

Roelofs: OCC's man of many talents

A RESOLUTION of the Michigan Senate, concurred in by the House, says it all about the man who is to retire June 30 as president of Oakland Community College. The text:

"The greatest use of a life is to spend it for something That will outlast it."

— William James

Whereas, it is a distinct privilege to join the many admirers of Robert F. Roelofs in honoring him for his distinguished service as president of Oakland Community College. This very gifted gentleman has served in the presidency of OCC since 1978. As he concludes his responsibilities in this challenging, yet very rewarding, position, let us offer him the highest tribute for his extraordinary leadership.

Whereas, the indomitable Robert Roelofs has contributed greatly to the quality of life in our society. A man of many talents, he received his bachelor's degree in commerce and finance from Pennsylvania State University and two master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, one in metallurgical engineering and another in economics.

Whereas, Mr. Roelofs has earned great respect for his dynamic achievements in the steel industry. He rose to the presidency and served as chief executive officer of

Great Lakes Steel and later assumed the vice presidency of the National Steel Corp. He subsequently became executive vice president of Empire-Detroit Steel Corp. prior to his outstanding service as president of Macomb Community College.

WHEREAS, his dedication to people, his business acumen, his efforts to ensure educational excellence and his community service are standards of accomplishments we would all do well to emulate.

Mr. Roelofs has excelled as a member of the boards of approximately 20 public and private institutions. He also has chaired the Michigan Community College Presidents' Task Force for Long-Range State Funding Formula Development and the Southeastern Michigan League of Community Colleges.

Moreover, he has taught in the fields of metallurgical engineering and cost control, and he has served as a resource person in the University of Michigan higher education administration graduate program.

He also holds a patent covering certain techniques in the continuous casting of molten steel. Indeed, his contributions and achievements in the steel industry, in education, and in community leadership have been outstanding in every way. May he know how greatly we value him. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) that the highest tribute be accorded to Mr. Robert F. Roelofs in gratitude for his exemplary service as president of Oakland Community College; and be it further

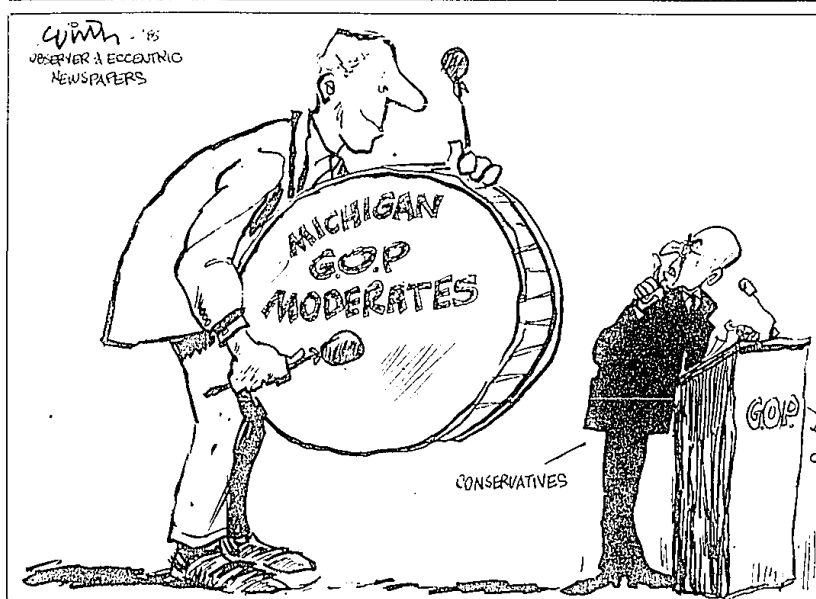
Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to him and his wife, Mary Jane, as a reflection of our esteem.

We concur.

— Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



Roelofs



GOP moderates still alive

TO HEAR conservatives talk about it, the nation is swinging into right field. The government-hating politics of Ronald Reagan and U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp are attracting majority support, they say, and the middle of the road doesn't exist.

When Spence Abraham, Michigan Republican state chairman, does his polling, he makes folks classify themselves as "conservatives" or "liberals." His data has no place for "moderates."

It's odd to hear that kind of talk in Michigan. A history professor acquaintance of mine used to say that you can't understand Michigan politics unless you grasp the fact that there always have been two Republican parties — moderate and conservative.

Michigan Republicans have been in the moderate camp most decades, as when they nominated Hazen Pingree, Chase Osborn, George Romney and William Milliken for governor and supported Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and George Bush for presidential nominations.

THERE WAS, to be sure, a predominance of conservative rhetoric at the GOP's leadership conference last weekend in Grand Rapids. But in April there was a different kind of conference when the moderates met at Bay City.

Who's in these groups? In the conservative camp are Abraham: Richard Headlee, the 1982 gubernatorial standard bearer; John Engler, state Sen-



Tim Richard

ate majority leader; and most of the local state senators — Bob Geake of Northville, Rick Fessler of West Bloomfield, Rudy Nichols of Waterford and Doug Cruce of Troy.

In the moderate camp are Congressmen Carl Pursell of Plymouth and Paul Henry of Grand Rapids, state Sen. Harry DeMaso of Battle Creek and a fairly new batch of suburban state representatives — Lynn Banks of Livonia, David Honigman of West Bloomfield, Shirley Johnson of Royal Oak and Judith Miller of Birmingham.

WHAT ARE their philosophies? At the risk of oversimplifying, I would say: Conservatives see government as an enemy. "Get government off our backs and out of our pockets."

Moderates see government as a positive tool of economic progress. See Alexander Hamilton's "Report on the Manufactures."

Liberals see government as the regulator of private greed and as the successor to church and family in taking care of the

needy. In liberal conversation, "corporation" is a dirty word.

HOW CAN YOU tell them apart in Michigan?

• Balanced budget amendment: Conservatives back it by way of a federal constitutional amendment. Moderates abhor the con-con.

• State tax hike of '83: Conservatives opposed any increase. Moderates saw the need but would have preferred a smaller hike for a shorter period. (The question never came to a roll call vote.)

• Equal Rights Amendment: Conservatives shun it. Moderates favor it, just as moderate Gov. Chase S. Osborn was for the women's vote back in 1910.

• Urban sprawl: Conservatives never use the word and support Michigan Townships Association bills. Moderates want to preserve cities, sometimes including Detroit.

• Death penalty: Conservatives favor it enthusiastically. Moderates will either waffle or oppose it.

Rarely will you find a Michigan Republican politician in either camp 100 percent. But most have one tendency or the other.

The point is that moderates have been flourishing in Michigan Republicanism for the better part of a century. If conservatives think the moderates have evaporated, they have another thought coming.

from our readers

Drivers need to be polite

To the editor:

How many times have the people on Farmington Road between 12 and 13 Mile roads wished for a good road? Hub caps missing, many chuck holes, the noise — ugh — and the bumpy road.

At times I feel that many of you people who travel Farmington Road, or any other road for that matter, could care less for the men and women workers who are trying to give you a nice place to drive. You ignore the signs, and barricades and the flag persons even the big machines and trucks that are working till dark every day they can. Rain sure stops a lot of road construction.

At times as we watch you with little cars or big, worm your way down, I've wondered why they don't "tar" your car, maybe even you.

I'll bet you don't live on this particular street or road. If you did, you might be more considerate if you'd have to walk your groceries home or park away from your drives. What does it take to make some of you grow up and be more considerate of others? Talk about kids.

Margaret See
Farmington Hills

Leadership is necessary

To the editor:

Thank you! Thank you! for hitting the bullseye in your May 30, 1985 article "Case Histories Outline Real Problem."

Our organization, Children of Alcoholic Parents, is almost three years old and we are still Michigan's first, comprehensive program of its kind. Michigan-CAPS provides therapy; education and support to adult men and women who grew up in alcoholic families.

When we began this program we wrote letters to community area groups pleading with them to take an honest look at their own "recreational" alcohol/drug use

as they organized alcohol awareness groups on behalf of their kids. We offered to speak with them about our own experiences growing up in substance abusing families.

We wanted to tell them that there are over 28 million children of alcoholics in our nation right now, and that 80 percent of them will become chemically dependent or marry someone who is. We wanted them to know that their kids, our kids, need leadership that starts with first things first. You guessed it — no response. Hopefully, many of these parents read your words and know you were speaking directly to them.

It may also interest you to know that during these same three years, Lynne Kingsbury and I have tried repeatedly to encourage the Eccentric to do an article about CAPS. Here we are in Oakland County providing services to people from as far away as Lansing, Saginaw, Marine City, let alone the tri-county area, and again we are met with silence.

I was just about to conclude that most people probably wish we would keep our mouths shut and then I read your words. I feel that I have found a friend. Please keep talking. I hear you.

Judith Norwood, ACSW
Royal Oak

discover Michigan

THE STATE constitution requires all officers — legislative, executive and judicial — to take an oath of office before taking office. The oath, according to the constitution, should say simply:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of this state, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office according to the best of my ability."

"No other oath, affirmation or any religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust," the constitution says.

Part-time legislature is here

IN ADDITION to hustling petitions for the death penalty, Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson has taken to the stump to promote a part-time Legislature.

State Rep. Tom Power, R-Traverse City, and other outside legislators have started a petition drive to put a part-time legislative proposal on the ballot. Needing 376,000 signatures, they think they can make it by the November 1988 election. Patterson, eloquent as usual, spoke to the Livonia Chamber of Commerce recently to promote the idea. Patterson suggested that there are now too many people in the Legislature who don't know enough about business and about people and too many lawyers.

The prosecutor thinks that part-time legislators should spend more time with "the people" back home and less time with other legislators.

AGREEING with the prosecutor is not always easy, but this time we disagree more on the fine points of his argument.

The part-time legislature is already here, even though Michigan is listed as one of five in the country which has a full-time legislature.

Our Legislature takes breaks all year long. Lawmakers start work late in January, break for Easter and break for the



Bob Wisler

summer. This year's break will start in a few days and run until Sept. 10 — not bad for a full-time body. The lawmakers also have Christmas breaks and Mackinac Island conference breaks.

In an election year — every other year for state representatives — the lawmakers break to campaign for re-election to their full-time jobs. That means the summer break extends until November. Their full-time jobs, by the way, pay \$33,000 a year, highest rate in the country.

SOME WILL tell you that lawmakers need to have long and frequent breaks in order to spend time among constituents back home, learning what their problems are and attempting to help them.

Foey. If you see a legislator back in the home district, it is at a picnic or barbeque, and he is walking around introducing himself to those he hasn't already met and making sure that his tax-paid informational literature is delivered to the right mail box.

After all, the real business of the Legislature isn't solving problems but getting re-elected.

Patterson is on target in saying that if you have a Legislature which is titled "part-time" with reduced part-time pay, the members thereof will worry less about being re-elected. They won't mind losing a \$16,000-a-year part-time salary so they will spend their time getting things done rather than politicking and socializing.

THERE ARE pitfalls even there, however. With people paid part-time wages, you will get more rather than fewer lawyers (they will be looking in Lansing for clients), business owners who can afford to be away from their primary job and employees whose companies and agencies like to have a say in deciding how state government is run.

Worse yet, you might get people who will be part-time legislators at full-time pay. Any state Legislature worth its salt knows how to create a compensation commission which will be glad to boost a part-time legislator's salary into full-time pay, even though the supposed amount of hours spent on the job are greatly reduced.

If you want to know how that works, look at the Wayne County Commission.