

Engler axes arts aid, hints deals

By Tim Richard
staff writer

State funds to cities with race tracks, to local symphony orchestras and to the Pontiac Silverdome were vetoed by Gov. John Engler.

But the Republican governor held out hope that some line items he vetoed would be restored at reduced levels. And in the case of arts groups, he said he preferred to appropriate a lump sum from which the new Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs could make grants.

"Michigan is the only state in the nation," Engler said, "to balance the budget and increase funding for education (by 4 percent) without raising taxes."

His veto of the general fund budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 to \$7.58 billion, the amount of projected revenue.

CONSTITUTIONALLY. Engler had to veto an entire line item but indicated willingness to compromise on some programs.

For example, he vetoed \$2.8 million for standardized horse programs (harness racing) but offered to deal at \$2.1 million.

Pontiac, which had been getting \$800,000 a year for debt service on the Silverdome stadium, lost it all and will be offered no compromise. Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike had supported that item.

Ditto for Livonia, Northville and Hazel Park, cities which had been

getting up to \$900,000 a year for 20 years for costs associated with hosting horse race tracks. Engler has wanted to zero out those programs since he took office Jan. 1.

ENGLE WHACKED all the nearly \$1 million appropriated for science museums, including \$96,000 for Cranbrook, \$260,000 for the Detroit Science Center and \$300,000 for Greenfield Village's Innovation Center.

As a matter of budget principle, Engler said he wanted no line items for politically favored arts groups such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theater and Interlochen Arts Academy.

Friends of the Rouge, Keep Michigan Beautiful and several other community programs lost their entire appropriations.

So did Meadowbrook Hall, Nankin Mills Nature Center, the Holocaust Center in West Bloomfield and the Women's Hall of Fame.

EMPLOYERS WHO hire former General Assistance recipients by Nov. 29 will qualify for a substantial federal income tax credit, a top Engler administration official said.

F. Robert Edwards, director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, said the federal "targeted jobs tax credit" program offers a 40-percent tax credit on the first \$6,000 in wages paid to former GA recipients during their first year of employment.

Michigan ended its GA program Sept. 30, cutting off 90,000 able-bodied adults without children.

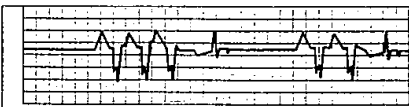
Once hired, workers must be retained for at least 90 days or 120 hours for employers to qualify for the credit. Employers must notify MESC of their intention to hire a GA recipient before the person actually starts work.

PRESERVED were welfare programs that raised the Department of Social Services budget to a record \$5.8 billion, when both state general fund and federal money are combined.

The budget allows:

- \$200 million more for Medicaid, the program that aids the poor.
- \$25 million for child care services.
- A 6 percent hike in benefits for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Engler announced his cuts at a news conference scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Friday but which started late. It left legislators little chance to comment until they return to work after today's Columbus Day holiday.



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WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

Michael Adray Symposium on Ethics in Medicine

Symposium Objective
Difficult health care decisions are made every day by families and health care professionals. If planned in advance, decisions are easier during a crisis. Oakwood Hospital offers the general public and health care professionals a unique opportunity to be well informed. As a result of this symposium, the audience will be conversant with ethical issues in health care, including the evolution of patients' rights and choices under Michigan state law.

At the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There is no cost for the symposium. Preregistration required. Call 593-5933 for information.



Friday Nov. 8, 1991

Support group set to aid adopted teens, parents

A drop-in support/discussion group for adopted teens and adoptive parents of teens will meet for four sessions beginning Tuesday.

The groups will give teens who wonder why they were adopted and who they look like the chance to get together on a small group to talk about their adoption experiences and feelings.

Parents of adopted teenagers will meet simultaneously to discuss the effects of adoption issues on their families. At the close of each session, there will be time for the two groups to meet to review major themes from each discussion.

Post Adoption Resources (PAIR), a program of Lutheran Adoption Service, sponsors these support groups which are facilitated by Linda Yelton, PAIR director, Southfield and staff members Laura Portz Norberry of Southfield and Carol Schiller of Bloomfield Hills.

Parents and teens need not be from the same family to attend the sessions. They are for all adopted teenagers and parents whose teenagers were adopted at any age. Teens from 13 through 17 who were adopted as infants or as older children may participate.

Groups will meet Tuesdays from 7-8:30 Oct. 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5 in the offices of Lutheran Adoption Service, 20700 Greenfield Road, 6th floor, Oak Park.

There is an individual \$5 fee for each session, but families who attend together are charged \$5 as a group. Registration is not necessary. For details or directions, call Norberry or Schiller, (313) 968-1700.

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