



## Michigan ROUNDUP

....The House, on Thursday, rejected a Senate-passed bill to raise the speed limit to 65 mph and to provide for a fine and points if drivers are found with a radar detector when stopped for a traffic violation. The bill now goes to a conference committee.

....One new workers' compensation reform provides that workers injured before 1982 are exempt from having their benefits coordinated. This provision could cost employers up to \$80 million in benefits to between 4,000 and 9,000 people. Several parties, including the Michigan Insurance Federation and General Motors, plan to continue to deny benefits for pre-1982 injuries until the new provision can be tested in court.

....The House passed two bills that would require the state to divest its pension funds of any investments in companies doing business in South Africa. Sponsors of the bills expect Senate approval of the legislation.

....House Speaker Gary Owen has appointed a 12-member bipartisan committee to recommend ways to reduce crime and increase public safety, concentrating on urban areas. The committee, chaired by Representative Michael Bennane, will report its findings by November 1.

....The United States Supreme Court refused to hear a case filed by two Michigan schools against the state Department of Education. Sheridan Road Baptist School in Saginaw and the Bridgeport Baptist Academy sued the state because they felt that laws requiring state-licensed teachers in all schools violated their right to religious freedom. By refusing to hear the case, the Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling permitting the state to close church schools that fail to comply with the law and to require schools to submit annual proof of teacher certification.

....Marya Sieminski has been selected by Michigan Democratic party chair Rick Wiener to become the party's new executive director. Sieminski will supervise daily operations, organizing efforts, and the 1988 Democratic general election campaign. She will continue in her current position as deputy director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget until July.

....Governor Blanchard has appointed Elizabeth (Libby) Richards director of the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs in the Department of Social Services beginning June 15. For the past three years, Richards has been the governor's human services advisor and director of the Human Services Cabinet Council.

....Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy introduced legislation Tuesday that would require employers to provide their employees with a basic health insurance package. Under the plan, most employers would pay 80 percent of insurance premiums to cover hospitalization, doctor visits, diagnostic tests, and prenatal and newborn care. Several business organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, argue that Kennedy's plan will force some companies to eliminate jobs or will price goods out of world markets.