

\$73 million less

Angel urges spending cut

By JACKIE KLEIN.

A pell-mell push to raise taxes is expected after the 1978 election, although state government spending can be slashed \$73 million a year.

So contended State Rep. Dan Angel (R-Marshall), House whip, who spoke to members of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce in Southfield's Northland Inn June 14.

Legislators have proposed 19 budget bills representing \$200 million more than Michigan's 1977-78 spending plan, Angel said. "If they're not acted upon on a realistic level, the budget would have to be cut after passage. The state fiscal year has been extended to Oct. 1 so we can delay and do the best we can."

"IT'S UNNECESSARY to revert to tax increases. Many changes can be effectuated in the area of welfare without hurting. Medicaid payments exceed ADC, the most costly social program. A bill is pending in the legislature to reduce ADC allocations. I believe a law should be implemented to prohibit sending welfare checks to recipients who have moved out of the state."

Paradoxically, Angel, Michigan's biographer and advisor, opposes the governor's tax base sharing proposal introduced to the state legislature Feb. 14.

See related story, Page 4-B.

Michigan's House Bill 8010, if approved, would be applicable to the seven-county Southeast Michigan region. It is designed to share local property tax revenues from new business growth value and to prescribe a formula for distribution among communities.

Southfield officials contend the proposal to take half of all future property tax base growth and put it into a common pool to be distributed according to a formula determined need is unfair.

ANGEL MAINTAINS the proposal "has no possible sale in the Michigan legislature." He claims even outside officials not currently included in the plan fear the bill would be expanded if it's signed into law.

A proposal to increase the property transfer tax in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties by more than 300 per cent has no chance of passing, Angel maintained.

The measure would add taxes for selling and buying property and only persons involved in these transactions would bear the burden of contributing 10 per cent to support mass transit, Angel said.

"THE POWERFUL motor industry didn't want taxes added to the sale of cars," Angel said. "Legislators may have to revert to a value added tax, but tax or increased resident and non-resident income tax in Detroit. Half of the state budget is earmarked for certain programs and I think they should be 'unearmarked'."

Swinkin seeks Forbes' seat

Jeffery Swinkin has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for state representative to the 60th District in a challenge to incumbent Joe Forbes.

The 47th District includes Lathrup Village, eastern Southfield, western Oak Park and Royal Oak Township.

Swinkin, a 31-year-old political science major in his senior year at Wayne State University, expects to graduate in January 1977. A resident of Southfield since 1972, he has lived in the Detroit area all his life.

Swinkin is a member of the Michigan Oakland County and 17th District Democratic Party organizations. He has had no previous experience in elected office and has sought no endorsement by party officials.

"My candidacy was prompted by the lack of concern of Rep. Joseph Forbes for the voters of the 60th District," said Swinkin. "It is necessary for the 60th District to have a representative in Lansing who will be a true representative of the citizens of the district."

The newcomer will attempt a door-to-door campaign in part of the district.

Angel contended many suburban communities question why they should contribute money to Detroit. He maintained the core city has a permanent place in society and is important to the entire state of Michigan.

"It's easy to use Detroit as a whipping post," he said. "But the city's \$27 million aid package helps the rest of Michigan including the Pontiac Stadium and matching dollars for mass transit."

IN RESPONSE to questions about the Single Business Tax (SBT), Angel said Michigan is the only state that has it and legislators are moving to change it as rapidly as possible.

"The task force reviewing the SBT will have its report ready by September," Angel said. "The double impact of the labor portion of the bill is costing millions and is breaking the small businessman."

On regional government, Angel claimed planning agencies are effective as long as local government doesn't relinquish home rule. It's a question of political desirability versus political reality, he said, and some local units go into "cardiac arrest" at the thought of sharing in regional programs.

The bulk of the power is in the suburbs, he added.

Angel said he is against an effort by a recently formed Citizens' Tax Council to place a referendum on the November ballot for a constitutional amendment to limit state taxes to 8.3 per cent of personal income.

THE MEASURE also calls for tax refunds if the state's tax revenue limit is exceeded. It also requires the state to foot

the bill for local government programs, putting the burden on property taxes, probably a shift from state to local taxes and provides for local government to obtain voter approval before it can levy any new taxes.

The group, said Angel, has until July 3 to garner enough signatures on petitions required to place the issue on the ballot.

"I hope this measure doesn't come to a vote because it would mean the state would be between \$100 and \$200 million worse off than it is now," he said. "The state can't pass new burdens because of major negative actions and this proposal would hurt iron clad constitutional provisions."



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