

Headlee elated with results of governor's race

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Richard Headlee predicts that John Engler will use his "intense rural ethics" in performing his job as governor.

Rumors have floated since Engler's election Nov. 6 that his friend Headlee might be considered for a key post in the new administration.

But the CEO and president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance said that he will not accept a position in the Engler administration if it is offered.

What Headlee is willing to accept is a voluntary position as a citizen on a commission, the formation of which is under discussion, that would watch how the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment is being implemented.

"John (Engler) is thinking about establishing a research group," Headlee said. "It (the Headlee amendment) hasn't been used the way it's supposed to be."

And there are lawsuits in the Michigan Court of Appeals to prove that, he said.

Engler's high-priority items will be jobs, and studying which laws

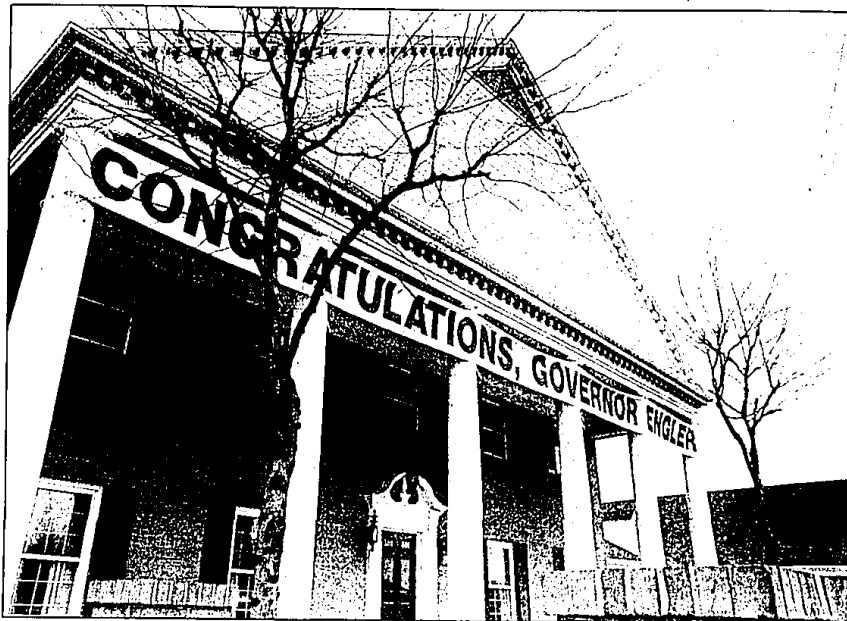
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— Richard Headlee

have been faulty and have created a financial shortfall to schools, Headlee said.

ENGLER AND Headlee, a former unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate, are close friends. Headlee grew up in Rosebush, north of Mt. Pleasant, and Engler lived in nearby Beal City.

"I got Engler running in the first place," Headlee said. "He's never had his head turned by fame and fortune. I think people will really be pleased with the human element of this man. He's the kind of man I'd give my wallet to. I've watched him all the way."



Richard Headlee, chairman and president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, is elated with John Engler's

election Nov. 6 as governor of Michigan, as the sign on his Farmington Hills office building shows.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer



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