U.S. rep brings Lithuanian president to county

One of the world's newest heads of state was in Oakland County Tressay as the Southfield Optimist Club played host to one of the world's newest heads of state, a person who could be considered to be one of the greatest optimists of our time.

Lithuanian President Vytautus

Landsbergis, who left his life as a muste professor to lead the fight for freedom against the Soviet Union, visited Southfield and the Detroit area as the special guest of U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Landsbergis played a phytola role in the revoit of Lithuania and the other Baltie states of Latvia and Es-

of the new independent parliament by the country's 3.7-million people. Despite the successful flight for in-dependence, Landshergis told those attending the breakfast meeting that his nation and people face many challenges even greater than antic-pated food and energy shortages this winter. "The troops of the Soviet army are attll here in our nation and we have

arely complete and guarantee volumers are freedom."

LEVIN AND LANDSBERGIS first met in September during a Congressional fact-finding mission to the Battle states, and the new president had a chance to help Levin celebrate the congressman's birthday.

"When I learned of Mr. Landsbergis visit I was anxious to return the hospitality and have him visit this area," said Levin, who is pushing legislation to make it easier for American companies to do business with Eastern European countries.
"The president wanted to see typical American clittenry in action so to and behold we melded one of the great optimists of the world with the Southfield Optimist Club."

During a question-and-answer session with the audience, Landsbergis asid his government is doing all it can to prevent a wave of anti-semi-tic activities in the 'region from reaching Lithuania.

Landsbergis said the new government already has embraced its Jewish population and has helped re-establish important religious and cultural centers in the country.

"It has not been a problem so far, and we are doing everything we can operate it from occurring,"
Landsbergis said, including taking the somewhat unopoular stand of infringing on freedom of expression by fringing on freedom of expression by making it illegal to distribute anti-semitic literature.

THE METRO-DETROIT area already has one connection with ince-pendent Lithuania, and local Optim-

Vic Nakas, a former Birmingham resident, is an assistant to Landsbergls and has been assigned to the new Lithuanian embasy in Washington as an information officer. Nakas

In addition, the Southfield Optimists gained the pledge of assistance by Landsbergis to help establish an Optimist Club in Lithuania.

Optimist Club in Lithogana.

"There is a strong Eastern Egropean influence in this area—with
many people still speaking the instive languages," Levin said at the
end of the program. "This is a great
time, and there are great opportunities to help these fledgling democracies."

Reps back move to keep drug money for schools

staff wiltor

Many Republican lawmakers
joined state House Democrats in
saking Gov. John Engler to back
away from his effort to give 812 million in federal sid to his drug crar,
Bob Peterson, and take it away from
the state Department of Education.
The House of Representatives last
Thurday gave 78-27 support to a
resolution by Rep. William Reith, D.
Garden City, that "respectfully"
sake Rogler to hat the figh.
"They (Engler's staff) made a mistake," said Rep. Susan Munsell, RHowell, backing Keith's resolution.
Supporting it were Republicans
Lyn Bankes of Livonia, Barbara
Goss of Northville, Tom Middicton
of Ortonville and Gordon Sparks of
Troy, along with all area Democrats.
Opposed were Republicans Jan
Dolan of Farmington Hills and John
Jannian of Bloomfield Township.
KETHI SAID Engler's executive

KEITH SAID Engler's executive

school motely from the state Department of Education and give it to the drug caar.

"When Congress passed it in 1986, it was heavily debated whether the money should go through governors or schools. It's ironic that (Massachusetts Democratic Gov, Michael) Dukakis fought the hardest for the money to go the governors.

"Congress wanted it to go to the classrooms to teach children what would happen if they used drugs. It's pointed out it 8 specific times that 30 percent went to the governors and 70 percent to the state educational agencies to distribute to local school districts.

agencies to distribute to local school districts.
"The state has distributed it through the Michigan Model (for Comprehensive Health Education). Some 525 of 56 (public) school districts and 144 private schools have chosen the Michigan Model for doing away with drug use," Ketth said.

TO PETERSON'S charge that schools are misusing drug funds to teach kids to brush their teeth, Ketth

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signer will perform to aid the hearing imp

replied, "Youngsters should know that drug use leads to the deteriora-tion of teeth and gums." Keith said Engler's compromise plan to set up a drug board with three members of the State Board of Education would "subordinate" the

state board.

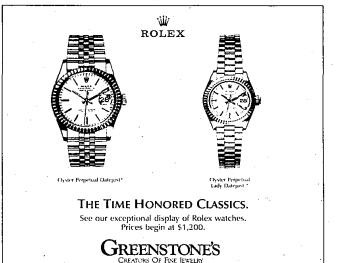
Arguing for Engler's position, Rep. John Strand, R-Lapeer, said, "The drug czar is merely serving as an agent for the funds. This is not a pro- or anti-Michigan Model votc. hey (schools) will get their share."

Don Sweeney, director of the michigan Model program in the Department of Education, said the health program was chosen as the vehicle for school anti-drug programs.

grams.

"We have done an analysis, and 74 percent of the material included in health education is aimed at keeping kids from abusing drugs or alcohol,"

Sweeney said.
The Associated Press contributed to this story.



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