

A blueprint for Dukakis in '88?

ATLANTA — Send Mike Dukakis to the blue-collar suburbs of Sterling Heights and Taylor. Send running mate Lloyd Bentsen to the Detroit Economic Club and Grand Rapids.

That's the advice key suburban delegates to the Democratic national convention would give their presidential and vice-presidential candidates as they ended their four-day gathering on notes of euphoria.

"I would send Dukakis to suburbia — the working class. Not Birmingham. Sterling Heights, Dearborn Heights, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Southgate," said Morley Winograd, at-large delegate from Troy.

THE FORMER Democratic state chairman, interviewed on a bouncing bus along I-75 coming back from the Omni Center, said the 1988 presidential campaign may look like Gov. James Blanchard's first victory in 1982. "The turf was all in Macomb County and suburbia," said Winograd, now in marketing with AT&T.

As for Sen. Bentsen, the millionaire insurance man from Texas, Winograd said, "I don't know how much we'll see of him. He's a very powerful, well-connected individual."

Winograd would have Bentsen speak at the Detroit Economic Club, Grand Rapids and parts of the 4th Congressional District in southwestern Michigan.

UNTIL 1980, areas like Birmingham and Livonia got much attention from national ticket candidates. But in 1984 President Reagan opened his re-election campaign with a Labor Day picnic in Allen Park and slashed into the Democrat's traditional blue-collar base.

convention notebook

Tim Richard

Democrats now want them back, emphasizing Sousa marches in their music and red-white-blue colors in their hall decorations. Colors like green and orange were hard to find.

"The average Democrat," said Patricia Hough of Westland, "is a working man in this country. Or used to be. And should be."

A Jackson alternate from the 15th Congressional District, Hough wants to mend Democratic fences in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Jackson. She is first vice president of a UAW local serving 22,000 state employees.

Louis L. Miller, a Jackson delegate from the 18th Congressional District, would run Bentsen "out-state more than in the urban areas. Maybe Oakland County, too," said the Farmington Hills businessman.

Although many Jackson delegates shouted "no" when Bentsen was nominated by acclamation, without a roll call, Miller said Dukakis' selection of the Texan "shows sensitivity to the farm issue because of the drought. Bentsen, being from a farm state, can be beneficial."

rated Dukakis' acceptance speech "A-plus. He said all the right things." Who said he (Dukakis) can't give a good speech?" said Joel Ferguson, an East Lansing developer and chairman of the Jackson forces in Michigan. Dukakis has a reputation as a calculating, managerial type lacking charisma, but Ferguson found the speech "first class."

"He has a delivery all his own," said John Dewan, UAW official from Madison Heights and Dukakis delegate in the 17th Congressional District.

"Dukakis will sell in Warren and Sterling Heights," he said. But as party man at his third national convention, Dewan said many voters will be impelled to "vote against what he have now."

He thought Bentsen would do well in Oakland and western Wayne counties.

DEMOCRATS, WHO joke about their own lateness, were exactly on time according to the minute-by-minute published script, which had Dukakis coming on at 10:09 p.m. and finishing a few minutes into the 11 o'clock news.

Emphasizing the origins of his Greek immigrant parents, the Massachusetts governor and lawyer said, "We're going to win because we are the party that ground, no expanse of ocean, no barrier of language, no distinction of race or creed or color can weaken its hold on the human heart."

"I know because I am a product of that dream."

Striving for inspiration rather than specifics, Dukakis said, "As president, I'm going to be setting goals for our country, not goals for our government working alone; I mean goals for our people working together."

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