

Tax rate cut isn't simple in state Senate

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Even a little thing like cutting the state personal income tax rate 0.2 percent can get complicated.

Ask the Michigan Senate, which spent three days last week locked in argument over amendments, parliamentary procedure and guesswork over revenues.

"It's a title of spring," said state Treasurer Robert Bowman after the Senate vote. "It comes as surely as the buds on the trees. This is the fifth year I've been here and the fourth year I've heard talk about tax cuts."

THE SENATE vote of 342 didn't reveal the partisan rancor over reducing the rate to 4.4 percent from 4.6.

"It's unconstitutional," said Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, "to give the state treasurer power to change tax rates. Changing a tax rate is a power we (legislators) can't delegate. It makes the state treasurer the czar of Michigan finance."

Faxon, who opposed the measure, along with Sen. David Holmes, D-Detroit, argued against a provision that would empower the treasurer to ad-

The income tax cut is 'miniscule. People back home are outraged over property taxes. Everywhere I go, every call I get. Assessments have just come out in the mail, and there have been increases.'

— Sen. Jack Faxon
in floor debate



just the rate as much as 0.05 percent depending on federal tax law changes.

All other area senators supported the bill.

TALK OF A rate cut started because Michigan's definition of tax-

able income is tied to the federal tax law, which Congress drastically revised last year.

Federal deductions were removed and rates cut. The result would have been more income for the state to tax and \$170 million more in revenue unless rates are cut to make the

state tax "revenue neutral."

At least that's the best guess anyone in Lansing can make. Thus the effort, opposed by Faxon, to give the treasurer power to juggle it if revenues appear to be more or less.

The average resident will barely notice the difference — about \$20 per person a year, beginning April 1.

IN THE HOUSE of Representatives, many would prefer to keep the "windfall" for social services, prisons, schools or any of a long list of other uses.

Faxon called the cut "miniscule. I can't see anyone clamoring for 2 percent."

"People back home are outraged over property taxes. Everywhere I go, every call I get. Assessments have just come out in the mail, and there have been increases. Our income tax is among the lowest; our property taxes are among the highest."

But Sen. R. Robert Geake, R-Northville, spoke for the majority when he said, "Property taxes are raised by local government and spent by local government. The Leg-

islature should not take responsibility — or credit — for changing property tax levies."

To leave the income tax rate at 4.6 percent, Geake argued, "is equivalent to raising taxes without a vote of the Legislature. We have a duty to return the money to the people."

Those were only a couple of the complications.

SENATE DEMOCRATS argued the blind, senior citizens and the unemployed should get special relief because the federal law changes removed some of their special exemptions.

And so there were two days of arguments over whether to include such relief in the tax cut measure (Senate Bill 7) or write a separate bill.

Republicans finally won the argument, beating down efforts of freshman Democratic Sens. Chris Dingell of Trenton and John Cherry of Mount Morris to amend the main bill.

Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, bitterly denounced the Republican

maneuver as circumventing the rules. He was blistered back by GOP floor leader Phil Arthurhult of Whitehall who said he "used to look up" to Faust.

AFTER LONG party caucuses, they cut a deal:

• Those breaks will be written into an existing Republican measure (Senate Bill 8).

• SB 8 will be "heavily" with SB 7, meaning that neither can take effect unless both are adopted.

Both bills bear the name of Republican Sen. Norm Shinkle as prime sponsor. Shinkle of Monroe County chairs the taxwriting Senate Finance Committee.

Cost of those breaks could be \$20 million a year, the Senate Fiscal Agency staff estimated. No one yet has any idea how that revenue loss will be made up.

Treasurer Bowman predicted "extensive hearings" when SB 7 and 8 reach the House.

Dance troupe, OCC renew pact

Harbinger Dance Company has renewed its four-year-old affiliation as teacher and resident artist at Oakland Community College.

Under terms of the contract, Harbinger will occupy offices with its own telephone lines in Tirrell Hall of OCC's Orchard Ridge Cam-

pus in Farmington Hills.

The professional, non-profit group will pay OCC \$1,500 a year, teach the modern dance curriculum and perform.

Harbinger is paid 70 percent of fees collected by OCC for non-degree courses.

Born in 1970 at the Detroit Community Music School, Harbinger became independent and moved to Highland Park in 1976. It is known for inventive and original choreography.

It affiliated with OCC in 1983 after a financial reorganization.

Founder Lisa Nowak recently gave up the post of artistic director. Interim artistic director is Gayle Stern Eubanks.

News of the new contract, signed last Nov. 1, was given to OCC trustees at last week's meeting by Anthony Jarson, vice chancellor of business affairs.

FISHER
WALLPAPER & PAINT

Window shop at home FREE!

It's as easy as 8-32-0-310. That's the number to call for Fisher Dial-A-Decorator. Our professional decorator comes right to your home with exact samples.

FREE Estimates
Precise costs, with no hidden charges later.

FREE Measurement
during your appointment by our professional decorators

FREE Installation
with a \$200 or more purchase, previous orders excluded.

FREE home decorating booklets!

Just call to book your appointment today — get hundreds of tips and ideas from experts. Three booklets yours free just for trying Dial-A-Decorator. No purchase necessary.

Call for your FREE appointment
832-0310

Custom Mini Blinds
Save 50%-75%

Custom Pleated Shades
Save 50%-65%

Custom Drapes and Verticals
Save 20%-70%

PUZZLE • PUZZLE
10 to 12,000 Pieces • Great Winter Activity
The Doll Hospital
& Toy Soldier Shop
3947 W. 12 Mile • Berkley • 543-3115
Ages 8+ • 10-11-12-13

Free Federal
Consumer Information Catalog
Dept. TD, Pueblo, Colorado 81009

AUCTION
FRIDAY, MARCH 13 - 7 P.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 14 & 15 - 1 P.M.
at our Gallery
2075 W. Maple Rd. at Coolidge, Troy (STALKER GALLERIES)

FEATURING: ANTIQUES, FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES removed from the WARD'S POINT Estate of a prominent ORCHARD LAKE resident (Name withheld by request of heirs), a collection of ORIENTALIA from the CHU Collection, and many decorative accessories from other estates and collections • FURNITURE: Ca. 1850 Burl Walnut Leo Table, Set of 8 Chippendale style Dining Chairs, Louis XVI style settee, Ca. 1830 Inlaid tilt top Chess Table, Hepplewhite Dining Table, Fr. Mother-of-Pearl Chinese Corner Chairs, Black Lacquer Breakfast Table with 4 matching Paper Clip design chairs, Edwardian Inlaid Chiffonier, Sofas, Tables, Chairs, etc. • ORIENTALIA: Fr. Famille Jumeau Palace Vase, Antique Japanese & Chinese Cloisonne, Inari, Kutani, Satsuma, Fr. Chinese Canton Enamel Palace Vase, ivory, large Hardstone carving collection, Paléo Size Rouge de Fer Punch Bowl, Fr. Chinese Porcelain Fish Bowls, Peking Cloisonne, Netsuke collection including erotic, Fr. Peking Cloisonne Deer (24" h.), etc. • SILVER & CRYSTAL • ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL PORCELAIN • PAINTINGS & PRINTS • ORIENTAL RUGS: Bokhara, Burries, Chinese Silk, Jalpur, Chinese, etc. • JEWELRY COLLECTION: estate & modern jewelry • MISCELLANEOUS: English Wood accessories, Brass Cheval Mirror, Lamps, Art Deco Floor lamp, Clocks, etc. • Collection of 14kt. & 18kt. Pocket & Wrist Watches.

• EXHIBITION: Wednesday & Thursday, March 11 & 12 — 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and Friday, March 13 — 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. and one hour prior to each session. • CATALOGUES: \$2.00 at the door. • TERMS: Cash, Check, American Express, Visa, & MasterCard (10% Buyers Premium on all lots).

NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS FOR FUTURE AUCTIONS • ABSENTEE BIDS ACCEPTED
Matsel's Galleries, Inc.
 Estate Specialists • Auctioneers • Appraisers
 In Association with Stalker Galleries
 2075 W. Maple Road, Troy, MI 48064 • (313) 288-3522 or 286-3822

**ONE OF
DETROIT'S LARGEST
MEETING CENTERS
ISN'T IN DETROIT.**

It's in Dearborn! It may surprise you to know that Fairlane Manor is one of the largest meeting facilities in the entire Metropolitan area, with space for up to 2,000 people. And you'll also be surprised at Fairlane Manor's equally accommodating prices.

With a convenient location in the heart of Dearborn's Fairlane office/shopping/hotel complex, Fairlane Manor is close to expressways and just minutes from Metropolitan Airport. Yet its 21 wooded acres give a feeling no big city meeting center can match.

Whether you're planning a small business meeting or a major convention, Fairlane Manor

is expertly equipped to accommodate your needs. A professional meeting coordinator will help bring your meeting to order, arranging for podiums, microphones, risers, spot lighting, audio/visual equipment. And any special services you may require. And Fairlane Manor's complete banquet facilities ensure that your meeting attendees will never go hungry. Best of all, when you hold your meeting at Fairlane Manor, there's never a shortage of free parking spaces.

Next time you have a meeting to plan, put Fairlane Manor first on your agenda. For more information, please call (313) 336-4900.

THE FAIRLANE MANOR
Conference and Banquet Center
19000 Hubbard
Dearborn, MI 48126

MISS J

Dream in the real thing! Coca-Cola™ emblazoned nightshirt with rugby stripes and dropped shoulder, rib trim. Red, green, royal, gold. Polyester/cotton. One size, \$24.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday