
Why did you run for Governor?

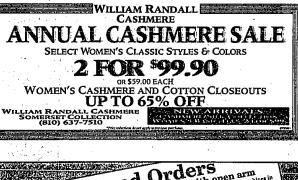
Krysta Daly Farmington Hills As "In 1990 I became a candidate because I was convinced I could do a better job than the person that was in the office. I had a to 6 experience in government. There were a lot of ideas I had and a lot of things I wanted to 6. And, I was frustrated as a member of the Legislature that some of Mchigan's most serious problems weren't being addressed and I felt if I got elected I could do something about them. I've had the good fortune to see some of my dream realized as governor.

You've become a national figure in the Republican party. Are you planning to run for president or aiming for some other national post?

Gina DeBrincat

A: "I'm still trying to figure out what I'm going to do in 1998."











FREEDIT ATES

(313)525-1930
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT - LIVONIA