Senator pushes for showdown with foes of new tourism bureau

staff writer

A (uming state Sen. Harry DeMaso is gunning for an open abowdown with state administrators who are quietly resisting his bill to create a Department of Recreation, Tourism and Culture.

"Nort meeting I'm gonna have every one of the departments in here and ask them what they're doing. Let's lay it on the table. They're saying, i' hear privately it's going no place'," asid DeMaso, R-Battle Creek.

Chairman of the Senate committee on economic development and tourism, be is author of a package of bills to create the 20th department of state government. DeMaso interrupted speakers frequently during a two-hour hearing in Lansing Tuesday to vent his frustration at the quiet opposition of state administrators.

His bills, subject of recent onlike.

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His bills, subject of recent public lits a hearings in Detroit and outstate cities, would strip powers from the Commerce, Natural Resources, State and State and Commerce, Natural Resources, State and State

would strip powers from the Commerce, Natural Resources, State and Public Health departments.

"I HEARD nothing but favorable comments (from non-state sources) in those bearings," DeMass said. "But from state government itself, there's opposition to anything called change."

His tentative date for the showdown is the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Supporting the package were spokesmen for county and local governments in Wayne and Oakland counties. Among them was R. Eric Releckle, current Wayne County parks chief who held the same job previously in Oakland County.

"I'm going to pursue the 20th department, by hook or by crook," wowed the 29-year veteran of the Legislature.

MICHIGAN'S 1984 Constitution required that 130-some state agencies.

purcaus, commissions and departments be reorganized under no more than 20 department headings. The Legislature promptly created 19, leaving one in re-

serve.

Many proposals to create the 20th department have been voiced in the state capital, but DeMaso insists the bonor belongs to the state's third largest industry — one which grew in a recession as thousands of manufacturing jobs were lost.

He argues the state's efforts to pro-

of health subjects.

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State Sen. Harry Destaro Battle Creek Picpublican

mote tourism are strewn across sever-al existing departments and therefore inelfective.

While Sen. Jack Welborn, R. Kalama-zon, a dectrinaire foe of state spending, continually asked what a department of tourism would cost, DeMaso insist-ed, "it's not a matter of more dollars. It's a matter of their being under one roof."

11's a matter of their ceing those oper-col." IS F. TWARDZIK, Michigan State University professor of recre-sions ammunition, Items:

The state's 253 roadside parts serve 40 million visitors a year but aren't promoted by the Michigan De-partment of Transportation.

State highways along the free

State highways along the free sand beaches of Lakes Superior and

state highways along the free and beaches of Lakes Superior and Michigan are unadvertised.
 Underwater state parks, at which scuba divers can visit sunken ships, in Lakes Huro and Michigan are unpromoted except by local groups. "Creation of underwater parks is one of the greatest movements in the United States. Japan has 33 underwater parks," said Twardrik.
 Responded DeMaso: "I worked on one (underwater park proposal) at Aipena, and I don't get a single vote out of Aipena, and it sits in limbo. I can't get any help out of the state departments."
 BESIDES CREATING the tourism department, his bills would place under it.
 The State Council for the Arts,

- The State Council for the Arts, now under the Office of Management and Budget.
 The Mackinae Island State Park
- Commission, now under DNR.

 The Michigan State Waterways

Inspection of swimming pools, now under Public Health and local offi-cials.

CAROL WOODS, executive director of the 6,000-member Michigan Tourism United, said her Lansing-based group is "in favor of any legislation" on tourism

policy.

She said MTU wants the state to "assign a significantly higher priority to
the tourism and recreation industry."

DeMaso's frown broke into a smille.

Woods said the group includes the Michigan Lodging Association, Michi-gan Restaurant Association, Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles (headquartered in Livosia), Michigan Association of Private Campgrounds Owners, Recreational Cance Associa-tion and three of the regional tourism associations.







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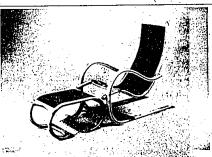
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BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1985

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1885

NOTICE IS HEIMEDY GIVEN that a public meeting will be beld by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation to the Illimingham Board of Education on Monday, November 2, 1985 from 7:30 to 8:10 pm. In Board Room A of the Birmingham Board of Education And Indication Statistical Committee in the Education Administration Building, located at 50 West Merrill, Birmingham, Michigan 18012. The meeting is for the purpose of having a public forum, inviting public comment, to saint the Advisory Committee in:

understanding the current student transportation system and problem(s). 50 considering the featibility of providing student transportation because of safety, and considering the featibility of providing student transportation because of safety, and considering the featibility of providing student transportation for that for the purpose of the safety and considering the transportation of a student anywhere other than to and from his/her home.

Any interested person may submit his comments in writing if unable to attend. Written comments of those who thated to pread at the public hearing are requested. Written comments of those who thated to pread at the public hearing are requested. Written comments of those who thated to pread at the public hearing and the safety of the Districted Price and parent groups have been invited to submit a summary of their respective organization's views and to also attend an open meeting of the Committee to discuss them, on Wednesday, October 20, 1925 at 7:30 pm. In Board Room A.