



Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

- Agreement may be reached today on an FY 1991 **budget compromise** deadlocked since the turn of the year. Substantial progress in identifying a spending plan to reconcile the \$900-million current year shortfall was reported yesterday from talks involving Governor John Engler, Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus, and House Speaker Lewis Dodak. Bipartisan agreement reportedly has been forged on an early retirement plan, a \$222-million dip into the state's "rainy day" fund, and several one-shot revenue enhancing bills passed earlier by the House.
- The Senate Education Committee reported out a **schools-of-choice** measure this week that would require multiple-school districts to implement a choice program by the 1992-93 school year. Under the terms of SB 158, students could attend any school within their local district.
- Controversy over provisions of the **parental consent** abortion law continued this week in the Senate. That chamber's Family Law, Criminal Law, and Corrections Committee unanimously approved a bill deleting the consent law's current requirement that schools provide notices to girls in grades 6 through 12 informing them of the law and of its provisions for a judicial bypass of parental consent. An identical bill introduced in the House has not yet been reported out of committee.
- In the wake of much-publicized cuts in foster and adoptive care, Lieutenant Governor Connie Binsfeld has been named chair of a **Special Commission on Adoption** to review Michigan's statutes and practices. The eleven-member panel, which has a year to submit its recommendations, was created Tuesday by an executive order from Governor Engler.
- House and Senate conferees reached a compromise this week on **off-road-vehicle (ORV)** use limitations. Existing law permits ORV use on state forest land unless it is otherwise posted. The compromise bill will make all Lower Peninsula state land off-limits except for specifically designated trails.

Political News

- Seven-term Democratic State Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit) was the top vote-getter in a primary race for U. S. Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins's former **Detroit City Council seat**. A protege of mayor Coleman Young, and an influential veteran member of the House Appropriations Committee, Kilpatrick faces a June 4 City Council general election contest against Detroit school board member Kay Everett. Kilpatrick outpolled Everett by 4,600 votes in this week's primary.
- Plymouth Township is gaining a supervisor while Wayne County's **36th House District** loses a representative following five-term incumbent Gerald Law's (R-Plymouth) decision this week to accept the local government post. City Commissioner Jerry Vorva has already announced that he will run for the vacancy in the heavily Republican district that Law carried by 70 percent in the 1990 elections. Meanwhile, in other special election news, May 29 and June 18 have been set as dates for the primary and general election to fill the **16th Senate District** vacancy created by Doug Cruce's recent resignation.
- Former Governor Jim Blanchard's **use of state aircraft** drew campaign flak from his opponent and more recently has been critiqued in a report from the state auditor general. State police significantly underestimated the price of some Blanchard flights, the report states, by failing to include such costs as a second pilot's wages, downtime, and maintenance.
- Michigan's third annual **Cable Day** on Tuesday provided 1.6 million cable subscribers with eight hours of live capitol coverage similar to C-SPAN, the cable network that televises Congress.
- A report on the health of Michigan's **business climate** has the state slipping to a grade of "D" from the "C" it received from the same source last year. The nonprofit Corporation for Enterprise Development issued its rankings for the fifty states this week. Michigan's other scores—an "A" for state policy and two "Cs" for economic performance and development capacity—were unchanged from last year. The president of the firm making the rankings is Doug Ross, former Michigan Department of Commerce director.
- A Washington, D.C., based coalition called Citizens for Tax Justice issued a study this week contending that the state's **tax burden** is unfairly distributed among its residents, with the poorest one-fifth of Michigan taxpayers spending 14.3 percent of their income on state and local taxes. This compares, according to the report, with the 7.6 percent share shouldered by the richest one percent of Michiganians. State Treasurer Doug Roberts told the *Ann Arbor News* that he was flabbergasted by the study and questioned the validity of its analyses.