



Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

- The state Senate Appropriations and Human Resources committees Wednesday launched an **investigation of the Youth Employment Services Program** after an Auditor General's report raised questions about more than \$400,000 of the program's \$2 million in expenditures for fiscal years 1985-86 and 1986-87. The report states that expenditures of \$374,617 in Detroit and Grand Rapids do not match accounting records; that directors purchased \$98,185 in equipment and services without obtaining required authorization from the Michigan Department of Labor; and that one administrator used \$9,408 in program funds to lease a luxury automobile and cellular telephone. Under the program the Labor Department awards contracts to community organizations that in turn subcontract with learning opportunity centers in Benton Harbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Saginaw for job counseling, training, and other services provided to high school dropouts and economically disadvantaged people aged 16-21.
- The remaining bills of the **certificate of need (CON)** reform package cleared the House and Senate two days before the date the entire package is to take effect (October 1). The conflict about HB 5145, which creates the CON standards commission, was resolved by decreasing the number of members to five and specifying that three are to be from one major political party and two from the other. Appointments are to be made by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation. The appointees are to be "broadly representative of the interests of all the people of the state." CON applications filed after September 30 will not be reviewed until January 1, 1989. Also approved were SB 64 (establishing the regulation threshold) and SB 948 (exempting CON standards from rule making).

NOTE: The legislature will not meet again until November 10. The *Michigan Roundup* will resume regular publication at that time.

Political News

- Several powerful Lansing figures have been named to run the Promote Michigan Campaign, a coalition of business, labor, and environmental leaders seeking to win voter approval in November for an **\$800 million bond issue** to finance several new environmental cleanup and recreation programs (proposals C and D). The chair is Nancy White, president of the state League of Women Voters. Other leaders are Andy Such, legislative representative for the Michigan Manufacturers' Association; Ed Farhat of Public Affairs Associates, a Lansing lobbying firm; and State Treasurer Bob Bowman. Governor Blanchard and former Governor William Milliken are honorary co-chairs.
- Polls by both political parties indicate that the closeness of the presidential election campaign in Michigan hurts the chances of three state senators seeking to defeat incumbents in **Michigan congressional contests**. Political watchers prophesy that neither presidential candidate will win the state by a margin large enough to help carry congressional hopefuls to victory. State Sen. Lana Pollack (D-Ann Arbor) is running against incumbent U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth); Sen. Mitch Irwin (D-Sault Ste. Marie) opposes Rep. Bob Davis (R-Gaylord); and Sen. Doug Carl (R-Sterling Heights) is after the seat of Rep. David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens).
- In the **U.S. Senate race**, incumbent Don Riegle (D-Flint) has agreed to meet Republican challenger Jim Dunn, a former U.S. representative from East Lansing, and Libertarian candidate Dick Jacobs in a debate sponsored by the Detroit Economic Club. The October 17 event will be the only debate for U.S. Senate candidates this election year.
- Republican officials have announced that President Reagan will campaign for Vice President **George Bush** next Tuesday in Macomb County, underscoring Michigan's importance in the presidential sweepstakes. Both Bush and Democratic vice presidential candidate **Lloyd Bentsen** appeared in Michigan this week, Bentsen in Detroit and Bush in the Detroit area and Grand Rapids.