



NEWS ROUNDUP

....The House approved Tuesday by a 66-41 vote the Right to Life (RTL) initiative proposal banning Medicaid-funded abortions, but the issue of the ban's effective date has moved from the legislature to the courts. RTL contends that the legislation is effective immediately because of the language in the initiative petition. The pro-choice coalition contends that it cannot take effect until April 1988 because the legislature did not vote separately for immediate effect. The pro-choice coalition filed a lawsuit blocking implementation of the ban and received a temporary restraining order until June 29, when a hearing will be held in Ingham County Circuit Court. The governor has asked the state supreme court to take up the issue immediately. Also, pro-choice leaders began a petition drive to allow voters to repeal the RTL legislation. If the petition drive to gather the required 120,000 signatures is successful, the issue of Medicaid-funded abortions will be put to voters in the November 1988 general elections.

....The Senate approved House-passed legislation to raise the personal exemption on the state income tax, but did not act on a House plan for \$200 million in property tax relief. The exemption would rise from \$1,500 to \$1,800 this year, then to \$2,000 by 1989; it would be funded through a state revenue windfall resulting from federal tax reform. The property tax relief plan would provide \$100 rebates for homeowners earning less than \$50,000 a year; it would be funded chiefly by higher taxes on banks and domestic insurers. Final action is not likely until after the summer recess.

...The legislature will meet next week to continue work on 1987-88 funding bills.

....A committee of legislative leaders and state budget officials supports raises for 16 of the state's 18 department directors and for the governor's eight top aides. Department directors' salaries would increase 25 percent, from an average of \$64,100 to \$80,300. State officials said the raises are necessary to bring department directors' salaries in line with those of state civil service employees who report to them. The House and Senate are expected to approve.

....The Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission, representing Michigan and six other states, is expected next week to select Michigan as the site for a mandated regional low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. But, if selected, Michigan may refuse to build the facility. The Blanchard administration wants the 1980 federal law mandating regional disposal sites changed to reflect the declining need for such facilities.

....According to an ABC News poll, in 1984 President Reagan was the choice of 60 percent of Michigan under-30 voters. A recent survey conducted for the Democratic Party reveals that Michigan voters under the age of 30 favor the Democratic Party over the Republican Party 55 percent to 34 percent. Although the shift to Democrats is stronger in Michigan because of the popularity of Governor Blanchard, the results echo those of polls throughout the country, according to the president of the Connecticut firm conducting the surveys.

....Governor Blanchard Thursday appointed Shelby Solomon to replace Robert Naftaly as director of the Department of Management and Budget. Solomon, a former aide to the governor, currently works in New York for the American Express Corporation.