



GOV. MILLIKEN, helping the campaign of State Rep. Robert Geake, chats with Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Campbell of Northville at a campaign reception Monday in Schoolcraft College's Waterman Center. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Milliken defends bond issue

By TIM RICHARD

Gov. William G. Milliken stoutly defended his proposed \$1.1 billion transportation bond issue as a benefit to people and predicted he would do better among new voters than an early poll indicated.

The governor was in Livonia Monday at a fund-raising reception for State Rep. Robert Geake and then ended a long campaign day in Southfield speaking to the Detroit Police Officers Association.

Milliken, a Republican, was asked to respond to Human Rights Party candidate Zolton Ferency's contention that the airport and lake port portions of the transportation bond issue helped "corporations" and did nothing for "ordinary people."

"TO ME THE WHOLE meaning and purpose of this bond issue is for people," said Milliken, a six-year veteran of the governor's office who is seeking a new four-year term.

"This will provide jobs. It will bring higher economic standards. It will help develop inter-city and intra-city bus systems. It will improve the movement of goods."

The bond issue is a proposal D on the Nov. 5 ballot. About half the money would be pegged to the southeastern Michigan bus and rapid transit system. Milliken pointed out that only \$150 million (13.7 per cent) would go into airports and lake ports.

Milliken denied Ferency's charge that paying off the bonds from the general fund would require either an increase in taxes or cuts in other services. The governor said that as the earlier "clean water" bond issue is paid off, the revenue supporting it could be applied to the transportation bonds.

THE GOVERNOR called for a vote against Proposal A, aimed at freezing the proportion of the state gasoline tax that could aid the operations of bus and rapid transit systems.

"Emphatically I have said I don't propose to levy any more beyond what we have," he said. Michigan taxes gasoline at nine cents a gallon, with a half-cent going to public transportation programs.

"But it's a bad legal principle to freeze the allocation. It's a bad constitutional law. What may be applicable and pertinent today might be bad 20 years from now," he added.

A DISAPPOINTMENT to Milliken was the portion of a Market Opinion Research poll for The Detroit News which showed Democrat Sander Levin leading Milliken 79 to 21 per cent among the 18-20 year age group, although Milliken led overall.

Milliken was the first Michigan politician publicly to advocate lowering the age of majority to a uniform 18 years. The law applies not only to such rights as drinking and car ownership but to such legal responsibilities as debt payment and licensing for many trades.

The pro-Levin sentiment in the 18-20 age group disappointed Milliken, "considering what we've done for persons in that age category. I think correcting it is a matter of communication."

"The sampling may have been inadequate. The next poll will be based on personal interviews instead of telephone calls," he also suggested the sample may have been more heavily drawn from non-college persons, who other parts of the poll indicated as Levin supporters.

"We're organized on every college campus in the state," Milliken added. The governor made no speech to the small gathering in the Schoolcraft Col-

lege Waterman Center but with Rep. Geake milled about, shaking hands. Geake, a Republican (although his campaign literature doesn't identify him by party), is seeking a second term in the State House from the 33rd District, which includes Northville and two-thirds of Livonia.

IN SOUTHFIELD, Milliken told the Detroit Police Officers Association the state has increased its crime-fighting funds by 100 per cent since he became governor in 1969.

"I have asked the Legislature for further measures which would give Michigan the tools to wage the most comprehensive anti-crime campaign in the state's history, including mandatory additional prison sentences for persons convicted of committing crimes with handguns."

"Last year, the increase in crime nationally was nearly three times as great as it was in Michigan."

"We hear a lot these days about the rights of defendants, and those rights of the people are important too...a right to walk the streets at any hour without being mugged or raped or killed...a right to go to school without being accosted by drug pushers or losing their lunch money to extortionists...a right to do business without constant harassment by members of the mob."



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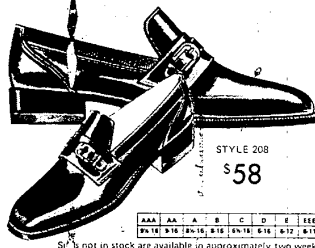


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