

## Lawmakers against Detroit income tax push for no votes

By Mike Scanlon  
staff writer

It's too early to tell if a commuter-based anti-Detroit income tax increase will succeed, said spokesmen for a legislative committee formed to fight the June 23 Detroit income tax increase package.

"Our problem is that we're under sort of a tight time line, and it's going to be right up to the last couple of days until we have a good feeling about whether we've had a real impact or not," said state Rep. Jack Kirksey, R-Livonia. Kirksey is treasurer of Legislators Against Tax Increases.

"So far it's been good," Kirksey added. About \$1,000 had been collected by late last week, he said, most of it the result of responses from commuters stopped at park-and-ride bus stops by one of the 15 legislators who belong to the group. Donations are

averaging about \$10, Kirksey said.

"We've received a number of invitations to appear on local television talk shows, panels, radio that sort of thing. And all of that is an opportunity to call attention to some of the issues," Kirksey said.

"OUR MAIN purpose is being interpreted by some people to do with the non-resident income tax," said state Rep. Douglas Cruce, R-Troy. Cruce is chairman of the group.

"That's a part, but that's only a small part. Our primary objection is we do not believe the city of Detroit has expressed a willingness to adjust their budget procedures to keep from getting in this problem again.

"This only passed by one vote in each house, and we don't think that's a solid mandate."

The committee is dominated by suburban legislators — 11 of the 15 members represent suburban

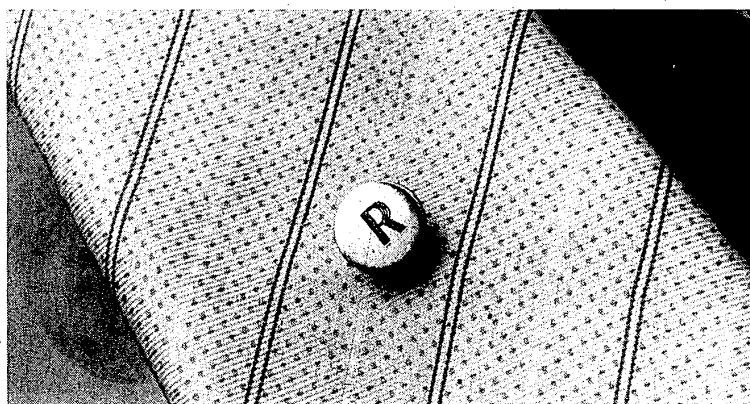
districts. Three are northeast Detroit representatives, and one legislator is from an outstate district.

MEANWHILE, a key provision of the tax package that would allow Detroit to float up to \$125 million in bonds, was rejected by a joint House-Senate conference committee Thursday.

The bonding bill was approved by the Senate only after it was amended to allow appointment of an administrator for Detroit should the city fail to enact a balanced budget by July 1982. The measure was part of a two-bill package that included the income tax vote authorization.

The bonding measure appears headed back to the Senate.

Only voters registered in Detroit can cast ballots on the June 23 tax proposal, which would increase income tax rates for city residents from 2 percent to 3 percent. Non-resident rates would rise from 1/2 percent to 1 1/4 percent.



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