

Barta tours Ireland as evangelist

FARMINGTON—The son of a Farmington couple will spend the summer as part of an evangelist team in Ireland.

Daniel Barta, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barta, will be involved in an itinerant ministry in the Dublin area.

sponsored by Greater Europe Mission (GEM). Barta is a senior majoring in music at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. GEM, a non-denominational Christian missionary agency, operates 10 bible institutes and a variety of church-related ministries in 13 European countries.

Businessmen query legislators

FARMINGTON—Chamber of commerce members don't support a proposed hike in state unemployment benefits.

Chamber members questioned three legislators on the unemployment bill and other business-related legislation at a breakfast sponsored by the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Association of Retailers.

The proposal would boost unemployment benefits with a corresponding increase in the amount employers pay. Unemployment benefits are paid by contributions from employers.

State Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) defended the benefit increase. Two Republican representatives, Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) and R. Robert Geake (R-Northville), said the law would jeopardize future jobs in Michigan.

Cooper said increased benefits are needed.

"Once in a while you have to turn to those people who are trying to make it on a very, very small amount of money," Cooper told chamber members. "It's awfully rough out there the way prices are expanding in every sector of our life."

Employers won't like the law, Cooper said, because it will increase costs. The two Republicans said increased costs mean fewer jobs.

BROTHERTON SAID the auto companies can shift production to plants in other areas of the country if costs are higher in Michigan. Geake said Michigan pays twice the national average on unemployment compensation.

"I don't know how we're going to keep jobs in Michigan when we keep increasing costs of labor to the employer," Geake said.

Although Cooper supported the bill, he objected to the way it was considered. He also charged Gov. William Milliken did not lobby against the bill as hard as he might have.

The bill was pushed quickly because 5,000 persons a week lose unemployment benefits, Cooper said. However, he was the only Democrat who voted with 23 Republican senators to delay consideration of the bill.

Milliken didn't have an aide at the senate committee hearing on the

unemployment bill, colleagues told Cooper.

"I don't think he ever came down once," Cooper said, even though he knew the bill was a top priority among legislative leaders.

Other questions from chamber members also concerned business topics.

Brotherton objected to a proposed state land use law because it would create a bureaucracy. Zoning controls are "pretty well recognized as an absolute necessity" on the local level, he said.

However, a state commission on land use would mean "running to Lansing" for approval on projects. It would choke off development and increase costs to the consumer.

In answer to a question about occupational safety laws, Cooper also opposed growing bureaucracies.

BUREAUCRACIES are "choking out not only business but the whole society," Cooper said. The growth is one of the worst phenomena of modern government, he added.

Limited strikes by teachers' unions won limited backing from Brotherton. He said current laws are either inadequate or "Courts haven't displayed the back bone" to enforce them.

"No one was enforcing the law which says to a teacher 'You are a public employee and you can't strike.'"

Brotherton said he has no concern about giving the teachers the right to strike in a limited fashion.

In answer to District Judge Michael Hand, Geake said probate judges are responsible for releasing mentally ill persons who commit crimes.

Geake said the new mental health law, blamed for releasing those mentally ill persons arrested for crimes, is clearly written.

The judges are "interpreting the law narrowly" by not committing the persons for treatment instead of releasing them.

Hand said many of the persons are released by juries who rule on the mental condition of a person.

"Under this law you can't do a damn thing," Hand said.

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