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College presidents label Tisch a disaster

OCC budget cuts could reach 25%

By TIM RICHARD

"Tisch would be a disaster for Oakland Community College," says President Robert F. Roelofs of the property tax cut plan on the Nov. 4 ballot.

"Disaster" is a word many college presidents use when describing the plan advocated by the Shiawassee County drain commissioner for the second time.

Roelofs has analyzed the effect of Tisch II on OCC's four campus systems, serving more than 20,000 students. His staff is at work analyzing a second plan, the "Coalition Proposal" backed by Gov. William G. Milliken and a bipartisan legislative group, but hasn't completed that work.

A third plan, called Smith-Bullard for the two Ann Arbor area state representatives who wrote it, affects mainly elementary and secondary school financing.

"WE HAVE A fine property tax base here in Oakland. That's what made this college good," Roelofs said.

"This year our property tax revenue is about \$11.5 million minus whatever we lose on the Headlee rollback."

"Tisch takes you to 1978 on tax assessments, so immediately we lose \$3 million in revenue."

"Tisch also cuts assessments to half the 1978 level, so we lose \$4 million more." OCC's property tax revenue is then down to the \$4 million level.

"Under Tisch, the state is supposed to make up the difference. But the state says they may not be able to make it up. I was in a meeting in Lansing."

"So our minimum loss could be \$7.25 million, or 25 percent of our budget."

"I'VE HAD staff studying what we can do if we have a revenue loss of that magnitude. I don't know what we can do."

"We've tried to get our programs to be self-sufficient, in the sense that the revenue of a program is something close to the cost. When we introduce a vocational-technical program or an allied health program, we get an income estimate of state aid and tuition versus the cost of equipment and salaries."

"There are just no big 'losers' we could cut out if Tisch passes."

"That's true of not only Oakland Community College but other community colleges and universities across the state."

WHEN THE HEADLEE tax limitation amendment was passed by voters in 1978, the state and many local units raised non-tax revenues — licenses, inspections, tuition, admissions, registration fees, lab fees and so on.

That may be impossible under Tisch II, Roelofs said.

"Tisch defines 'tax' very broadly, citing many fees. Some say it would encompass tuition. But it doesn't say tuition. It might be that Tisch would freeze tuition."

"To me, a user fee is a charge of using the physical building, student activities or the library."

VERY ROUGHLY, the state budget of Michigan is in three parts — federal grants, state services and payments to local governments.

Each part is valued at \$2.7 billion to \$3.2 billion.

The Tisch II property tax cut would amount to about \$2.7 billion a year, according to Page 8A.



WSU President Thomas N. Bonner thinks passage of the Tisch tax cut proposal in November could cause Wayne State. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Tax plan a threat to WSU survival?

By MARY GNIEWER

Wayne State University President Thomas N. Bonner compares passage of the Tisch tax cut proposal to the effect of an atomic bomb being dropped on campus.

Like 14 other public university presidents across Michigan, Bonner is working with several unknown factors as he prepares his budget for fiscal 1980-81, which begins Oct. 1.

For the first time since 1939, state revenues are running behind expenditures at WSU. There's also strong likelihood of cuts in the state budget for education without regard to inflation or the myriad of tax cut proposals on the Nov. 4 ballot.

WSU, which serves a clientele of mostly tri-county area students, could live with other tax cut proposals like the Smith-Bullard plan or the Coalition Proposal, Bonner says, but not with Tisch.

"Tisch would be calamity piled onto disaster piled onto years of neglect of major universities in Michigan," said Bonner.

If the plan initiated by Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner Robert Tisch passes, it would cut \$2 billion from state coffers. Unlike the Smith-Bullard plan or Coalition Proposal which would both cut property taxes and increase other taxes, Tisch offers no alternative for making up lost revenues.

THAT MEANS SCHOOLS like Wayne State which rely primarily on state funds (72 percent of the current budget) would get little or no state support.

"If Tisch passes as written, some

public universities will close," Bonner predicts. "A few selected universities might survive, but Wayne won't be one of them."

"Our emphasis now is to defeat Tisch."

Bonner, who began his third year as WSU president in August, has been an admitted publicity hound for the university, the third largest public university in the state, since his arrival.

He has traveled to Poland, China, Romania and Nigeria to establish student exchange programs. On the home front, he has talked up the university's urban aspects, its image as a labor, industrial- and culturally-oriented school.

Tisch poses the greatest threat to that image.

"It's such a disaster, like dropping an atomic bomb on the university," Bonner says.

WSU's 1979-80 general fund budget included \$98 million in state aid. The next biggest slice of the financial pie, \$35 million, was generated by tuition.

Bonner would be hard pressed to raise tuition again, since a major priority this year is to reduce present tuition, which is among the highest in the country while at the same time serving a student population that is older, part-time and less affluent than others.

"IF WE RAISED tuition, it would have to be up to the level of a private university to keep pace, about \$4,500 a year," Bonner said.

"That would put us out of business."

The school's ever-spiraling tuition currently ranges from \$1,400 a year for undergraduates to \$1,550 a year for graduate level courses.

(Continued on Page 8A)

Back-to-work order could face teachers

By TOM LONERCAN

Pending the outcome of meetings with a state mediator today, the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees may seek an injunction to force striking teachers back to work.

The board voted 5-1 Wednesday to seek the injunction in Wayne County Circuit Court, following a two-and-one-half hour closed session with college administrators and attorneys. Trustee Leonard Wozniak voted no. Trustee Rosina Raymond was absent.

A meeting with a mediator appointed by the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, requested by the teachers' union, was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. today in Detroit.

The strike entered its third day Thursday. Classes are not being held, but college buildings have remained open.

The Faculty Forum, which represents 189 full-time and 189 part-time instructors, has not requested other unions at the college to honor its picket lines. The Forum is a Michigan Education Association (MEA) affiliate.

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Historic figure Slocum, 89, dies

Edessa Warner Slocum, daughter of Governor Fred Warner of Farmington died Aug. 30 in Belmont Nursing Center, Harper Woods.

As the last surviving member of the Warner children, which included sister Helen Gaukler and brothers Harley and Howard, Mrs. Slocum presided over the

Warner mansion on Grand River which was her childhood home.

Mrs. Slocum, who dropped the use of her first name, Susan, in favor of the middle name, Edessa, was the eldest daughter of the first man in Michigan to serve three consecutive terms as governor. Warner was on the brink of his 50th birthday in 1904 when he was elected to his first two-year term in Lansing.

He served as a Republican state senator between 1895-98 and a Michigan's Secretary of State in 1900-02.

His adopted father, P. Dean Warner was elected as a Democrat in 1864 as Speaker of the House. He served two terms in that position and in 1867 was an active member in the state's constitutional convention. In 1869, he was elected to the state senate.

As governor, his son championed progressive causes such as regulation of the railroad and insurance industries, conservation, food inspection, child labor laws, direct primary elections and women's suffrage.

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Mailman Chuck Colsher seems stumped, faced with 44 mailboxes at the Oakland Hills Mobile Home Park in Farmington Hills. Actually

he's just brushing his hair away to get a better view. (Staff photo by Dwight Cendrowski)

Tax hike fought

By MARY GNIEWER

State Senator Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, said Tuesday he will do everything in his power as vice chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to kill proposed enactment of a new \$700 million tax package.

The package introduced this week by House Taxation Committee Chairman George Montgomery, D-Detroit, includes increases in the single business tax, income tax, alcohol and cigarette taxes and a new tax on radio and commercials.

Montgomery's proposal is a hedge against the Tisch tax cut amendment which will face voters on the Nov. 4 ballot.

If Tisch passes, Montgomery's package would stay in effect. But if Tisch is defeated, thus removing the threat of a \$70 billion cut in state revenue, then Montgomery's proposal would be void on Nov. 30.

"I will do everything to see that it is killed and killed quickly," said Ross of

the Montgomery plan.

"It seems very clear to me that the vast majority of taxpayers want no new taxes at this time and no increases in existing taxes."

"I oppose this as an effort to try and circumvent what the voters' choice will be in November."

ROSS SAYS THAT although he strongly opposes the Tisch amendment, he defends the right of the electorate to make their own choice in November.

"The Legislature should not be spending its time trying to undermine those legitimate choices voters will have on Nov. 4."

State Representative Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, questions the sincerity of the Montgomery proposal.

"It seems like it's typical of some of the things George Montgomery has been doing in the past year," Brotherton said.

Hills woman killed in robbery rampage

A 56-year-old Farmington Hills woman was shot and killed Tuesday during a robbery attempt at an east-side Detroit department store where she was employed.

Rose Mae Tilley, manager at Jim's Department Store in the Warren-Commer Shopping Center, was killed by a lone gunman at 5:30 p.m. when she refused his demands for money.

The gunman then robbed and killed 39-year-old James Glenn as he sat in his van with his teen-aged son in the parking lot outside the store.

The gunman then robbed another

man in the parking lot before forcing his way with an accomplice into a parked car. The duo forced the driver, Bowman Coleman, 67, to drive as they robbed and shot him before fleeing at Montclair and E. Warren.

Coleman was in critical condition at Detroit Receiving Hospital yesterday.

Detroit Police arrested one juvenile Tuesday and were seeking two other suspects.

Mrs. Tilley is survived by her husband, Reuben W., two sons, Patrick and Michael, her mother Ruby Glinavner, four brothers and four sisters.

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