



## Michigan ROUNDUP

....The Senate Wednesday approved by a vote of 30 to 6 the Right to Life of Michigan initiative to ban Medicaid-funded abortions. Lt. Governor Martha Griffiths, presiding over the Senate, ruled that a vote on immediate effect was necessary. The ruling was challenged and reversed. Those opposed to the vote said it was unnecessary because the initiative contains language giving the ban immediate effect. House action on the initiative is expected Tuesday, June 23.

....The House and Senate completed action this week on all FY 1987-88 appropriations bills, except capital outlay, and sent them to conference committees. As passed by the House, the budget bills are about \$120 million above the governor's recommendations; as passed by the Senate, they are about \$37 million under the governor's recommendations. Conference committees, which will begin meeting next week, will resolve the differences.

....The expiration date for the current state transportation funding formula will be extended to October 30, 1987, under an agreement of the joint legislative committee negotiating a revision of the formula. The committee will meet during the summer to reach agreement on how to fund the state's transportation programs.

....The state personal income tax exemption would be immediately raised from \$1,500 to \$1,800, and raised again to \$2,000 by 1989, under legislation unanimously approved by the House Committee on Taxation. The legislation is tie-barred to the governor's \$200 million property tax reform plan to be financed by higher taxes on banks, domestic insurance companies, and computer software. The property tax reform plan was also approved by the committee.

....Governor Blanchard appointed Philip H. Power to the seat on the University of Michigan Board of Regents left vacant by the death of his wife, Sarah Goddard Power. Power, the owner of a chain of suburban Detroit newspapers, will complete his wife's term, which expires on January 1, 1991. His appointment restores the 5-3 Democratic majority to the board of regents.

....A 30-page report by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the Michigan Council for the Arts, and Governor Blanchard's Detroit Office calls for the the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) to aggressively recruit black musicians and set five-year goals for increasing the number of blacks and minorities who are full-time symphony members, guest soloists, and substitute musicians and chorus members. The report, which was commissioned in March by the governor, notes that the symphony, with one black member among its 103 regulars, upholds racial stereotypes and "sends the wrong messages to everyone, black and white, that blacks do not have what it takes to become members of the DSO."

....Governor Blanchard called Thursday for a large-scale cleanup of Michigan's 250 worst toxic waste sites. He proposed a ten-year plan that would cost "several hundred million dollars" and would include giving business technical and economic assistance in controlling and preventing toxic contamination. The governor requested that the Department of Natural Resources submit by August 1 a detailed implementation plan for his proposal.

....Paula Blanchard filed for divorce Tuesday from Governor James Blanchard. In a joint press release, the governor and Mrs. Blanchard said they are ending their marriage because of "longstanding, irreconcilable differences."