

# Budget issue: education vs. welfare

Republicans lost the vote on the state Senate floor, but most felt they won points with the voters over the budget issue of 1983 — education vs. welfare.

But a Senate Democrat, Jack Faxon of Southfield, dismissed the fight as "a political ploy to embarrass the governor."

The Senate last week rejected 21-18 an appropriations amendment to raise funds for the Big Three state universities — 10 percent compared to the 9 percent recommended by Democratic Gov. James J. Blanchard.

The vote was on almost a party-line basis, with Republican R. Robert Geake of Northville joining 20 Democrats to defeat the measure.

THE AMENDMENT would have raised appropriations for the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University by 10 percent. Appropriations for the other four-year colleges would have been increased by 9 percent compared to the 7.5 recommended by Blanchard.

"Being on the appropriations committee," said Geake, "I just couldn't vote for it. There was no provision where the money would come from, and to support the amendment would be irresponsible."

The amendment was sponsored by Sen. William Sederburg, R-Lansing, and co-sponsored by Doug

Cruce, R-Troy.

CRUCE said the intent was to shift \$7.3 million from the Department of Social Services to higher education. "There's a strong argument that there will be a surplus in the social service budget, and that the caseload estimates are too high," Cruce said.

"We have the money in the state budget to pay for it. It's just a matter of misplaced priorities. The Republican philosophy is to teach people to take care of themselves through education instead of having the state take care of them forever."

Senate Majority Leader William Faust, D-Westland, called Cruce's position an "if-come way of thinking that's been running the government for the past 20 years and got us into this mess."

"We're not going to pass legislation on an if-come basis and hope for funding to come later. That's wrong," Faust said.

"Those who supported the amendment are against raising taxes, but they want to raise the higher education budget and don't know where the money will come from," Faxon said.

SEN. PHILIP Mastin, D-Pontiac, said the Senate's reluctance to beef up the higher education budget is an effort to make a public policy statement about the

future of the state's public universities and colleges.

"If the Big Three continue at the same enrollment they have now, by 1990 there will only be 1,600 students for the other colleges to share," Mastin said.

"Higher learning institutions will soon be faced with the same questions as local schools: What are we going to do about declining enrollments? Are we going to maintain all the universities at a reduced state or close some of them?"

Mastin predicted a blue-ribbon committee will be formed consisting of legislators, citizens and educators to determine if the state should continue funding all of its law schools, medical schools and advanced degree programs.

"Ultimately, there has to be a reduction in duplication of college programs. The approach for various institutions is to have different missions," Mastin said.

**'There's a strong argument that there will be a surplus in the social service budget (which can be shifted to education). . .'**

—Sen. Doug Cruce  
Troy Republican

**'We're not going to pass legislation on an if-come basis and hope for funding to come later.'**

—Sen. William Faust  
Majority Leader

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## Appeals court gets new judge

John H. Shepherd was slated to be sworn in as a Michigan Court of Appeals Judge today at the county commissioners' auditorium in the county building in Pontiac.

Shepherd, 49, former chairman of the Southfield Democratic Club, was appointed to the appeals court judge by Gov. James Blanchard to succeed Michael Oavanagh who was elected last November to the state Supreme Court.

A native Detroit, Shepherd graduated from the University of Michigan Law School and studied at the University of Paris as a Fulbright scholar.

He has practiced law since 1960, served as the assistant U.S. attorney for Michigan's Eastern District from 1962 to 1965 and was an instructor in political science at Wayne State University from 1961 to 1965. Shepherd also was appointed by the Michigan Attorney General as special assistant for prosecution of organized crime indictments arising out of the Wayne County Grand Jury in 1969.

IN A SPEECH prepared for the swearing-in, Shepherd said, "I hope to recognize and I hope to be able to teach others that obedience to the law is based upon a need in society for fairness and for reciprocity."

"Our taxes pay the salaries of our state employees, including judges, and all parties to this employment contract should remember who is the boss."

Shepherd said, "Every judge should remember these truths, but this doesn't mean that a judge decides cases by asking what is the current mood."

He also said, "I have been concerned about the



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—John Shepherd

problem of the inadequacy of the present delivery system of legal services and the problem of the accessibility, or perhaps I should say non-accessibility, of our courts to people of moderate or limited means.

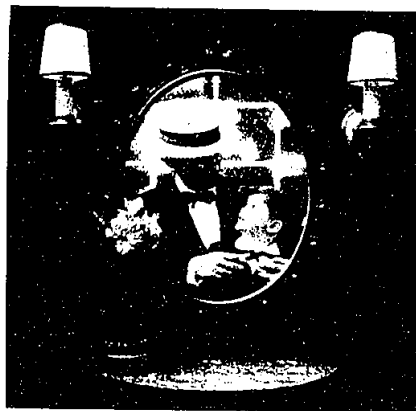
"Something needs to be done to correct this intolerable situation, and I hope to be able to make some small contribution to the solution of this problem."

Shepherd said at the conclusion of service as judge he wants to be able to say that he tried and made a contribution.

"I pray that each time I walk into court and each time I decide a case, I will remember that in every case there are three equal partners — the litigants, the lawyers, and the judges."

Shepherd's community activities include serving as chairman of the board of Channel 56, as a member of the executive committee of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit and member of the Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan.

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