Wine cooler issue: handling fees for stores

A proposed 10-cent deposit on wine cooler and mixed drink containers is scheduled for a floor vote by the state House of Representatives today after sailing 10-1 through a committee Wednesday. The big debate will be over amendments affecting retailers and beverage distributors.

"Ten cents is fair," said Rep. Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, who voted for the no-compromise measure in committee.

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THE HOUSE Liquor Control Committee on the cooler bottlets of five cents after it was bitterly denounced by Thomas L. Washington, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

MUCC spearheaded the 1976 voter

initiative that enacted a deposit law for beer and pop and is continuing its petition drive for a wine cooler de-

petition drive for a wine cooler de-posit voie.

Dunaskiss, the only Observer & Eccentric area lawmaker on the committee, said a survey of this northern Oakland district shows "in excess of 90 percent are in favor" of extending the deposit law to wine coolers and mixed drinks.

that were acceptable, said, "Well — yeah. We won't go to the mat on that. But the consumers and retailers might be uptight about exclusive territories."

ritories."

He said MUCC's petition drive would continue until a bill is passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the governor.

DUNASKISS, WHO supported both amendments, called them fair.

"I think a two-cent handling fee for 'Morn and Pop' retailers is fair," said Dunaskiss, whose north Oakland district includes Oakland Yownship.

"We heard testimony that the wholesalers are taking in \$20 million to \$30 million a year" for cans and bottles that are never redeemed. Lawmakers backing the two-cents handling fee for retailers said the money could come from that "float" without being tacked onto purchase prices.

Washington said the handling fee



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OU will honor jurist, 3 faculty

monies in Baldwin Pavition on cam-pus, and a third will receive a re-search excellence grant.

OU will award 434 undergraduate and 199 graduate degrees, including four doctorates — one in blomedical sciences and three in systems engi-

wilLIAMS, who retires at the end of the year after 16 years on the high court, has been in public affairs for 50 years.

He was a six-term governor from 1949-80, then secretary of state for African affairs and U.S. ambassato to the Philippines in the Kennedy-Johnson administration.

In 1967, Williams gave OU his 218-piece collection of African art, the cree of what is now a permanent collection of sculpture and painting in Meadow Brook Art Gallery.

FACULTY members cited will be: Robert I. Facko, music — "respected and held in deep affection" by students for his motivation, accessibility and enthusiasm.
Richard B. Stamps, sociology

Gas bill cut due in October

Consumers Power Co. will make a one-time refund in October of about \$27.9 million to its 1.2 million natu-

ral gas customers.
The refund was approved this week by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

week by the Michigan Public Service Commission.
The typical natural gas residential customer will receive a bill credit of approximately \$13 in October.
The majority of the refund is to a rate settlement reached between Trunkline Gas Co., Consumers Power's main supplier, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for gas Trunkline sold between Deember 1983 and February 1985.
Under the settlement Consumers Power received approximately \$27 million which, with interest, is being refunded to its customers.
The refund also includes approximately \$2.2 million in profits from gas storage, \$1.3 million in a Maryswille property tax settlement, and other lesser amounts from missellaneous sources.

other lesser amounts from unsecun-neous sources. Charles F, Brown, vice president for customer services and marketing for Consumers Power, said, "In addi-tion to this one-time refund, we have previously announced that for the whiter the natural gas rates of our customers are decreasing about 12

customers are decreasing about 12
promit.

This 12 percent reduction, the result of anticipated lower purchase
costs from our pipeline suppliers,
plus a recent Consumers Power rate
settlement with the Michigan Public
Service Commission, means an estimated annual savings beginning
Sept. 1 of an additional 181 million
for our 1.2 million natural gas customers," said Brown.

Consumers Power Co. is Michigan's largest utility, serving almost
six million of the state's nine million
residents in 67 of the 68 Lower Peninsula countles.

G. Mennen Williams, retiring chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, will receive an honorary dector of laws degree when Oakland University holds commencement exercises at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Two OU faculty members from Rochester Hills will share in a \$1,000

Two Guit laculty members from caching excellence award in ceremonies in Baldwin Pavillon on cambus, and a third will receive a re-monies and anthropology — "epitomizes the term teacher," cited for "Infinite particular to the complex of the

Outstanding alumni also will be

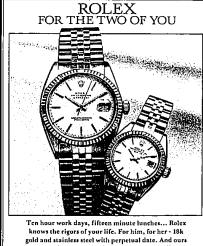
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MINE OF STREET STREET

bill.

Spokesmen for the Michigan Merchants Council said Michigan and Oregon are the only two states, of nine with deposit laws, which fall to give retailers a handling fee. They said each Kroger supermarkel, for example, spends \$599 a week on labor, accounting and management time for handling returnables — a total of \$1.5 million a year in Michigan.

gan.
Although the handling fee amendment lost in committee, Dunaskiss predicted an effort to add it in floor debate before the full 110-member

House.

THE EXCLUSIVE territory for distributors was assured in a separate bill that is "tile-barred" to the wine cooler bill — that is, neither becomes law unless both are signed.

"The idea of territories seems to be fair," said Dunaskiss. "If they distributory don't have them, some-body can come in, dump a product 'John Q. Winecooler,' and you're sitting there with all those 'John Q.'

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Sept. 18, 19

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State Rep. Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, said a survey of his northern Oakland district shows "in excess of 90 percent are in favor" of extending the deposit law to wine

coolers and mixed drinks.

"The sole purpose is to grant an exclusive right to certain distributors to sell wine coolers in certain territories, thereby stifling competition," he said.

Washington added that granting exclusive territories would "give the beer and wine wholesalers the per-fect excuse for raising prices and

bottles that are unredeemable."

But Washington opposed the tiebar procedure and the whole territories idea.

blaming these cost increases on the
"Bottle Bill" as they did when the
original bill passed in 1976.

THE PANEL rejected an amendment by Rep. Carl Gnodike, R. Sawyer, to extend the deposit law to hard liquor.
Opponents generally felt liquor bottles don't wind up on roadsides, parks, beaches and lawns with the same frequency that pop, beer, wine cooler and mixed drink containers do.

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