



Some thoughts on...

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

The Friends of the Gun Lake Indians (FOGLI), nearly 10,000 strong and a good number of them Allegan County residents, are endorsing the candidacy of Bob Genetski to replace Fulton Sheen as our District 88 representative in the State House of Representatives ... Genetski, a high school teacher, brings youth, vision, reality and energy to a seat that Allegan County desperately needs ... For four years, District 88 has been manipulated by forces outside Allegan County, our local problems, such as high unemployment, economic development, shrinking school state aid funding, revenue sharing and pursuing more of these alternative energy ideas that are being looked at across the state, need to be pursued ... Supporting the efforts of one candidate makes sense, considering the fact that all of the anti-casino voters who are not concerned with our situation here in Allegan County, can plunk their voters down for Todd Boorsma since he is the only anti-Gun Lake tribe candidate on the ballot ... Genetski is a realist ... He acknowledges the casino is going to be constructed and he is aware it could open without the blessings of the State of Michigan and he wants the state to share in the revenue the casino will generate ... Unlike Boorsma who will go to Lansing to fight tribal Indian rights at every turn, Genetski will champion what is good and proper for Allegan County ... The tragedy in this situation is the high quality of candidates in the District 88 field ... They are all qualified—but, only one can be elected ... There is no other way to keep our district out of the hands of the Grand Rapids-dominated groups who are fighting to keep a casino out of Allegan County ... They still have hopes of securing their own casino first, and they need Rep. Todd Boorsma in Lansing to help make it happen ... If you believe he is really anti-casino on moral grounds, I have some ocean-front property in Nebraska I would like to sell you—cheap.



Speaking of which ... I came across a press release dated Dec. 8, 2005, from “23 is Enough” in which they trumpet the fact that leaders in the state legislature from both sides of the aisle co-signed letters to Gov. Jennifer Granholm urging her not to sign a compact with the Gun Lake tribe for its proposed casino near Wayland ... Michael Jandernoa, chairman of the Grand Rapids based anti-casino group said, “the bi-partisan message sent by the House members was crystal clear—it’s time to stop the unbridled expansion of tribal casinos in Michigan, starting with the proposed Gun Lake tribal casino ...” One election later, look what happened ... That bi-partisan House later passed a resolution supporting the governor’s compact she negotiated with the Gun Lake tribe ...

The Michigan Senate, if given the opportunity to vote on the compact, in all likelihood would also approve the compact.

I'm not too familiar with Millbrook Tack and Trailer, the company going into bankruptcy that at least one of the owners is blaming Boorsma for ... But, I am reminded of my discussion with Todd several weeks ago, where he told me he was not running for the legislature for the \$78,000 annual salary ... "I make three times that amount now," he said ... This made me think that perhaps because this company was paying him nearly \$240,000 a year they couldn't afford they were forced into bankruptcy ... What do you think?

The Home Builders Association of Greater Kalamazoo has endorsed Jeff Farnsworth for the 88th District State Representative position ... Michigan Farm Bureau has endorsed Todd Boorsma for the 88th District seat, stating, "Todd successfully managed several local businesses ..." ... With Millbrook Tack and Trailer slipping into bankruptcy recently, one wonders if the Michigan Farm Bureau would like to withdraw their endorsement?

This should be my last comment on Boorsma prior to the election ... I really feel his election will be harmful to Allegan County and I am convinced he does not have our best interests at heart ... Todd was born too late... With his attitude he should have been with Custer at Little Big Horn!