Hike sales tax to unburden married? Voters to decide

By JACKIE KLEIN

Voters may be asked to reduce property taxes by increasing the sales tax.

The tax shift is being considered for the statewide November ballot by Gov. Milliken and members of both parties in the state Legislature, said Rep. Joseph Forbes, D-Oak Park. Forbes is Majority Floor Leader and his district includes Southfield and Lathrup Village.

"This proposal is long overdue," Forbes said. "We can reduce local property taxes $500 a household. Property taxes are unfair and regressive. The loss in revenues could be offset by raising the sales tax from 4 percent to about 5.5 percent. It's higher than that in many other states."

Michigan's $100 million loss in federal revenue sharing funds because of President Jimmy Carter's anti-inflation budget cuts is devastating and jeapordizes services, Forbes contended.

Because all of the $100 million in general revenue sharing funds is used for state mental health programs and debt setvices, its loss will require a $100 million cut in some state programs or a tax increase of $166 million, Forbes maintained.

Equally as drastic is the ballot proposal of Robert Tisch, Shiawassee drain commissioner, to cut property tax assessments from 50 percent of true cash value to 25 percent, according to Forbes.

"WE'RE AT the crossroads of a serious situation. Social services such as senior citizen property tax rebates, improvement of correction facilities and school financing are in danger. Michigan's unemployment rate is 12 percent and the cost of unemployment compensation is up.

"The Tisch proposal requires the state to reimburse cities for losses in property taxes. But where are we supposed to get the money? We'd have to shell out at least $1.8 billion from state programs for local levies and $190 million to reimburse cities for their loss of special exemptions for senior citizens and low-income households."

Last year's state budget was $4.5 billion. The economy, with a recession looming, will have a definite impact on the 1980-81 budget, Forbes said. The financial picture is gloomy, state revenues are shrinking, there's a drain on state services and strong legislative opposition against raising taxes, he said.

Declining gas and weight taxes because of energy conservation have a ripple effect on communities, Forbes said. Cities depend on a share of these revenues for road improvements, he noted.

"The tax limitation amendment approved by voters in 1978 would allow a tax increase that could prevent drastic budget cuts," Forbes said. "But I and other leaders in the House believe that during an economic downturn is the worst time to consider a general tax increase."

Cartoon sailor adapts to radio

(Continued from Page 9A)

"It's enough to drive you to drink," said Baier, in his Bruiser voice.

THE GOOD RATINGS didn't come overnight. Both Johnson and Baier started building their audience at another Detroit rock station, WWWW-FM.

Johnson was program director and afternoon disc jockey at W-4 before a purge at the station. Baier started out as "a free free-lancer" for Steve Dahl, whose funny format morning show was a hit at WABX-FM first, then W-4. Baier joined the show at W-4 when he was attending radio classes at Wayne State University.

"I was doing voices, writing stuff, kicking around ideas with him and eventually I ended up with a job," Baier said.

But when Dahl left Detroit for the bigger market in Chicago, he lost Baier and Johnson as friends. They don't speak to each other anymore. Dahl compares Johnson and Baier's show to an act by Elvis Presley imitators.

Baier explains the rift:

"He tried to fire me from W-4 and I wasn't included in the move to Chicago," Baier said. "Here's a guy leaving to make $1,000 a week in Chicago and here I was making $5 an hour. Before he left, he got arrogant and said 'You're fired.'"

Johnson, who was program director at W-4 at the time, said Dahl was in no position to hire or fire anyone.

"It got to the point where Steve was cutting George's microphone off," says Johnson. "It got back to Steve that we'd decided to continue the format without him because we'd decided that not only Steve, but (Baier's) characters, had developed their own identity."

Johnson says he ordered Dahl to do the show at W-4 with Baier until Dahl left the station.

"I THINK it was basic insecurity," Baier said. "He figured if he didn't do well in Chicago, he'd come back to Detroit and take over his old job."

Instead, Johnson told Dahl to clear out his desk a week before he was scheduled to leave. And Johnson filled in for Dahl "temporarily" as the host of the morning crew. Two years later, Johnson's still at the helm of the morning crew.

Dahl, on the other hand, went on to achieve nationwide notoriety by sponsoring an anti-disco rally at Chicago's Comiskey Park last year which turned into a rocker riot forcing cancellation of the second game of a doubleheader between the Chicago White Sox and the Detroit Tigers. He's also cut a couple novelty records called "Do You Think I'm Disco?" and "Ayatollah."

Unlike Dahl, neither Johnson nor Baier professes any great desire to strike out for greener pastures or bigger radio markets.

"I hope to stay here for a number of years, expanding our audience," says Johnson. We're both from Detroit. I can see us being the J.P. McCarthy or Dick Purtan of our generation and maturing and developing our style through the years."

Baier says that if he hadn't clicked on radio, he'd have been just as happy working at an East Detroit gas station.

"I'd have been a master mechanic by now," Baier said.

Success hasn't made George swell.

Computers make medical inroad

By SUSAN LEINOFF

If you thought hospital laboratory technicians spent all their time glued to microscopes examining plates of blood, body fluids or tissue samples under high-powered lenses, you might be surprised.

Highly sophisticated computerized equipment has replaced the microscope in the modern hospital laboratory. And today's lab technician must be trained in chemistry and biology as well as mechanics in order to maintain the quality of their instruments.

"The challenge now is to understand the machinery," said Michelle Strait, pathology supervisor for Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Center on Maple Road west of Drake Road.

"Once a day every instrument undergoes a performance check, and technicians must know how to fix them."

Ms. Strait conducted a tour through the Center's lab, which opened in late 1975, as part of National Medical Laboratory Week (April 13-19) observances.

LAST YEAR, the 13-person staff performed about 108,000 laboratory procedures, according to Ms. Strait.

She said the facility is open 24 hours, handles all the work generated by the Ford clinic and is also available to outside area physicians.

Registered medical technician Judy Shipley, who performs at least 150 blood tests per day, explained just how advanced the equipment has become.

"It takes about 45 seconds to do a cbc (complete blood count) on this machine," she said, pointing to a $50,000 "coulter counter."

"To do the same test manually on a microscope would take 25-30 minutes."

The coulter was invented about 20-years ago, according to Ms. Shipley.

"None of these machines were in existence when I started out," added Clair Conlon, who became a technician in the 1940s.

Any group, school or vocational education class interested in learning more about medical laboratory careers can contact the West Bloomfield lab for tour information. The center's telephone number is 661-4100.

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English Gardens assures you of freshness and big selection. We show only hardy northern grown trees and shrubbery. In season (May, June, July) you will see a wide, wide choice of annual flower and vegetable plants. For instance: 22 varieties of Tomatoes, 9 varieties of Peppers, many kinds of Petunias and Marigolds. If it is grown, you'll probably see it here. Rest assured, the plants will be fresh because shipments are brought in daily.

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English Gardens guarantees all trees, shrubbery, roses.

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- Miniatures, Rose Trees

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- Crimson King, Red Maple
- Norway, Red Sugar Maple
- Pin Oaks, Sweet Gum

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS
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Flowering and foliage plants in pots ranging from 2½" size for starters and terrariums to 10" floor size plants

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- Plant Hooks, Brackets
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- Koko Mulch, Top Soil
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Friday, April 18, 10 to 2

You have heard him on national radio and seen him on nation-wide TV. His discussions Friday will be:

- Plants Are Like People
- Never Met A House Plant I Did Not Like
- Make Friends With Your Garden

SATURDAY, April 19 . . . Bill Smith, 9:00 to 6:00
Wonder-Gro expert will help you to a better lawn and garden. Ask him about fertilizers, weed killers, fungus controls.

SATURDAY, April 19 . . . Ken Plasky, 10:00 to 4:00
Represents Black Magic Potting Soil with moisture control crystals. Professional advice for successful potted plants.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 11:00 TO 4:00
LIZ KORB OF TV CHANNEL 4
The First Lady of Plants appears regularly on TV WDIV. Meet Liz in person and get help for your plants.

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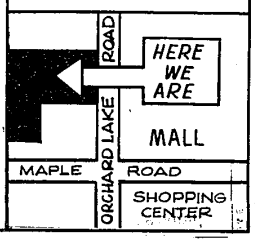

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