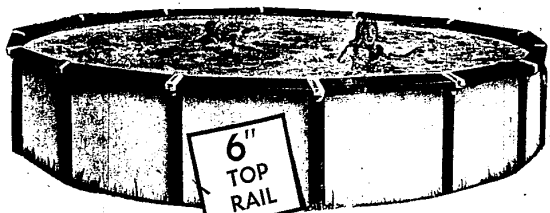


# Capitol Coalition Seeks To Save 2 School Districts

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By DON HOENSHILL

LANSING — Democrats organized an unlikely coalition of a silent Republican voting bloc to save the Livonia and Wayne Community School Districts from a fiscal shambles with a special \$1.5 million grant. Two House members from Livonia and Westland took the sword into Gov. Milliken's office and came out without it — and smiling.

Rep. Marvin R. Stempfen (D-Livonia) flatly predicted the \$1.5 million to reimburse Livonia and Wayne schools for taking the 3,900 students from the defunct Nankin Mills District will stay in the school aid bill.

"I say that because the House is going to shoot first with at least 58 votes," he said. "We're going to hang in there. The House is going to stand firm."

"I personally decided this when the governor expressed concern for the situation. I am confident he's in support of the solution because of evidence I've seen since we talked to him."

STEMPEN and Rep. Vincent J. Pettipren (D-Westland) are the next step in a so-called conference committee. The report of the first committee was rejected for the second time Tuesday in the Senate.

Rep. George F. Montgomery (D-Detroit), majority floor leader in the House, said the House delegation to the second conference will be Reps. Lucille McCollough (D-Detroit), chairman of the House Education Committee; George Montgomery (D-Detroit), father of the floor leader and a 21-year veteran in the House; and Clifford A. Smart (R-Walled Lake).

"This you might describe as our first team," Montgomery said.

"A lot of us thought this bill was inadequate and cutting \$1.5 million off the bill (in the Senate) didn't make it any more acceptable."

Stempfen said he would ask to get on the second conference committee. House Speaker William A. Goyan (D-Detroit) will be faced with "about 18 other people who want on the same (three-member) delegation from the House."

THE KEY to the fight for the reimbursement for Livonia and Wayne was the first conference report. Stempfen said the House had more than enough votes to kill the first report, but he was just as happy the job was done in the Senate.

Livonia will be forced to take about 2,200 students and Wayne about 1,700 from Nankin Mills. Without extra money now — rather than in the fall, as some suggested — both receiving districts faced a crisis.

The crisis brought Livonia Supt. Rolland Upton and Wayne Supt. Harry Howard to Lansing in a series of shuttle runs during the past two weeks. Both were on hand last Monday night, cajoling and buttressing lawmakers wherever they found them.

Upton became known as "the guy with the buses" after someone suggested he load up the system's school buses with students and throw a basket line around the capitol. Upton joked about the idea.

Livonia will take 60 per cent of the Nankin Mills students and Wayne will take 40 per cent. They will share in the same ratio a \$250,000 debt accumulated by Nankin Mills before its collapse.

SEN. ANTHONY STAMM (R-Kalamazoo), chairman of the Senate Education Committee, felt his position was being undermined without cause and took the campaign in part as a personal affront.

It was also a double setback for Sen. Charles O. Zollar (R-Benton Harbor), chairman of the powerful and prestigious Senate Appropriations Committee.

Zollar, also a Senate conferee on the school aid bill, decided it should be sliced to \$847.3 million and used the \$1.5 million earmarked for Livonia-Wayne as a showcase reduction.

In the first test, the Senate surprisingly gave the version approved by Zollar, Stamm and Company only 13 votes, seven fewer than needed for approval. It bought time for Stempfen and Pettipren.

Stamm was looking for the votes he needed Monday night. There were absentees, and the decision was rescheduled for Tuesday morning. The storm was gathering at 10 a.m.

SEN. SANDER M. LEVIN (D-Berkeley), minority floor leader, recalled that the Senate had balked out three receiving districts which accepted Sumpter School District students after it was abolished.

"I don't think you should cut justice into small pieces that why — relief for those districts and not for these," he said. "Why can't we address ourselves to the problems of more children in larger districts?"

SEN. WILLIAM FAUST (D-Westland) was fighting for Nankin Mills while trying to avoid a confrontation with Stamm, Zollar or Sen. Emil Lockwood (R-St. Louis), majority leader.

Sens. George W. Kahn (R-West Bloomfield) and N. Lorraine Beebe (R-Deerborn) helped silently to avert a furor by Zollar and Stamm. On Tuesday, Kahn abstained and Beebe voted no.

Stempfen and Pettipren worked as a team throughout the crisis.

Both Pettipren and Stempfen helped put schoolmen Upton and Howard in touch with lawmakers who held key votes. It was a classic demonstration of an aroused group seeking redress in the Legislature.

Stempfen charitably is convinced that the Senate did not realize the problem in the state that it existed.

"Even the governor was not aware of the extent of this problem. We're dealing with a school district (Livonia) that is in the black which could be bankrupted by this,"

## Island Lakes Fishing Good

Oakland County's island lakes are good spots for fishermen, but Lake St. Clair's waters have been cloudy and unproductive lately, the state Natural Resources Department said in its weekly report.

Maceday Lake, northwest of Pontiac, is still producing rainbow trout and the splake, a hybrid brook-lake trout. Experienced trout fishermen have been the most successful.

Small but tasty bluegills are hitting on most island lakes as they move into shallow waters and begin spawning. Outstanding are Pontiac, Orion, Lakeville and White lakes, all of which have public access sites and liveries.

WALLEYES and perch were biting poorly on Lake St. Clair, but some pike were hitting in the shallow waters of St. Clair Flats in Goose Bay, Flattop Bay and Little Muskegon Bay.

No reports on bass fishing have come in yet, although the season opened Memorial Day.

Meanwhile, the DNR predicted the stretch from the Detroit area won't be as bad as the smelly summer of 1967. Many Lake Michigan and Lake Huron beaches were unusable as the useless silver fish died off by the tons and washed ashore two years ago.

### Chandler Gets Endorsement

The Redford-Livonia Young Republican Club announced its support for Charles Chandler, candidate in Monday's election for Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

Chandler is a 5-year resident of Livonia and a member of various legal and professional organizations, is a practicing attorney in Southfield.

### Swanson Reports 2 Errors

Robert Swanson, 31036 Greenwood, Livonia, candidate for the at-large posts on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees, Thursday informed the Observer Newspapers of two errors in his biographical sketch.

Swanson reports he has not been a resident of Livonia since 1952 but only for one year and that his activities with the local Republican Party referred to the GOP in Colorado. He is a member of the Livonia Republican Party but had not served as membership chairman, as the sketch indicated.

### PUBLIC HEARING

In compliance with Act No. 43, State of Michigan, Second Extra Session of 1963, the Northwest State College-Livonia College District publishes the notification of a public hearing on the 1969-70 college budget. This hearing is to take place at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 1969, at the Administration Building, 19000 Highway 8, Livonia. A copy of this budget is available for public inspection at the above address.

W. KENNETH LINDNER  
Vice President - Business Affairs

PUBLISHED JUNE 8, 1969

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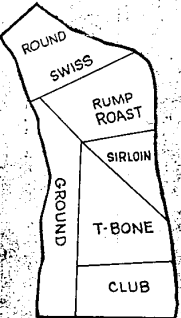


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