

Economy, budget top public queries

By Lynn Orr
staff writer

The economy remains top priority for area residents, as U.S. Rep. William Brodhead discovered Saturday. Frustrated but apparently pleased to have a chance to express their concerns, between 250-300 residents quizzed the 17th District Democrat for two hours. The economy dominated the meeting, but questions ranged from Social Security and military build-up to tobacco subsidies and involvement in El Salvador.

The array of questions from the audience dominated by senior citizens demonstrated that residents aren't exclusively concerned with fiscal policy.

And Brodhead had his first chance to explain and hear from his constituents about his proposal to reduce the tax limit on unearned income. "You and Reagan and Kemp are bound to make the rich richer," a resident concluded, after questioning why Brodhead proposed to reduce from 70 to 50 percent the tax on income from dividends and interest.

Brodhead, a member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, defended his proposal with supply-side economic theories.

"PEOPLE ARE investing in gold and paintings, instead of investing in business and industry. To build jobs, we have to have investment." Under the current tax law, salary income is taxed up to 50 percent, Brodhead said. Income from dividends and interest is taxed up to 70 percent. Explaining that his proposal affected only the wealthy, he said it was a fairer system but failed to respond to a question about how to guarantee that investments would be made in business and industry.

"What are the Democrats going to do about jobs? What is Brodhead doing to create jobs for people in Michigan?" asked another resident.

"The most important thing is to do something about inflation," Brodhead responded.

The only interruption in the meeting came when Brodhead talked about curbing automobile imports. "Everything foreign," shouted one resident, while others chimed in with specific foreign goods.

BRODHEAD CHARMED the audience, which was less hostile than his aides had expected. By the end of the

meeting, residents were asking how to support him in his endeavors and congratulating him on his performance in Congress.

"I commend you for having the guts to come out to face this group," said one resident. This initiated a round of applause. Another resident suggested that Brodhead should do a little more "squealing."

"We don't see enough of you in the limelight," he said.

In an apologetic style, Brodhead explained that the Reagan administration was doing what it set out to do and that Congress should support his endeavor to control inflation and cut the budget.

"He's doing exactly what he set out to do. He didn't pull the wool over anybody's eyes," Brodhead said.

"The president has proposed a new economy program with substantial cuts in spending and taxes. I think the country voted for that program. Whether it will work, I don't know." But Brodhead also cited areas of disagreement with the administration, including cuts in social programs and expanded defense spending. Replying to a question about the off-the-books deficit, he said, "The cuts in social programs will be offset by proposed increases in the military."

"I hope that we don't give as much as the president is asking for defense."

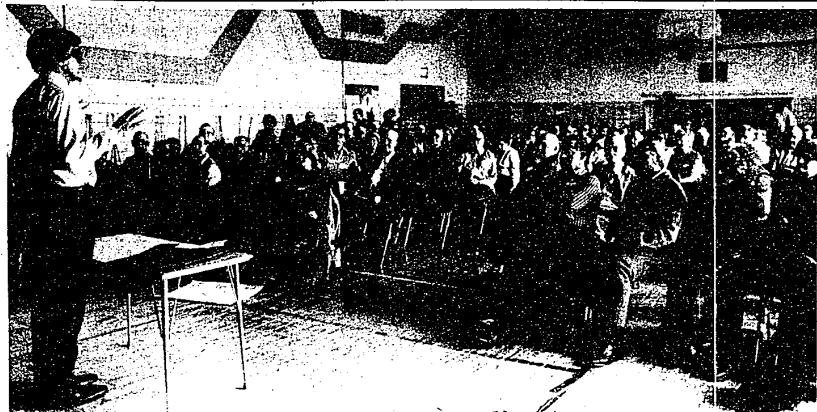
Brodhead also touched on an underlying concern of the audience about the future in the event of a failure of the administration's program. The federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act is scheduled to dissolve in September under the administration's plan. Brodhead cited statistics from the Michigan Employment Security Commission of 600,000 unemployed and 3,600 jobs available.

"IF YOU CUT the CETA program in Michigan, you're really dumping those people out on the street. That's why I'm opposed to it."

He also mentioned the failure of Congress to reduce its own spending for junkets, opposition to cuts in Social Security and failure to cut subsidies to tobacco growers.

"There are a number of people in Congress, myself included, who want to change that. Sen. Jesse Helms (D-North Carolina) has the ear of the president."

Brodhead called Helms a hypocrite for "always talking about waste" and supporting cuts in subsidies for milk while defending tobacco subsidies.



Between 250-300 residents quizzed Congressman Bill Brodhead Saturday. (Staff photos by Art Emanuele)



Bill Brodhead tackles a serious question.

No on El Salvador, yes on gas controls

Here's a look at some of the concerns expressed by area residents followed by Brodhead's responses:

- Deduction on interest earned by senior citizens: A law passed by Congress last year will allow a \$400 deduction on interest earned in 1981.
- Involvement in El Salvador: "Our government thinks we should get involved in that. My own view is that we should not."

- Prisoners receiving Social Security: Congress recently passed a law eliminating Social Security payments to prisoners.

- Eliminating minimum Social Security benefits: "I think we do have to do something about the minimum benefit. You have people who worked for the federal government, retired and went to work part-time and then collect Social Security. We're paying for them twice (in federal pensions)."

- That applies to me, responded a retired postal worker. I need those Social Security benefits, and I worked for them."

- Controls on price of natural gas: "The biggest threat facing utility bills is removing controls on natural gas. I'm definitely going to fight that."

- Foreign investments in the United States: "I think we should have a law that will allow the president to veto a foreign investment in the U.S. I proposed such a law a few years ago, but it didn't get anywhere."

- Foreign aid: The negative side is that "we're giving money to dictators to use against their own people." The positive side is "we're still better off than just about anybody else, and the aid is used to stop starvation and rampant disease. More foreign aid should be directed toward teaching people how to raise their own food. I think in the interests of world peace, it's important to do that."

- Congressional redistricting (Michigan has 19 seats and will lose one next year): "I don't know how it's going to come out."

- Waste by the military and Army Corps of Engineers: "(It) was a great service in war time, but they're getting to the point where they waste money on things that don't have to be done and damage the environment, such as paving a river."

INSIDE ANGLES

LET'S GIVE A BIG ♦♦♦ to David Kalb, 22230 Green Hill, Farmington Hills for winning tenth overall in the Michigan State Silver Trophy Open Bridge Pairs in which 1,292 players competed. The event was among seven North American Championships and 12 lesser ranked championships which drew 5,000 players to 10 days of competition in Detroit recently. This is one of three major tournaments held in North America each year by the American Contract Bridge League.

PACK UP THOSE instruments and get ready to play all you students at Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington High schools who have qualified to compete in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. Local students will be among the 8,000 band and orchestra students participating around the state on March 28. Students will be judged by one of 30 experts on performance, ability, individually and/or in groups of up to eight members. These students have qualified for the state festival in district festivals attended by more than 30,000 students from more than 500 schools in sixteen districts throughout the state. Up to 150 of the soloists will be recommended to audition to become one of the five soloists at the annual Youth Arts Festival.

IT'S TIME TO get in shape for the summer by heading to the swimming pool at either North Farmington or Farmington High School beginning on March 30. Open swim at North will be on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 7-9:15 p.m. The adult hour only will be from 8:15-9:15 p.m. Cost is 50 cents for children and 75 cents for adults. Open swimming at Farmington will be at the same times but on Tuesday and Thursday. The pools will be closed April 20-24 and May 25. Suits and towels must be furnished by participants. Anyone with long-hair must wear a bathing cap. All children whose chin height is below 38 inches must be accompanied by an adult. No cut offs are allowed.

IF THE GAMBLING bug is itching make sure you get on down to the Women of North Farmington's Millionaire Party on April 4, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River, Farmington. Tickets are \$8 prepaid and \$10 at the door. A midnight buffet will be served. There will be a cash bar. Those interested should call Lucy Ernatt at 876-4329 or Jackie Greth at 474-3551.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL thespians are ready to entertain you with "The Impossible Years," to be presented on April 23 and 4 at 8 p.m. at the school, 20915 Twine Mile. Seats are served and cost \$2. To make reservations call 477-3311. The play is a comedy by Bob Fisher and Ar-

thur Marx. It revolves around the trials and tribulations of a psychologist turned author who is trying to raise his two teenage daughters according to the dictates of his latest book — in a "modern, permissive atmosphere."

MAKE SURE THAT ♡ is in shape by attending the second annual health-rama on April 23 and 4 at the Livonia Mall on 7 Mile and Middlebelt. Free tests, including vision, blood pressure, tests for anemia, height and weight plus an optional blood chemistry test will be given. The blood chemistry test requires a \$7 fee.

FOLKS UP IN ALBION will hear the voice of Farmington resident Catherine Bennett loud and clear on March 29. She will be one of the soloists performing in "Eljah," an opera written by Felix Mendelssohn. Ms. Bennett, a senior at Albion, is a member of the college's choral society.

LISTEN UP 1951 graduates of St. Charles Borromeo High School. Your class reunion will be April 3. Contact Dominic Briguito, 35565 Nona Court, Sterling Heights, 48077.

WITH BOATING SEASON right around the corner, the Four Seasons Fishing Club will conduct a water and boating safety clinic on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Livonia Mall Community Hall. A special film and discussion will be presented by Captain Commander William Lassaline and Dr. Richard Booth, of the U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary. Free literature will be available. An up-to-date report on U.S. Coast Guard's newest regulations, including the marine flare, will be presented. Also presented will be the latest fishing reports, club activity programs and the all-new fishing license will be discussed. Refreshments will be served.

GET THOSE RUNNING SHOES broken in. The second annual 10 kilometer "Fun Run" will be at the Lawrence Institute of Technology on April 11, beginning at 10 a.m. The run is sponsored by the student chapter of the American Institute of Architects and proceeds are used for the LIT capital campaign. Entry fees are \$5 per participant for the April 7 preregistration and \$6 after April 7 and on the day of the race. Each runner will receive a certificate. A T-shirt will be given the first 250 entrants. High school students will be charged \$2.50 and will be able to purchase a T-shirt for an additional \$2.50. A \$40 gift certificate will be awarded to the first overall finisher and 30 medals will be given the top three in each age division. Registration will be from 7:30-9:30 a.m. on the day of the race.

I'm really in Hawaii! I finally stopped dreaming...and started packing. Expensive? Sure. I saved six months for this one glorious week. But I look at it as an investment...in my mental health. To look my best on the beach, I invested in a really sensational swimsuit from JANTZEN. It's a sit-up-and-take-notice mailout from their VAI collection. Texture black knit. Deliciously daring, with wrap front, low-plunging back, \$28. My friend picked the teeny bikini, \$23. Both, nylon/Lycra® spandex, misses' 6 to 14, from Hudson's Swimwear.



weekend alternatives at hudson's