



Legislative News

Michigan ROUNDUP

....Senate Republicans next week will try to pass a **school finance reform** package containing two ballot proposals, one calling for a reduction in property taxes which would be financed by a sales tax increase of 1.5 cents on the dollar, and the other raising the sales tax a half-cent to provide \$514 million in new funding for schools. Governor Blanchard opposes the package because it would enable voters to cut property taxes yet turn down increased school aid.

....Legislation prohibiting local governments from imposing **residential rent control** finally is on its way to the governor after passing the House 75-24 Wednesday. (The Senate approved the bill 27-9 last December.) If the governor signs it into law, it will render moot an upcoming August 2 primary vote on a proposal to institute rent controls in Detroit. Ann Arbor voters rejected a similar proposal in April.

....The Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday approved a 1988-89 **Department of Social Services budget** bill (HB 5448, Substitute S-1) totaling \$2.092 billion in general fund dollars, \$30 million less than the House-passed bill and \$7.1 million more than the governor's recommendation. The Senate version would cut Medicaid costs by \$26.9 million, only about half the \$52.9 million in reductions proposed by Governor Blanchard. The House version contains \$73.5 million in cuts, almost one-third stiffer than the governor's recommendation. When the bill goes to conference committee, the major points of contention will be proposals to cut energy assistance, start a neighborhood growth corps, establish General Assistance quality controls, and increase Medicaid spending.

Political News

....Rep. Lewis Dodak (D-Birch Run) unofficially won the **Speaker of the House** race Thursday when Rep. H. Lynn Jondahl (D-Okemos) informed his colleagues by letter that he was formally withdrawing from the contest to succeed Rep. Gary Owen (D-Ypsilanti Township). Jondahl, Dodak's only remaining opponent, said he would instead run for Dodak's current position, majority floor leader, against a crowded field of fellow Democrats: Michael Bennane, Teola Hunter (both of Detroit), Pat Gagliardi (Drummond Island), Charlie Harrison (Pontiac), Thomas Mathieu (Grand Rapids), and Debbie Stabenow (Lansing).

....In announcing that the state Commerce Department had helped bring \$196 million in business investment and 4,200 new jobs to the state in May, Governor Blanchard attacked majority Republicans in the state Senate for attempting to cut FY 1988-89 spending on two **tourism advertising** programs. Blanchard wants to keep the Travel Bureau's advertising budget at \$9.9 million and start a \$3.3 million cooperative marketing program for such groups as golf course owners. Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee want to chop the Travel Bureau advertising budget to \$4.5 million and spend only \$1 million on the cooperative marketing plan. Sen. Doug Cruce (R-Troy) said the GOP wants to make sure the state spends its money on "rational" programs.

....**Michigan Supreme Court Justice James H. Brickley**, 59, announced Wednesday he will seek election to his first full eight-year term on the court. Brickley, twice lieutenant governor, was appointed to the court in 1982 to fill the unexpired term of Chief Justice Mary Coleman, who had retired. He was elected to fill the remainder of her term in 1984.