

An Aside

Many were surprised by the results of the
recent elections in Michigan.

In fact, for the last several days, there has
been a good deal of post-election quarterbacking
to understand better what happened...and
who the real winners and losers are.

In this spirit, let me suggest that one of the
really big winners was education:

- i) In district after district, the reform candidates
were elected to the School Board in the
City of Detroit
- ii) Outstanding people won election to the
Boards of our three public universities
and the State Board of Education
- iii) And in the new Governor, John Engler,
we have an leader who has clearly made
education among his highest priority.

Two years ago, Senator Engler announced his
intent to make this party the Education Party in
Michigan.

His actions as Senate Majority Leader have
consistently demonstrated strong support for
education at all levels--K-12 through higher ed
...including protecting education from the serious
budget cuts of last spring.

His strategic plan for education, prepared during
the recent campaign, is a truly remarkable document

demonstrating:

- i) a sophisticated understanding of the challenges before us
- ii) a visionary, comprehensive, and pragmatic set of actions designed to deal with these challenges
- iii) a strong sense of commitment to make education a top priority of this state once again.

In fact, his strategy is remarkable similar to the strategy that I have just laid out for you.

Hence, I believe that we can look upon

last Tuesday's election as an important turning point for education in Michigan...

And I am firmly convinced that three days ago

we elected in Senator John Engler, a true Education Governor for Michigan!