

Full Adult Rights At 18 Urged By GOP

By TIM RICHARD
In a big pitch to youth, Michigan Republicans have endorsed 18 as the full age of majority—for everything—and will alter the party structure toward young voters.

Acting by voice vote, the GOP state convention in Detroit last weekend:

• Recommended "that the age of majority be lowered to 18 years so that persons of this age will be legally accorded all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of adulthood."

• Endorsed the 18-year-old vote in state and local elections (it's already permitted in federal elections).

• Heard re-elected State Chairman William F. McLaughlin, of Northville, ask party leaders to create the position "of third vice chairman — a vice chairmanship that would specifically be limited by age."

• Got McLaughlin's recommendation that local party organizations create similar positions.

• Elected a 20-year-old Macomb Community College

student, J. Edward Wyznski Jr., to the policy-making Republican State Central Committee as one of four members from the 12th Congressional District.

THE FULL import of endorsing 18 as the age of majority escaped many persons. Ch. 7 erroneously reported, for example, that it meant an 18-year voting and drinking age, and the usually precise Detroit News goofed by confining its report to the voting age.

Actually, the GOP convention was urging Michigan to take the same step England took a couple of years ago by conferring full adult legal powers on 18-year-olds.

Cancer

The disease of cancer, said the first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica 200 years ago, is thought to be named after the "crab fish" because "where it has once got, it is scarce possible to drive it away."

This would include financial responsibility for major contracts and debts, property (including auto) ownership, full freedom to marry, freedom to take adult jobs, power to make wills and the like.

MEANWHILE, Gov. William Milliken told Observer Newspapers he expects his Special Commission on the Age of Majority to report in "about two weeks."

Milliken appointed the nine-member commission last fall to review all state laws and regulations setting forth age limitations on rights and responsibilities.

The governor's mandate was particularly sweeping because of piecemeal efforts in Congress and the Legislature to lower legal ages.

The commission had been scheduled to report at the end of January, according to one member, but its work was slowed by last fall's election campaign.

While its recommendation is still unknown, the commission is expected to propose 18 as the full age of majority.



SEN. ROBERT GRIFFIN (left), who must campaign for re-election in 1972, will be the prime beneficiary of the work to be done by these three leaders of the Michigan Republican Party (from left): Second Vice Chairman Ed Bivens of Inkster, First Vice Chairman Mildred Donnell of Macomb County, and State Chairman William F. McLaughlin of Northville. (Observer photo)

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