

County exec calls Proposition 13 a Catch 22

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

If you're supporting the Tisch tax cut, you're actually supporting a tax increase.

That's the opinion of Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy—who is supporting the separate tax proposal

championed by Taxpayers United for Tax Limitation—and an analysis of the county's office of management and budget.

"It is clear from the analysis that the Tisch Amendment is an insidious fraud," Murphy said. "Under the guise of lowering taxes, the proposal

would actually raise taxes. Under the banner of Proposition 13, the people would be getting a 'Catch 22.'

"The catch is simple—property taxes would go down, at least temporarily, but income taxes would go up," Murphy said.

TISCH AND HIS supporters are saving the 50 per cent rollback in property taxes and a one per cent increase in the ceiling on the state income tax would mean immediate tax relief for property owners.

Murphy and Oakland County budget chief James J. Brennan, pointed out that Tisch's proposal also allows for a new one per cent local school district income tax and does not provide for any tax exemptions and would allow the state legislature to initiate different types of property taxes to replace the revenues lost in the tax rollback.

For the special one per cent school district income tax to be assessed, however, it would have to be approved by the electorate.

"There's no tax limitation protection in this (Tisch's) proposal whatsoever," Brennan said.

While Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner Robert Tisch and no other official spokesmen were avail-

able for comment, volunteers were available when challenged with Murphy's analysis.

"Whatever it is they're telling you, it's false," said Westland businesswoman Laura Wofford.

"Give up on the politicians for awhile," she said. "They'll give you any kind of bull."

ELABORATING ON HIS charges, Murphy said, "An individual with a family income of \$22,000 and a house with a market value of \$50,000 would pay \$114 more in taxes (under the Tisch Amendment) than under present law."

"These earning as little as \$10,000 a year could also find their taxes increased."

According to the department of budget and management's analysis, a family earning \$22,000 annually and owning a \$50,000 home would owe \$1,362.50 in property taxes. However, the property tax credit which is deducted from the state income tax reduces the net tax on \$1,007.

Under the Tisch Amendment, according to Murphy's analysis, property taxes would be slashed \$881. The amendment contains no property tax exemptions to further reduce that total, though.

If both amendments pass ...

A spot on the November ballot has yet to be reserved for Robert Tisch's tax-cutting constitutional amendment, but what happens if it goes head-to-head against a tax limitation proposal that is already on the ballot?

Since the two proposed amendments would appear as simple "yes" or "no" questions, there's the chance that both would be approved by the voters.

According to Bernard Apol, head of the Secretary of State's elections division, "The (state) Constitution provides that whenever two or more questions dealing with the same subject conflict, the question receiving the greatest number of popular votes shall prevail."

Tisch and his supporters have until this afternoon to file the 266,000 signatures necessary to place his proposal, which would slash property taxes by 50 per cent, on the November ballot.



Crusty Howard Jarvis, who led California's voters in revolt at the polls in overwhelming approval of Proposition 13, and Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner Robert Tisch, who is trying to slash property taxes in Michigan, kicked off a barnstorming tour of Michigan last week in Wayne.

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In addition to the \$881, the one per cent increase in the state income tax and the one per cent income tax which could be collected in local school districts would total \$440.

At the bottom line, according to Murphy and Brennan, a \$144 tax increase—a total tax of \$1,121 under Tisch's proposal compared to \$1,007 under the present tax system.

Taxes would also rise in the lower

income brackets, Murphy and Brennan said.

A household having a total family income of \$10,000 annually and a home valued at \$25,000 currently pays \$42 in taxes. Under the proposed Tisch amendment, taxes could rise to \$40.

The average millage rate used throughout the state in 1977 for property taxes was 54¢ mills—\$4.50 per each \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

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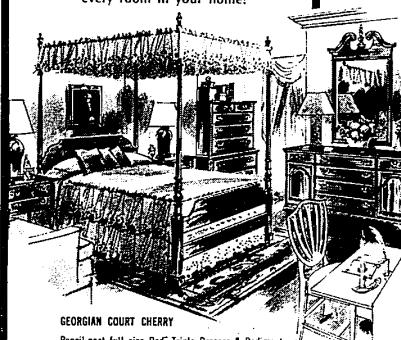
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