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BOOTH NEWSPAPERS INC.

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LANSING, MICHIGAN

LANSING NEWS BUREAU

1. Busing is the most emotional issue in Michigan. Court decisions produced busing in Kalamazoo and Pontiac; busing plans for Grand Rapids and Detroit are now being considered in court. What is your exact position on forced busing? Do you believe Congress can or should call a halt to court actions as the President asked? Is there another way to achieve the long-range goal?
2. Question of education reform tied in with property tax reform is a big issue in Michigan. Petition drives are underway to change the tax system. Do you favor the states and the federal government taking over more support of public school financing? How great a part should each play in the financing?
3. Does it make any sense for presidential candidates to talk about local property taxes which are set and administered by local government?
4. The President has said he is looking for a constitutional way to give nonpublic schools financial aid, despite recent court decisions against varying kinds of "parochial aid." Do you favor increased government aid to private schools. If so, how and why?
5. What kind of federal revenue-sharing program with the states do you support now? What would you propose as president?

6. What plans do you have for new housing opportunities for the poor, the blacks and others who need assistance?
7. What is full employment and can it be achieved? How far should federal government go and what should it do?
8. Would you reform the existing welfare system and if so, how? Is guaranteed minimum income the answer?
9. Michigan is committed to controlling water pollution but its own regulations don't always jibe with federal actions and policies--sometimes the state wants to be stricter. Should there be regional rules? Enforced uniformity? Or federal minimums with states allowed to set higher standards?
10. Some choices boil down to more jobs or less pollution in the Great Lakes area. How strongly do you feel about preserving the environment when it's a steel mill versus a river, or auto sales versus emission control?
11. What would you do to halt inflation? To restore health to foreign trade and the dollar abroad?
12. If you were president and there were another Pentagon papers affair or another My Lai would you stand for quick disclosure of the facts to the public?
13. If you were limited to one, what would be the greatest achievement you would attempt as president?

1. I am opposed to massive busing to achieve racial balance based on a mathematical formula. Busing can only be justified where it will advance the quality of education of those children bused. There is no parent white or black who wants his or her child to attend a school with inferior educational standards. The President's recently announced education and busing plan contains insufficient funds to aid our children and his proposed moratorium is insensitive to the laws and Constitution of this nation.

What we need is a major program of federal assistance to our schools to make equal opportunity for participation in educational excellence a reality for all of our children.

2. I want to lift the property tax burden from the Michigan homeowner. I have sponsored the Tax Reform Act of 1972 which would cut local property taxes in Michigan by at least 30 to 40 percent by closing billions of dollars of tax loopholes.

We cannot continue with an educational system that denies some children a chance for a good education. In order to improve all of our schools the federal government should finance at least one-third of education costs so that all of our schools and neighborhoods are immediately upgraded.

We must place these billions in a special educational trust fund out of the reach of those who ^{would} / deprive our children of better education .

We must also target our funds to impoverished areas and provide special programs to help educationally deprived students. Finally, we must equalize spending among school districts because only through equal funding is there any hope for equal opportunity for our children.

3. Yes, it does. Presidential candidates must be concerned about seeking solutions for working families burdened by property taxes. There are solutions to this problem. In answering the second question, I have outlined my specific proposal which would return \$690 million to the state of Michigan for property tax relief.

4. Private and parochial schools in America face a serious financial crisis. When non-public schools are in trouble all schools in America share in these hardships. The closing of one private or parochial school places additional burdens on the already overburdened public school system.

The continued closing of non-public schools places an extraordinary financial burden on local school districts where property tax rates for education have already reached the saturation point.

I favor the creation of a system where parents would be able to receive a tax credit when their children attend approved private schools. A system of tax credits for tuition, books, fees and supplies would provide substantial financial relief for millions of American families within the proper bounds of the Constitution.

There are other creative and constructive methods of assistance in the secular areas of private and parochial education.

Along with public schools, these schools need improved testing and counseling and better health services. They need good textbooks and instructional materials on secular subjects. And the children attending these schools deserve daily nutritious meals and safe transportation services. All of our schools require the latest scientific equipment of non-discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin.

5. First, let me say I support revenue sharing wholeheartedly, and I refuse to let partisanship stand in the way of enacting revenue sharing. We must enact revenue sharing in this session of Congress to give aid to our financially pressed cities.

I would hope that the revenue sharing Bill in its final form would include substantial amounts of money, between \$5 billion and \$10 billion a year as a minimum. This money should be allocated on the basis of need of our cities. The legislation should include strong anti-discrimination provisions. And finally, the categories for expenditures must be expanded to include health, human resources, and general government management.

6. I have proposed that we adopt a No Downpayment Home Buyer's Bill of Rights. This Bill would require the Federal Housing Authority and the Veterans Administration to guarantee 100 percent of the mortgage for those who qualify for VA and FHA assistance.

This Bill of Rights would set up a Home Buyer's Small Loan Fund to make available to people earning less than \$20,000 downpayment funds at low interest rates. It would also protect prospective buyers from "home sharks" and

unexpected last minute cash charges.

I have proposed a Homebuyers and Renters Consumer Protection Agency to protect homebuyers and renters so that they can easily find reputable realtors, builders, plumbers and other craftsmen.

In addition, I am for open housing and non-discriminatory housing laws, housing allowance programs for those who qualify, and for the legal protection of the homeowner.

7. Full employment exists when all those seeking jobs have jobs. This is not the case today. The Nixon administration in 1969 began a deliberate policy of using the jobs of American workers to fight inflation. That policy failed. The only thing that it produced was 5.5 million unemployed people.

Today, this nation not only faces massive unemployment, but it also faces serious underemployment. The Federal government can and must do something about these problems. I have sponsored the Employment Opportunities Act of 1972 to provide one million jobs. Government can be the employer of first opportunity as well as last resort. This will take people off the unemployment rolls and put them on payrolls.

The return in tax dollars, the stimulation of consumer spending, the expansion that will come about in industrial production -- all of these would result from the Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

In addition, I have proposed a program of 250,000 jobs for young Americans. For those in job training we need expanded training opportunities that lead to actual job slots, not more and extended training. I have proposed a top to bottom reform in unemployment compensation to extend benefits, to increase weekly and minimum benefits, to provide Federal standards and expand coverage.

Special emphasis job programs are needed for Vietnam veterans. We also need special programs for defense related skilled personnel presently unemployed and for the elderly forced out of jobs through early retirement.

8. I believe the federal government should assume administration of the welfare system. And I think welfare reform should accomplish seven goals.

We must end hunger. We must treat recipients fairly and provide coverage for all the needy. We must maintain and strengthen the family unit by providing day care centers,

expanding job training and public service employment at a fair minimum wage. We must simplify the red tape accompanying welfare administration. We must guarantee that no recipient receives less under the reformed system than he does under the present system. We must make the new system as fair to middle and moderate income taxpayers as it is to the recipient. We must guard against any fraud and deception. And we must provide an opportunity to work for those who can work. We must recognize that welfare is a national problem demanding national answers and the commitment of national resources.

9. The Federal government should set strong minimum standards for all pollution control. But in every case in which state standards are stronger than Federal standards, the state standards should prevail.

The Nixon administration has attempted to weaken what ^{is} I believe/a strong and progressive water control bill. I believe that the goals in that bill are realistic and can be achieved.

In order to combat further the great problem of water pollution I have introduced the River Basin Waste Treatment Authorities Act. This legislation would establish river and lake basin-wide pollution control authorities so that whole lakes and rivers may be treated as one entity rather than the piecemeal approach we now have.

I have also introduced the Community Coalitions for a Clean Environment Act which would begin a grass roots effort in our neighborhoods and communities to fight pollution. This program would be financed by an environmental trust fund and Environmental Savings bonds.

10. I don't believe the choice comes down to either environmental protection or a halt in economic progress. I believe we do have the technology, the capability and the resources to have a clean environment.

What we need is to match these technological resources with the will to clean up the environment.

There are many things we can do. Tax incentives should be given to industry in order to encourage it to greatly reduce and eliminate pollution. And we must pass tough anti-pollution laws and strictly enforce them.

Coupled with this should be retraining and reorientation programs for those people with jobs which are affected by changes to eliminate pollution. Every American has a right to clean air, pure water and unravaged land. Environmental protection takes strong government enforcement and commitment from industry and consumers alike.

The choice is not pollution or progress. It is planned and controlled growth.

11. The Nixon price control system is a hoax and a fraud. If skyrocketing prices are to be controlled, we must insist upon tough enforcement. We haven't had this. Price violators must be prosecuted, fines must be levied and the American consumer must be protected.

There must be an active program of price monitoring-- in the neighborhoods, in the shopping centers and in the large supermarkets.

Price controls must be as effective and as stringent in the service areas as in the manufacturing areas.

Special attention must be focused on medical, transportation and housing services where enforcement has been lax.

To restore health in foreign trade and the dollar abroad, the government should intervene where necessary to stop the flow of investment dollars abroad. Large American companies should invest their money here to create jobs at home. Our foreign trade deficit must also be reduced if the dollar is to maintain its strength overseas.

12. I would insist upon full and complete disclosure of the facts to the public. Government secrecy in such an affair would only decrease even further public confidence in our government. We must endeavor to restore this trust. Above all, official coverups must never be permitted.

13. As President, I would hope my greatest achievement would be the realization of peace abroad and at home. We are a nation of great, unmet needs. Our goal to build a better America for all Americans can only be achieved if we are a nation united in a common understanding of what we must do together as a productive and prosperous people.

And our goals are imperiled without a world at peace. The United States has an important role in the creation of peace around this globe. As President, I would hope to play a vital part in the fashioning of responsible American leadership abroad aimed at creating peace and understanding among nations.



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