

Stumping for part-time Legislature, Tisch is 'damn' happy

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Radical? Bob Tisch?
The enemy of state government and property taxes said "there's nothing drastic at all" about his proposal for a part-time legislature, "except they're supposed to work."
Making a conscious effort to limit the number of times he says "damn" when talking about Lansing, the new Tisch and fellow tax-cut advocate Dick Jacobs distributed petition forms for their two drives Thursday in Westland. They spoke to 75 people attracted to a Libertarian Party meeting, raising the question of whether the Libertarians would also support Tisch if he runs for governor.



NOT LIKELY, said Ben Bachrach, Libertarian state secretary.
"We would encourage our members to work to put the proposals on the ballot. He's for limited government. He's moving in the right direction," said Bachrach. "But he's not a Libertarian."

The Libertarians are to convene in May to nominate their gubernatorial candidate while Democrats, as a party, would nominate at the polls in August. Thus, he said, if Tisch lost the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, it apparently would be impossible for him to turn to the Libertarians for a nomination.
Libertarians are fond of quoting Thomas Jefferson. They sound like conservative Republicans when talking economics and like liberal Democrats when talking civil rights.

EARLIER LAST week, Tisch told a reporter almost exactly he would run for the Democratic nomination for governor.
"I made that announcement because I thought Congressman (James) Blanchard would become a pawn of you-know-what," he said Thursday.
Tisch, whose two tax-cut proposals have been defeated and who almost lost his 1980 re-election bid as Shawnee County drain commissioner, said he's looking for a top economist to be his running mate.
"The lieutenant governor can be the director of the department of commerce, asking and seeking employers to come to Michigan, including tourism. In Indiana it works awfully well,"

'We have a career Legislature who tells us how damn wonderful they are and how they would get better if we paid 'em more, and they don't get better, they get worse.'
— Robert Tisch

he said, adding:
"Let's get a lieutenant governor who's a salesman — not one who just looks pretty on television."
The latest Tisch proposal grew out of the state Republican and Democratic leadership's Proposal A, which voters on May 19 rejected by a 70-30 margin. Tisch and Jacobs had opposed it because it called for a sales tax increase to partly offset a property tax cut.
UNDER TISCH III, if it gets on the 1982 ballot and is approved by voters, the Michigan Constitution would be amended to:
• Require the Michigan Legislature to get its job done in 90 working days, or by the third week in May, rather

than allowing it to meet all year. "They used to get the budget passed by April." They could meet longer only at their own expense.
• Allow legislators to return to their private jobs at session's end by giving their employers five days notice. "It would be like service in the National Guard," said Tisch, responding to criticism that only the well-to-do could afford to be state legislators.
• Pay legislators \$100 a day "only for the days they show up. We've been up there and seen only 30 or 40 of the 110 (representatives) on the floor conducting business." If they show up 80 percent of the time, they'd get \$90 a week for the rest of the year. "Top possible pay: \$14,400, or \$2,000 more than the U.S. average."
• Permit the governor to reconvene the legislature for an extraordinary session of up to 30 days. Lawmaking would be limited to the purposes for which the session was convened.
• Cut 40 percent of legislators' operating expenses. He put the legislature's own operating cost at \$165,000 per representative and \$350,000 per senator. Tisch cited radio tapes, TV film clips and newspaper columns which legislators send to their local media. "We have a career legislature who tells us how damn wonderful they are and how they would get better if we paid 'em more, and they don't get better, they get worse."
• Prohibit former state officials from serving on the State Officers Compensation Commission and limit top officials' pay hikes to 7 percent a year.
Under coaching by public relations



'There's nothing in the constitution that says the state must fund social services, but it must fund education.'
— Dick Jacobs

man Bill McMaster, Tisch has sought to limit himself to 12 "damns" when talking about Lansing and actually used 10.
JACOBS, A soft-spoken manufacturer representative from Grand Blanc, was executive director of the Tisch II tax cut plan in 1980.
His tax cut plan would reduce revenues by \$1.2 billion to "those devils in Lansing" — an 11 percent cut from a \$10 billion state budget — and would protect spending on education at the expense of social services.
Eliminated entirely would be the sin-

gle business tax, which in the mid-1970s replaced seven business taxes, including the corporate income tax, financial institutions income tax, corporate franchise fee and personal property (machinery) tax.
Jacobs' plan would roll back the personal income tax rate from 4.6 to 4 percent, a reduction of 15 percent, and raise exemptions.
AN UNUSUAL feature of the Jacobs plan, compared to the Headlee and Tisch plans, is that it would limit growth of such government fees as tuition, licenses and user fees.

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