



Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

....The legislature passed a resolution requesting that the State Law Building be named after former governor and state supreme court justice **G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams**, who died Tuesday. The building houses the Michigan Supreme Court, on which Williams served from 1971 through 1986. Governor Blanchard has also proposed that the Mackinac Bridge be renamed for Williams. Funeral services were held Friday in Detroit. Williams will be entombed in Evergreen Cemetery in Detroit until June, when he will be buried on Mackinac Island.

....The Michigan Court of Appeals has declared unconstitutional a state law requiring public universities to divest **stock in companies operating in South Africa**. The University of Michigan fought the law on grounds that it violates the autonomy of state universities as guaranteed by the state constitution.

....The legislature has begun debate on Governor Blanchard's proposal to sell \$800 million in bonds and use half the proceeds for **environmental programs**. (He proposes the other half be used for education and economic development programs.) Legislators, however, want all the proceeds to be used for environment and recreation: \$300 million each to dispose of solid and hazardous waste and \$200 million for recreation. Blanchard also proposes cutting the **Department of Natural Resources budget** by \$13 million in FY 1988-89 to \$106.8 million, the lowest in four years; major reductions in toxic waste cleanup funds and federal Superfund matching money would be made up by the bond proposal and recreation fee increases. Meanwhile, Blanchard joined the governors of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in agreeing to raise \$100 million to help clean up the Great Lakes. Michigan's \$20 million share would come from the bond sale proceeds earmarked for the environment.

Political News

....The *Grand Rapids Press* reports that Vice President Bush spent \$804,000 on his **Michigan presidential campaign** in 1987, according to reports filed with the Federal Elections Commission. Pat Robertson spent \$308,000; Jack Kemp, just \$25,000. The reports do not include last-minute expenditures incurred during the state Republican convention last week, at which Bush won 37 delegates to the national convention in August; Kemp, 32; and Robertson, 8. A "rump" convention led by Robertson forces on the party's State Central Committee gave him 43 delegates; Kemp, 21; and Bush, 13. Both delegations will go to the national convention in New Orleans, but only one will be officially seated.

....Governor Blanchard spent a record \$1.1 million from his **officeholder expense fund** in 1987, according to the *Detroit News*. Elected officials are permitted by law to establish the funds for costs incidental to holding office. The money comes from donations; no public funds are used. Blanchard's report to the secretary of state shows that he spent most of the money on travel and entertainment (\$160,280), office expenses (\$171,150), and consultant and research services for his inaugural and state of the state speeches (\$120,000). House Speaker Gary Owen (D-Ypsilanti) spent \$11,000 from his expense fund. According the *Detroit Free Press*, state Senator Joe Mack (D-Ironwood) reported spending nearly \$2,000 from his officeholder fund on travel and living expenses in Florida, some of which were charged to the fund while Mack was in Lansing voting in the Senate.

....An Oakland County district court jury has convicted **State Sen. Richard Fessler** (R-West Bloomfield) of impaired driving and resisting arrest. Because both charges are misdemeanors, not felonies, he will not have to resign from the Senate.