

THIS MILLIONAIRE THINKS



William G. Milliken
Governor of Michigan

**HE CAN CUT OUR PAY,
lay us off, feed us pbb,
gut public services,

and

we won't do a thing.**

**HE'S WRONG.
JOIN US!!**

***state workers
organizing committee***

for the record

William Milliken has been Michigan's governor for over a decade. Recently he dropped his veneer of liberalism to support Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign. Prior to coming out of the closet, Milliken shifted with the political breezes, getting support from both Coleman Young and the DPOA. But whatever his politics, the current state of Michigan's government is clearly Milliken's responsibility. It is time to examine the record of this millionaire governor. One way to judge his work is to look critically at the state agencies he controls:

CIVIL SERVICE: Civil Service has compiled a record of racist and sexist hiring practices that would not be tolerated in the private sector. Milliken also fought the very concept of collective bargaining for state employees from his first term. He attempted to destroy the unions employees had organized, and when their victory appeared inevitable, as in the case of the state police, he risked destroying their morale rather than deal with them in good faith. Civil Service wages have lagged far behind inflation. Still, to protect the profits of Chrysler's owners, he turned over the entire state budget. Days later he reduced ADC grants, claiming a budget deficit. Now, for the same reason, every state department is projecting layoffs.

SOCIAL SERVICES: While Milliken's friend and appointee, John Dempsey, created fictitious figures about error rates, he also managed to drive thousands of honest people off assistance. Dempsey has tried to further his own ambitions with scheme after worthless scheme. His latest ploy, the long application form, effectively denies people the right to apply for assistance. This saves money better spent by Lee Iacocca and Frank Sinatra. Dempsey's Wayne County Management Action Plan, designed to blunt worker organizing and client resistance, enriched a few contractors and furniture companies, but now stands as an unmanageable monument to bureaucratic waste and excess. The multi-million dollar NETWORK computer scam netted plenty of money for a computer company but didn't get one penny or moment of service to one client. Dempsey has misused state funds to further his friends' careers; he has bossed a department plagued with scandal after scandal. In 1977 over one million dollars were lost to "accounting errors" and never found. Michigan's economy can be expected to continue its collapse, the DSS caseload will continue to skyrocket, and the agency will collapse like a house of cards, without a major reorganization. Meanwhile, recipients can count on less money, less service, and more harassment from John Dempsey.

MENTAL HEALTH: Milliken, on one hand, presides over the state's mental institutions, little more than modern day snake pits, and attempts to blame employees for the built-in failures of those institutions. On the other hand, ever-faithful to private enterprise, he "deinstitutionalizes", driving patients out of their beds and into the streets and leaving them to the drug-dispensing owners of lucrative, but often filthy, nursing homes. If layoffs continue in this department, patient neglect will lead to the death of people in too-poor condition to be shipped to the private sector. As their bodies become unprofitable, they meet the final solution to the mental health program.

CIVIL RIGHTS: Intriguingly, the hiring practices of this "progressive" department are as racist as any other. If projected layoffs go through, it will be governed by a lily-white administration. This agency can hardly be taken seriously as a respectable fighter for human rights in Michigan, primarily because it was always denied the enforcement tools to do the job.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE: Combined, these agencies can be held responsible for the most massive case of population poisoning in the history of the country. While the DNR hounded Native Americans who exercised their treaty rights to gill-net fishing, they ignored companies poisoning lower Michigan with cancer-causing chemicals which made this beautiful state a cesspool of toxic waste. The state job development authority paid one of the biggest polluters \$21 million to clean up their own mess. Milliken's activities with the agriculture department show how far he will go to protect profits in preference to the welfare of state residents. His record in allowing the destruction of the land, the food and water supplies with PBB has even been the subject of foreign filmmakers. Will any sane person eat Bill's Beefsteak Dinner in 1981?

EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITIES: Milliken appointed George Romney, Bloomfield Hills resident and outspoken leader of the avowedly racist and sexist Mormon cult, to replace a young black woman on the Wayne State Board of Governors. The intent lying behind the short-changed funding of WSU and other urban schools is obvious. WSU's top fundraiser recently quit in view of a hopeless situation. Milliken is coolly presiding over the steady destruction of higher education in Michigan.

STATE POLICE: While Milliken toyed with the troopers well-being and morale over the collective bargaining issue, his appointee quit under a cloud related to the use of state police as political spies. This top cop was then hired by several private firms, finally picked up full-time work as chief of the Department of Social Services' internal police.

MESC: A top official here was forced out because of his unusual quid pro quo relationship with a private corporation. MESC, for the most part, cannot find people jobs which do not exist and serves as a free screening and employment agency for private firms. Milliken, in a related matter, helped push through Unemployment comp. laws which greatly restrict workers ability to build struggles on their jobs and to move to better opportunities when they might exist.

TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS: Our roads and bridges, newly constructed with our taxes, are falling to pieces. Can there be any serious doubt that shoddy materials and weak inspections are linked to political payoffs and corruption? Transportation recently poured \$40 million into a profit-making marine development project in Ontonagon. The city did not need the project and the residents, being the bottom line, didn't get the jobs.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: This little division of social services made some interesting and extensive investments in acquiring new housing ...for the citizens of Chile. How come? Another notable Milliken project was the Vietnam baby snatch. Here, in a desperate effort for positive publicity, Milliken allowed agents from DSS to travel to Vietnam, take children from their parents, and return to the US presenting the children as orphans created by the vicious Viet Cong. The parents sued and the children were quietly returned.

INSURANCE COMMISSION: Milliken attacked the legislature for exercising their duty of advise and consent and insisted on renominating Richard Hemmings for commissioner despite the loud protests of community groups. Hemmings would have joined a sizeable group of revolving door administrators who float back and forth between regulative boards and the industries they are hired to regulate.

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND: Again Milliken rammed through the appointment of a director against the expressed wishes of virtually every organization of the blind.

We believe there is a recognizable pattern here. This administration, led by the millionaire governor, holds the highest respect for corporations and furthers their private goals. In contrast, the contempt shown for poor and working people, from civil servants to social service recipients, is indicative of the worst callousness; particularly offensive since it is our unfair burden of the tax dollar which is funding our own oppression. While this may indeed be an age of limited resources, the question at hand is whose resources will be limited and why.

As the STATE WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE we plan to make change. We will organize on our jobs, in our unions and in every place where we find privilege and profits placed before the interests of working people. Our ability to make change lies in our strength, in our numbers and in the quality of our organization. Power only bends to power. We hope you will JOIN US... toward a better tomorrow. Send inquiries to SWOC, 19161 Ardmore, Detroit, Mi. 48235.