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## 3 area reps join wiretap bills protest

A curious mixture of suburban representatives joined a group of young lawmakers in a vast protest March 4 over wiretapping in the Michigan House of Representatives.

The package also includes two measures imposing mandatory prison sentences for certain drug dealing offenses and two companion bills prohibiting granting of prison "good time" for certain drug offenders.

The entire package was opposed by a core of representatives in Detroit and elsewhere. They included Democrats Perry Ball and Ann Arbor, Mark Chodoff of Saginaw, David Hollister of Lansing, Lynn J. Smith of East Lansing and Howard Weber of Kalamazoo, along with Republican Calhoun House Engineer of Bay City.

IF APPROVED by the Senate, the wiretap bills would allow law enforcement agencies to use wiretaps under a warrant obtained from a panel of the State Court of Appeals.

The attorney general's office would have to seek the warrants, stating probable cause for the investigation, what concrete evidence is to be investigated, and where and where the wiretap would be used.

Three Oakland County representatives opposed one or both of the wiretap bills. They were Joseph Forbin (D-Oak Park), Mel Larsen (R-Oxford) and Ruth McNamara (R-Birmingham).

Forbin had these objections. Although police should have adequate tools to investigate narcotics activities, I feel that the threat of illegal wiretapping is a great hindrance in general raises

serious civil liberties questions. Electronic surveillance for any reason constitutes a serious threat to the right of privacy. Wiretapping has not proven to be of any significant value in reducing crime, in catching narcotics addicts. The record of convictions from federal wiretaps shows a low percentage of convictions.

The two wiretap bills passed 70-32 and 71-30.

THE OTHER FOUR bills passed by margins ranging from 65-35 to 66-34.

One would impose a life sentence on anyone convicted of holding, selling or manufacturing more than 500 grams (about 23 ounces) of heroin or cocaine.

It would impose a mandatory 20-30 years for anyone convicted of dealing in more than eight but less than 23 ounces of these drugs, and 10-20 years imprisonment or life probation for persons convicted of dealing up to eight ounces.

Forbin noted against one of the good time bills, containing good time "is a vital part of the rehabilitation process in prison."

Larsen and McNamara supported the mandatory sentence and good time bills.

The entire package of six bills was supported by three Democrats and five Republicans. They were: John Bennett (D-Detroit), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Robert Gable (R-Northville), William Keith (D-Garden City), John Marler (D-Livonia), Roy Smith (R-Ypsilanti), W.V. Broderson (R-Farmington), James DeFoe (R-Birmingham), and Sal Rocco (D-Sterling Heights).

## Red Cross offers tornado safety tips

With the tornado season already under way, the Red Cross reminds people to observe certain precautions when a tornado warning is issued.

A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted. Persons in the area of the warning should take cover immediately, while those farther away should take cover if threatening conditions occur.

The tornado warning is preceded by a

tornado watch, which indicates conditions are ripe for a tornado to develop. The safest shelters are storm cellars, underground excavations or steel framed or reinforced concrete buildings.

Other shelter areas suggested are: • At the office, go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, or to a designated shelter area. In the factory, workers should move to the section of the plant offering most protection.

• At home, the basement offers the greatest safety. Persons in homes without basements should seek cover in the center part of the house on the lowest floor in a small space such as the bathroom or closet or under sturdy furniture. Some windows should be kept open on the side away from the expected impact, but persons should stay away from them.

• In schools, students and personnel should go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor. Stay out of auditoriums, gymnasiums or other structures with wide free-span roofs. If a building is not of reinforced construction, go quickly to a nearby reinforced building or to a ravine or open ditch and lie flat.

• In open country where there is no time to find suitable shelter, persons should be face down in the nearest depression while using their arms to protect their heads.

• Do not take shelter in an automobile.

## Parks essay contest open to children

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring an essay contest on an occasion with its current 18th anniversary celebration for all 18-year-old residents of Oakland County.

The theme of the essay is: What my county parks mean to me today and in the future.

Cash prizes, in the form of United States savings bonds, will be awarded to the top three entries. First place winner will receive a \$100 bond; second place a \$75 bond and third place a \$50 bond.

In addition to the cash prizes, the three finalists will each receive 18 complimentary passes to the new wave action pool opening this summer at Waterford Oaks Park, presently under construction.

The winning entry will be submitted to major parks and recreation magazines for possible publication.

Also, each contest participant will be invited to a celebration of the youngsters' 18th birthday and the commission's 18th anniversary. The party will be held this summer at the new wave action pool at Waterford Oaks Park, presently under construction.

The contest is open to any Oakland County youngsters who turned 18 years old on or before December 10, 1975. All entries must be postmarked no later than April 30. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

There is no limit on the number of words of the essay, but judges will consider brevity, clarity, in description of the theme and proper use of grammar. The entries will not be returned and winners will be notified by mail during the first week of May.

Entries should be mailed to: Essay Contest, Oakland County Parks & Recreation Commission, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, P.O. Box 10804.

For more information, call 855-8886. A limited number of information packets are available for those interested in entering the contest.

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