

## Michigan ROUNDUP

### Legislative Week in Review

....The state Senate has approved a \$576 million 1988-89 fiscal year budget for the **Corrections Department**--\$19 million larger than the current-year spending plan--that will pay for AIDS tests for new prisoners, require the department to consider privatizing health care for prisoners, and limit inmate wages to \$4,000 by requiring the department to keep two-thirds of the profits from its prison industries. Some prisoners receive bonuses of as much as \$11,000 a year under the present system.

....A \$2.5 billion 1988-89 **school aid appropriations** bill that adds \$34.6 million to the Governor's recommended budget awaits action in the House after passing the Senate Wednesday. The Senate changed the high school graduation requirements of the original bill, which required students to complete three years of English or communication skills, three years of social science, two years of math, and two years of science. As passed, the bill requires a total of ten years of English, math, science, and social science, with a minimum of two years in each subject.

....The House Thursday passed a \$4.3 billion **social services budget** bill that contains specific cuts in Medicaid provider reimbursement levels. The bill, which is about \$50 million above the Governor's recommendation, now goes to the Senate.

....**Antismoking legislation** passed the Senate Thursday and is on its way to the House. The bills would prohibit the sale of tobacco to minors; prohibit smoking in public buildings such as schools, hospitals, and offices of health care providers; require food courts in malls to have smoking sections; and require a warning on outdoor advertising of smokeless tobacco.

### Political News

....The Secretary of State Friday submitted for the approval of the State Board of Canvassers two versions of a ballot proposal on the question of **state-paid abortions**. Both versions would require a "yes" vote to amend the constitution to stop the state from financing abortions for women receiving Medicaid. A "no" vote in the November 8 election would continue the funding. Elections experts say that since voters generally vote "no" on ballot proposals, both versions of the proposal could favor those opposed to the ban.

....A bill to exempt the **Public Service Commission** from the Open Meetings Act has risen from the dead to pass the House 59-45 after failing 42-60 last week. An amendment sponsored by Maxine Berman (D-Southfield) that would allow the new law to die on January 1, 1990, convinced many representatives to change their votes. Bill sponsor Alma Stallworth (D-Detroit) said the measure would speed the commission's decision process by allowing it to close some meetings at the request of utilities seeking rate increases.

....**State Sen. Doug Carl** of Utica announced Thursday he will seek the Republican nomination for the 12th District congressional seat held by Democrat David Bonior of Mt. Clemens.

....**Michigan House Speaker Gary Owen** (D-Ypsilanti Township) Thursday filed for re-election to the seat he has held since 1973. Owen, who became Speaker in 1983, apparently ended the hopes of other Democratic representatives who had been seeking support for the \$62,881-a-year job in the event Owen decided to retire.

....**State Rep. Ed Giese** (R-Manistee)--who has accused lobbyist Judy Augenstein of attempting to bribe him--Thursday battled attempts by her lawyers to discredit his methods of soliciting campaign funds. Giese spent five hours on the witness stand during a hearing on a motion to dismiss charges that Augenstein offered him a \$2,500 bribe to change his support for a proposed ban on automobile radar detectors.