



Public Sector Reports

Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week In Review

- The Senate Government Operations Committee approved legislation that requires **televised debates** for gubernatorial candidates who accept public funds. The bill was introduced in January by Senate Majority Leader and gubernatorial hopeful John Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant), who has been pushing for its quick approval. Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Art Miller (D-Warren) introduced an amendment to Senate rules that would prohibit the majority leader from concurrently running for governor. Senate Republicans contend that Engler's campaign has not impeded Senate activity.
- A House-approved amendment to **parental consent** legislation was discussed heatedly in a Senate committee Tuesday. The amendment would allow a psychiatrist or psychologist to seek court approval for an abortion if it appeared that the minor would commit suicide as an option to confronting her parents with her pregnancy. The committee is expected to report the bill to the floor next week.
- A bill before the Senate would allow the State Prison of Southern Michigan to sell its **inmate-raised cattle**, a prison industry that is losing \$1 million a year. It has been suggested that the prison system attempt to raise money by selling the choice cuts of beef and purchasing only the lower quality cuts for prisons. The bill has passed both the Senate and House but awaits Senate approval on a minor House amendment.
- U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-Detroit) held a hearing this week to examine the Michigan Department of Corrections **boot camp program**. Nonviolent repeat offenders aged 17 to 25 may choose between a 120-day sentence at a boot camp or a longer prison term. Hard work, military-like discipline, self-improvement classes, vocational training, and little free time are methods used at Camp Sauble to promote responsibility and self-esteem. A second camp is planned in the Upper Peninsula. Sen. Jack Welborn (R-Kalamazoo) said: "I believe the Michigan experience has proven that the boot camp is effective, cost saving, reduces prison overcrowding, but most important offers the best opportunity of turning young offenders away from a life of crime and into a life of honest productivity."

Political News

- Governor Blanchard's FY 1990-91 **Budget Message** is tentatively scheduled for February 8.
- Governor James Blanchard and Senate Majority Leader and gubernatorial hopeful John Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant) submitted their 1989 **campaign finance reports** to the Secretary of State this week. Blanchard began 1989 with a positive campaign balance and raised funds totalling more than \$1.2 million; Engler raised nearly \$770,000 during 1989.
- U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-Detroit) has raised twice as much **campaign money** as GOP opponents U.S. Rep. Bill Schuette (R-Sanford) and Detroit attorney W. Clark Durant III, the *Detroit Free Press* reported. The candidates' 1989 finance reports were due to the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday. The *Free Press* says that Schuette has raised approximately \$750,000; Durant, \$534,000; and Levin, more than \$2.7 million.
- Superintendent John Porter has agreed to remain with the Detroit school district after his contract expires on June 30, according to the *Detroit Free Press*. It is not yet known in what capacity Porter will serve, but the details will be disclosed at a February 13 board meeting.
- Michigan officials in Washington, D.C., have estimated that President George Bush's **budget proposal** released Tuesday will cost the state at least \$59 million. In a report issued by the Northeast-Midwest Institute, Bush's budget was seen as biased toward the Sun Belt states and against Michigan and its neighbors. State programs that would lose funds include low-income heating assistance, community service block grants, child nutrition, and wastewater treatment construction programs.
- In the U.S. Senate race, U.S. Rep. Bill Schuette (R-Sanford), challenger to two-term U.S. Senator Carl Levin, received the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Paul Henry (R-Grand Rapids) this week. Henry indicated that he believes Schuette is a candidate capable of defeating a Democratic incumbent. Senator Levin is expected to run for reelection but has not yet made a formal announcement.
- Detroit's **Jefferson Avenue Chrysler plant** shut down today, leaving the city with only one operating automobile assembly plant, GM's Poletown. The Jefferson facility built the Omni and Horizon automobiles, both of which have experienced slow sales.