

Michigan Mirror

'Sunshine' bill has cloudy future

By ELMER E. WHITE
Will the sun shine in Michigan? Will lawmakers adopt so-called "sunshine" legislation, designed to bring the bright light of open meetings of public bodies to the public?

Current Michigan law calls for open meetings, but fails to specify that deliberations of public bodies must also be held in public. That means that a school board, for instance, can discuss a topic in private, then open the meeting and take a formal vote on an issue without further talk about it.

Folks who want to understand reasoning behind the decision have no way to do so unless they know someone who is at the private session—and will talk about it. PENDING BILLS could change all that. One sponsored by Democratic Rep. David C. Hollister of Lansing, defines a meeting as "a gathering of more than one-half of a quorum of the members of a public body to deliberate or take action upon a matter within the jurisdiction of the public body."

Other proposals are sponsored by Democratic Rep. Perry Bullard of Ann Arbor and Democratic Sen. David Pawlowski of

Dearborn. Rep. Paul A. Rosenbaum (D-Battle Creek) is working on this issue as well.

THE PUBLICITY right to know—do know what their public servants are doing and why—is the major argument for open meetings.

Who, then, argues against the concept? Some people figure certain matters such as real estate transactions, personnel items and labor strategy talks belong in private sessions.

But come the counter arguments: "In some cases, personnel matters are executive questions, to be settled, for example, by the mayor and personnel manager. Why then shouldn't the general public have the same knowledge?"

"Real estate people generally know about proposed land deals before they happen. Why then shouldn't the general public have the same knowledge?"

"Similarly, unions know or have ways of finding out labor strategy even if the discussion sessions are closed. Open them to all."

SUNSHINE BACKERS have offered this thought: If people are truly interested in

having the meetings of their public governing bodies open, their legislators will vote to open them.

If not, opposing forces will have their way: Meetings will be open except when they must them closed. So far the public's record is not so good for pushing on this point. The tendency is to become militant when there is an issue, but not to take a strong philosophical position.

SWIRLING SNOW nearly blinds you as you drive along an interstate highway in unfamiliar territory. If you know conditions up ahead a bit, you'd be able to decide whether to give it up right now and find a place to spend the night or go on to better conditions.

The Department of State Highways is trying to help you make that decision. Through a new pilot project involving "Weather Info" signs.

The signs tell motorists where to tune their car radios to find the latest in weather and road information. Seven signs are up now, along I-196 and I-94 in western Michigan and along I-75 between Birch Run south of Saginaw and the Mackinac Bridge.

"MAXIMUM USE will probably be in the winter," says a department spokesman. "But the signs can also help in the warmer weather, when the radio stations can warn of approaching tornadoes or a truck stalled over across the highway."

Indications are that if the pilot project is successful, signs will go up on other interstate highway legs throughout the state.

PLANS ARE underway to coordinate juvenile justice services—those programs that have been provided for juveniles on a fragmented basis by police, child care facilities, schools, half-way houses, parole services and the State Department of Social Services.

Under a bill signed into law recently by Gov. William Milliken, the office of Juvenile Justice Services will operate as an independent agency for two years.

Milliken says the successful implementation of the new agency will allow the state to coordinate existing services effectively, and to plan and develop policies and administrative mechanisms which will better meet the needs of juvenile offenders.

Michigan's Largest Ethan Allen Dealer!

**INCREDIBLY LOW PRICES AT
OUR WAREHOUSE OUTLET
EVERY SATURDAY 10 to 3 P.M.!**

Enjoy substantial savings on floor samples, one-of-a-kinds, scratch & dent items, odds & ends and discontinued styles. All merchandise is from quality manufacturers who supply our regular stores. Naturally at such great reductions, all goods are sold 'as is' and all sales are final. New arrivals weekly.

BANKAMERICARD • MASTER CHARGE • CONVENIENT TERMS

the Hearthside
WAREHOUSE OUTLET



LIVONIA, 11845 Mayfield (Rear of our executive offices)
OPEN SATURDAY ONLY 10 AM to 3 PM

Youth summer labor applications offered

Applications for youths wanting to participate in this summer's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program have been distributed to schools throughout the state. The program will run from June 14 through Aug. 27.

Individual applications available at schools must be returned to the Lansing YCC office by March 15. Mailing address for applications is Youth Conservation Corps, Information and Education Division, Department of Natural Resources, Lansing 48928.

Last year, 572 young people were chosen from 5,000 who applied. This year, more

than 550 youths will be employed in four residential camps and at 16 non-residential projects operated by the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.

IN RESIDENTIAL camps, young people are required to live on the premises with lodging ranging from tents to college dormitories. At non-residential projects, youths live at home and commute to their place of employment.

The program is open to boys and girls who will be 15 years old by June 14 and will not reach 18 years of age by Aug. 27. The only other requirement is that they be physically able to work in the outdoors.

Work projects may include trail construction, lake and stream improvement, tree pruning and planting, fire control, or other development and maintenance of public lands," says Rod Smith, administrator of the Michigan program for the Department of Natural Resources.

"THOSE EMPLOYED are paid the current minimum wage on the basis of 30 hours per week and an additional 10 hours weekly are spent in directed environmental education. Room and board, if furnished are deducted from wages."

The U.S. Forest Service will have four residential camps located at Golden Lake, Clear Lake and Trout Lake in the Upper Peninsula and at Sprinkler Lake in Alcona County. Small five-person non-resident

projects will be operated in Forest Service Ranger Districts in the Ottawa, Huron-Manistee, National, Pictured Rocks and Tahquamenon National Forests.

The Department of Interior will run non-resident projects at the Seney Wildlife Refuge in the Upper Peninsula and at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near Traverse City.

Applications for the YCC program are being handled by the DNR with selection made on a random basis through a cross-section of eligible Michigan youths.

**YOU SHOULD HEAR
WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!**

NU-PHONICS is celebrating the New Year with SPECIAL PRICE REDUCTIONS on Selected Models, including the new ZENITH "DIRECTIONAL" HEARING AIDS.



• 30 Day Money-Back Privilege
• 1 Year Limited Warranty
• 5 Year After-Purchase Service Plan
SAVE \$50 to \$100

*Except for Custom Borel and Dispensing Fee

NU-PHONICS, INC.
Custom Fitters of Quality Hearing Instruments

Main Number
682-1117
Toll Calls — Call Collect

4 Convenient Locations to Serve You
• PONTIAC • SOUTHBELD • DETROIT • WARREN
(P.S. Ask us about the new inconspicuous AS-in-the-Ear type hearing aid)

**Hearings to
study aging**

Problems faced by senior citizens will be the subject of a continuing series of statewide public hearings held by a joint legislative committee studying the aging.

Two hearings are scheduled. One will be in Pontiac, from 10 a.m. to noon on Feb. 9 at the Oakland County Service Center Auditorium, 1200 North Telegraph.

The other hearing, which will be the last in a series of six, will be in Lansing, from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Feb. 12 at Local 62 Union Hall, 426 Clark Street.

The hearings are designed to explore problems facing senior citizens. The legislature's goal is to develop a comprehensive approach to laws affecting senior citizens. The Committee will be concentrating its efforts in the areas of alternatives to institutionalization and nursing home care and local transportation programs to meet the particular needs of senior citizens.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearings.

NO PINCHING ALLOWED

If you want something different, something better, move up to SPRING CREST. The VERY TOP! The largest custom drapery chain in the world guarantees you quality and beauty at the lowest possible price.

RYAN'S SPRING CREST
CUSTOM DRAPERIES
1783 Meridian at 7 Mile-Livonia
479-3549

Herwood Studios
INC.
PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNERS

20-50% OFF
10% OFF SPECIAL ORDERS

EVERYTHING IN THE STUDIO

SEMI-ANNUAL SALE
NOW IN PROGRESS

See Magazine • 440
New Magazine • 440

TEL-TWELVE MAIL
354-9060

Shop and compare . . .
Our Winter Sale Prices
Now 10%-50% off entire stock

LAMPS 15% OFF

SPECIAL ORDERS 10% and more OFF

RUMMAGE SHOP 30%-70% OFF

Featuring
Thayer-Coggin Upholstery at 20% OFF

A desk, bookcase, and that always needed extra storage—combined into one slender, teak, contemporary piece that will accent any room. 69"x35"x16". Reg. \$528

NOW ONLY \$399
brasch imports

In Scandinavian Village
3325 Orchard Lake Road
4 Miles N. of Maple Road
626-0031
Hours: 10-6 Mon-Sat
Thurs., Fri. 10-5 Sun. 12-5
Now open on Mondays, too!



Yves St. Laurent: the epitome of European taste. The long, slim, elegant line that makes you look long and slim even when you're not quite St. Laurent. Carves it in a spring blend of polyester/wool in herringbone navy blue. The coat is a deeply side-vented model with European peaked lapels, and the trousers are decidedly flared. It's the suit you'll wear when you want to make an incisive impression, and it's \$180.

THE BOARDROOM

Exclusively in Somerset Mall.