GOP hopefuls split on tax abatements

staff witter

The four Republicans running for governor are sharply split over whether Michigan should continue to give properly tax breaks to new business construction.

Businessman Richard Chrysler likes them. His Cars & Concepts leadquarters in rural Livingston County benefitted from one.

Stafe Rep. Colleen Engler supports much of a reform bill favored by city officials.

Oakland County Executive Danlet.

Murphy said "we wouldn't need 'em at all' if the state were competitive.

Wayne County Executive William Liteas sees abstements as harmful and would like a drastic modification.

CITIES AND townships may grant property tax abatements of 50 per-cent for 12 years to lure new busi-

old city of Pontiac for using an abatement to win a new standum that would lure away a major sports than trior Pontiac's Silverdorne.

CHRYSLER WAS asked about abatements in a televised debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

"Abatements don't cost the tax payers any money at all," said the 3-year-old businessman, ite said his company was paying \$12,000 a year in taxes on a vacant parcel when the Green Oak Township board awarded him an abatement in November 1981 1996 we will have paid \$120,000 in taxes for the headquars was a supplied to the force of the said his company was paying \$12,000 a year in taxes on a vacant parcel when the Green Oak Township board awarded 1981 1996 we will have paid \$120,000 in taxes for the headquars was a supplied to the said his company was beld at the Henry Ford Fairlane Estate on the University of Michigan-Dearborn Campus.

"Will Gov. James J. Blanchard when the Green Oak Township board awarded the Henry Ford Fairlane Estate on the University of Michigan-Dearborn Campus.

"Will Gov. James J. Blanchard would go don't be given \$100,000 to Michigan Postor to Saist a cleanup Youth Corps to assist a cleanup Youth Corps to assist



Engler





ters building, and it added 179 new jobs to the economy," he said. His rivals in the Aug. 5 primary had no chance to answer and were interviewed separately by this news-

interviewed separately by this newspaper.
ENGLER, A fourth-term state representative from Mount Pleasant, favored allowing older cities to use abatements for redevelopment.
But as for limiting them to industrial projects, Engler, 34, said, "No—hamburger stands are needed in inner cities, too."
Murphy, 62, said he wouldn't limit abatements—"I'd do away with them completely.
"We need to reform workers comp, unemployment comp, liability insurance and some of those things. If we could get competitive, we wouldn't need 'em at all."
LUCAS DISPUTED Chrysler's contention that abatements cost nothing.

"I have watched abatements have an effect on county revenue, con-trary to what has been said," replied Lucas, 59, a three-term sheriff and one-term Wayne County executive. "The county has no say in (grant-ice) it.

"The county has no say in (granting) it.
"I have no problem with granting night.
"I have no problem with granting night controlled." He objects to plants getting a 12-year abatement and moving out in the 18th year.

In Lucas' thinking, a firm given abatement would pay its full tax bill, but the governmental agency would hold the abatement portion in escrew. If the firm stayed in Michigan, the escrow account would be gradually repaid.

But a firm that moved out would forfeit the abatement. Lucas would not otherwise restrict a firm from moving, as suggested by some Democratic lawmakers.

norm for 12 years to lure new businesses. Many delegates to the Southeast Michigan Couneil of Governments only expressions of the Michigan Council of Michigan Council of

en will be employed by the Youth Corps to clear logs and other debris from the banks of the Rouge River in Wayne County this summer," said Youth Corps spokesman Kelley Davis.

"Earlier this year," Roberts said, "Ford contributed \$50,000 to Friends of the Rouge, a private, non-profit group dedicated to restoration of the river. Ford Division volunteers from the Renaissance Center office staff participated in a cleanup project on July 8.

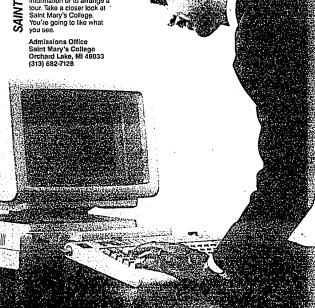
"Rouge Rescue '86 is one of three cleanup projects undertaken by Ford this year."



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