

Governor's optimism rules at GOP banquet

By TIM RICHARD

Ask a Republican if he's worried about the Watergate fallout, and he'll say "sure."

But the party itself seems buoyant, at least in the 15th Congressional District in western Wayne County.

(That was prior to Monday's Democratic victory in Michigan's 5th Congressional District, a GOP stronghold under now Vice President Gerald Ford.)

Last weekend's Lincoln Day dinner brought out a record 350 ticket buyers to the Hilton Inn overlooking Metro Airport — "the largest we've had in 10 years," said Chairman Ernest Packler.

It was even more impressive because this year's dinner price was \$15, up 50 per cent.

A reason, Packler said, was that "we've got the most popular guy in the state as our speaker."

Gov. William Milliken, expected to announce for another term soon.

There were other good signs for the GOP. There were many new faces in the under-40 age bracket, and there were many black faces.

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And the program listed a healthy 36 members in the "Century Club" — donors of \$100 or more.

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