

For lawmakers, it was hurry up and wait

AP — For the Michigan Legislature, 1987 was a year of contrasts. Voter-initiated legislation to ban state funding of abortions for poor women moved quickly through the House and Senate, while it took seven months for lawmakers and Gov. James J. Blanchard to agree on raising the speed limit on 720 miles of rural interstate highways from 55 mph to 65 mph.

Blanchard praised legislators for their work on the \$8.45 billion state budget. But then he vetoed parts of it to trim \$130 million, provoking harsh criticism from lawmakers. Blanchard later said they were upset because he'd stopped them from "spending like drunken sailors."

Everybody agreed the state should give back some of the \$170 million it will automatically collect because of last year's federal tax reform. But

negotiations on how to go about it went on for most of the year.

A COURT OF Appeals ruling last summer ended the state's two-tier tax system on in-state and out-of-state insurance companies, leaving Republicans and Democrats at loggerheads on a way to replace the \$170 million in revenue.

Those disputes delayed the printing of tax forms and booklets, which were scheduled to be mailed out before the end of the year.

After several years of higher than expected tax receipts, collections leveled out in 1987. Some legislators portrayed that as a temporary occurrence, while others warned that it was a harbinger of a recession.

Despite the differences of opinion, legislators agreed the 1987-88 fiscal year budget would be the last for a

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Shelby Solomon, the director of the Department of Management and Budget, warned the budget for the next fiscal year would be "flat," meaning there'd be no funds for new

programs or major expansions of existing ones.

THE YEAR ALSO will be remembered for the resignation of Sen. Basil Brown.

With 31 years in office, the High-

land Park Democrat was the senior member of the state Senate. But after pleading guilty to felony drug charges Nov. 30, Brown resigned his seat, effective Jan. 4, the same day as his sentencing.

It also was the year of Lobbygate, as some dubbed the bribery arrest of lobbyist Judy Augenstein.

Rep. Ed Giese, R-Manistee, told state police investigators that Augenstein tried to buy his vote against a ban on radar detectors. During a preliminary hearing that's due to resume some time in 1988, Augenstein countered that Giese asked her for money first.

FINALLY, LIKE most years, the 1987 legislative year will be remembered as much for what wasn't accomplished as what was.

Despite a highly publicized report

by a blue-ribbon task force, the Legislature didn't get around to reworking the way the state pays for its public schools with legislation that also would provide property tax relief.

It also didn't take on product liability reform, the controversial off-leeholder expense accounts, or health care costs.

On the plus side, six months of negotiations between the House and Senate paid off with a December agreement on a 69-bill anti-crime package that quickly began to make its way through the Legislature.

Workers' compensation reform bills also made it through the Legislature as well as legislation to provide help to Vietnam veterans who might be suffering health problems because of exposure to Agent Orange.

OU trains for jobs, exams, retirement

Training for professionals, including programs in the growing personal financial planning and paralegal areas, will be offered beginning Jan. 19 by Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education.

The certificate program in Personal Financial Planning prepares for the certified financial planner exam, an important credential for those counseling in financial services.

The Legal Assistant Program provides training evenings for a career in the legal field that can be completed in 18 months.

Additional continuing education offerings include a 15-month Accounting Assistant Program, hands-on computer and desktop publishing courses for pre- and post-retirement.

Courses are non-credit, conducted evenings, either on campus, directly off I-75 (exit 79) or in nearby Adams High School, Adams and Teikens, Rochester Hills.

Detailed brochures may be obtained by calling 370-3120, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

FREE CAREER opportunity seminars for those considering entering the Accounting Assistant and Paralegal programs will be conducted Jan. 5 and 11 in the Oakland Center on campus. Job referral service is maintained for both programs.

The variety of jobs available to accounting assistants will be discussed from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, by program managers Carmen Thomas of Rochester and Gloria Boddy of Rochester Hills.

Basic arithmetical skills and a sense of orderliness are the requirements for entry into the Accounting Assistant program.

WHAT A PARALEGAL does on the job and the training provided by

the Oakland University program will be discussed 7:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, in the Oakland Center on campus.

Speakers will be OU paralegal program graduates Martha McCann of Sylvan Lake, a courtroom supervisor; Eleanora DeBelle of Rochester, a paralegal with a private-law firm; Gloria Boddy, Rochester Hills, program director; and Kathryn LeBlanc of Rochester, assistant director.

There is no charge for the seminars. Reservations can be made by calling OU at 370-3120.

in using computer software to develop a comprehensive personal financial plan.

The class will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 27 to March 26 on campus.

People not in the certificate program who have the required knowledge in financial planning may register for the course. The certificate program is designed to prepare enrollees for the six-part CFP (certified financial planner) exam.

Lotus 1-2-3 classes will be offered in several formats: a Saturday seminar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 16; a weekday class, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 19-28; and a weekday seminar, 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m. on Feb. 2 and 4.

Desktop publishing experience, one enrollee per Macintosh computer, will be offered 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 23 to Feb. 13.

A four-session hands-on beginning IBM personal computer course also will be conducted on Saturdays, Jan. 23 to Feb. 13.

SEVERAL LOW-TUITION investment courses, including pre- and post-retirement courses, will be offered:

- A one-time session "To Retire or Not to Retire," 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, \$5 per person, \$7 per couple.
- "Investing During Retirement," 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 26 to Feb. 9.

- "Getting Your Money's Worth," 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 26 to Feb. 9.
- "Investing in a Decade of Change," 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 20 to Feb. 10. Tuition ranges from \$5 to \$22.

FOR THE 25TH consecutive season, the Oakland University Community Chorus invites adult singers to join in performing large choral works on campus and in the community.

Special festivities are planned in recognition of the group's silver anniversary.

Rehearsals begin Jan. 12 in 134 Varner Hall under the direction of John Dohavars. For information, call 370-3120.

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