

Representatives react to Reagan economics

By TIM RICHARD

Republicans and Democrats alike are going to give President Reagan's 1982 budget a hard going-over before it passes through Congress.

Veteran Republican Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, called it "the right medicine for our ailing economy." Rep. William Brodhead, D-Detroit, said "the general thrust is one I certainly would agree with."

But they, along with Rep. David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, will ask many tough questions about their favorite subject areas before giving final approval to what will probably be compromise measures.

BROOMFIELD, on Capitol Hill since 1958, saw Reagan calling for "a complete change in the direction our government has been headed since the 1930s."

"The alternative is business as usual, which means continued double-digit inflation, high interest rates and unemployment," said the 19th District congressman from western Oakland County.

The ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Broomfield said of Reagan's proposed foreign aid cuts that "some areas give me a problem." And he saw Reagan's call for elimination of Trade Adjustment Act benefits as "of great concern to our area."

But he summed it up: "We have to read the fine print. This is presented as a package. There are some areas I'll disagree on. But in the context of a full package, I'll support it."

BRODHEAD LIKED "the general thrust: a cut in the growth of federal spending, a tax cut for individuals and especially for business to encourage new technology."

But the 17th District congressman, whose constituents live in northwest Detroit, Redford Township, Farmington and Southfield, saw problems with programs benefitting southeast Michigan.

"The TRA cut will be a real hardship for auto workers. There will be some real hardships for local governments with the loss of CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) funding."

"In Medicaid, he's proposing a flat cap, then letting the states figure how to cut it. The Michigan Medicaid program has already been cut, and Michigan will have to cut even further."

"I hope we can modify his programs in a number of ways to achieve goals without harming the needy."

BONIOR, whose 12th District includes eastern Rochester, was most chagrined at the Reagan tax and spending cut package.

"It's a radical departure from what we have done in the last 50 years in government. It takes us back to the pre-FDR days in the sense that government is not relied upon to solve people's problems but is looked at as the problem," said the third-term congressman.

"The upshot of his program will hurt lower-income people most."

"Another thing that struck me is that while Carter was going to suggest a budget with a deficit of \$30 billion, Reagan's deficit will be more than that."

Bonior doubts that Reagan's tax cuts will stimulate the economy enough to produce tax revenues that will balance the federal budget by 1984 and end inflation. "The whole question of oil is most important in dealing with inflation. Just balancing the budget ain't gonna do it," he said.

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JAMES BLANCHARD, D-Pleasant Ridge, finds Reagan "an upbeat guy" and is optimistic that "reasonable compromises" can be worked out.

"Congress within reason will support the Reagan package. We're still waiting for details. The numbers are not translatable into legislation yet," said the fourth-term congressman whose 18th District includes Troy.

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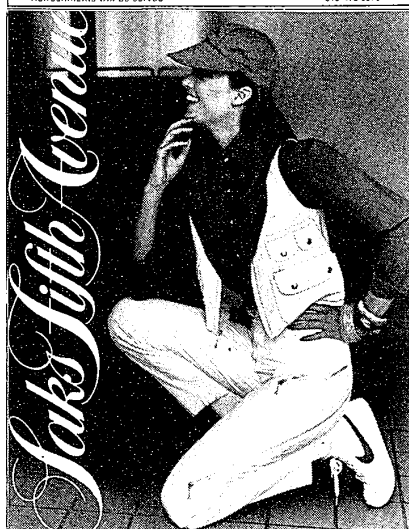
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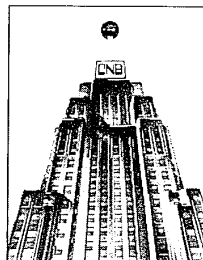
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