

Fitzgerald urged to put female on ticket

By SHIRLEE IDEN

A balanced ticket for Michigan Democrats this fall means a lieutenant governor candidate who is a woman and pro-abortion.

That's the unanimous assessment of members of the women's caucus of the party. And they're making dramatic progress in lining up support before the state Democratic convention convenes Aug. 26-27 in Lansing.

Joining the call for a woman near the top of the ticket, former Gov. G. Mennen Williams and nine Democratic candidates for state education posts are adding to the heat on candidate Sen. William B. Fitzgerald.

Williams said Monday that Fitzgerald should have no trouble finding a qualified woman because "there are literally dozens of women throughout Michigan who measure up to the job... and to the possibility that the position could lead to the governorship."

Fitzgerald gained his party's nomination in the Aug. 8 primary when he polled 40 per cent of the Democratic votes to beat three other aspirants. The pressures on him began almost immediately.

JUST TWO DAYS after the election, the Democratic women's caucus met in Howell and—despite the absence of the candidate—sent him a clear message that a balanced ticket demands a female running mate who can over-

come Fitzgerald's own anti-abortion stand.

The former senate majority leader is on record as a strong advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment and other women's issues but opposed on religious grounds to abortion. His opponent, Gov. William Milliken, has recently come out publicly in support of the Supreme Court ruling that abortion should be a matter of conscience.

A November victory for their party is clearly the top goal of the Democratic women, who see getting the way to win is with a balanced ticket.

Annette Miller, vice-president of the state board of education, told the caucus to be certain that the female candidate nominated would be a good candidate for governor.

"She should be someone who will bring another point of view and help Fitz. We owe it to our party to have someone who will pull these votes. I think this will decide the election," Mrs. Miller said.

MRS. MILLER was one of nine Democratic candidates for education posts who sent a telegram to Fitzgerald late Monday asking that he name a woman as his running mate.

"We urge you to select as your lieutenant governor a woman who is a known feminist and who supports a pro-choice position on the abortion issue," the wire read in part.

The nine signers were among 11

aspirants for positions on the Democratic slate to be chosen in the Lansing convention.

Two candidates, though supportive of a woman for lieutenant governor, declined to sign the telegram because of the demand that the candidate favor abortion. They are Paul Brown, a University of Michigan regent, and Helen Casey, a state board of education aspirant and member of the Catholic Conference.

The signers, in addition to Mrs. Miller are Max Pincus and Leon Atchison, members of the Wayne State University board of trustees; James Waters of the Michigan State University board of trustees; and candidates Gladys Beckwith and Glen Betts for the state board of education, Ellen Louie and Carole Lick for the MSU board of trustees and Marilyn Harris for the U-M board of regents.

Mrs. Stoner, a co-chairwoman of the women's caucus, said the remarks of state Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams and the telegram should indicate to Fitzgerald that "the support is coming from party regulars as well as the women's caucus."

SHE NOTED that Democrats have always tried to seek balance in their ticket by looking at race, age, marital state, ethnicity and geography and ignored sex. "Our position is you can't

balance a ticket unless you use sex as a criteria."

Although the women have given Fitzgerald a challenge, they have not gone so far as to name a candidate.

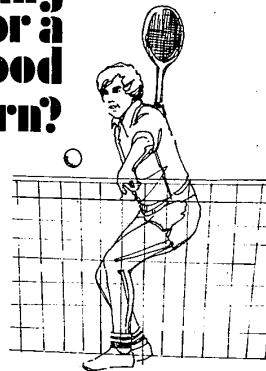
Instead, a list of eight women were presented near the end of the Renaissance Center meeting reiterating their choices named at the Howell meeting.

The list of possible candidates, which they said were not exclusive, included Martha Griffiths, a former congresswoman who lives in Farmington Hills; Jean McKee, who ran against Gerald Ford for Congress in the 5th district in 1972; State Rep. Barbara Rose Collins of Detroit; Pat Miklow, a Marquette lawyer; Sarah Power, a U-M regent and wife of defeated U. S. Senate candidate Philip Power; Olivia Maynard of Flint, a vice-chairwoman of the state Democratic Party; and Marjorie Lansing of Ann Arbor, a former 20 district candidate for Congress.

Fitzgerald said he would add the eight, some already on his own list, to others for whittling down to six or seven.

This would be followed by a comprehensive process of screening for the candidates, including a complete financial disclosure and an interview of several hours with both the individual candidates and others he did not name.

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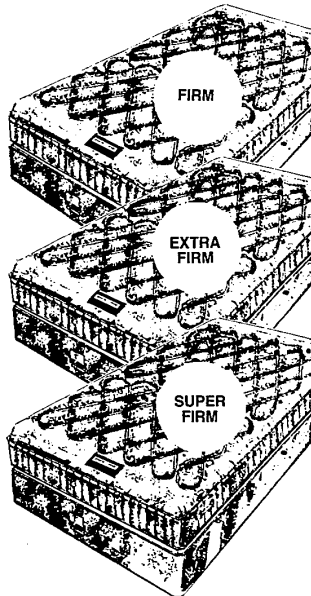
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