

College Districting In Political Juggle

By KATHY MORAN

New dimensions in the state community college apportionment debate have resulted in a tangle of actions from a State Senate committee, a House committee, and Wayne County Circuit Court.

The method of electing Schoolcraft College trustees has been ruled unconstitutional because it fails to conform to the "one-man, one-vote" concept. The current board of trustees is operating with extended terms until a constitutional election method is decided on.

THE LATEST developments:

• Sen. Carl Pursell's (R-Plymouth) bill calling for an at-large election of Schoolcraft trustees was narrowly reported out of the Senate Education Committee last week with the bill's co-sponsor opposed to letting it out of committee.

• Rep. James Tierney (D-Garden City) said he would sponsor a companion bill calling for at-large elections as Pursell proposed.

• Rep. Marvin Stempien's (D-Livonia) bill was unanimously reported out of the Colleges and Universities Committee Friday in compromised form. It would make it optional for community college districts to have at-large or single-member district elections.

• Stempien was allowed to intervene as a plaintiff in the lawsuit filed by the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia to force reapportionment of the district.

• A plan calling for at-large trustee elections was submitted to Circuit Court Judge Roland Olzak and will be discussed at a hearing tentatively set for Friday, May 21.

PURSELL'S BILL squeezed

out of committee by a 3-2 vote Thursday morning after backers and opponents testified in a committee hearing.

Speaking in favor of the bill were Mrs. Jane Moehle, Schoolcraft board chairman; Ron Mardiros, former Democratic leader and Livonia city assessor; and Rep. Tierney.

Paul Kadish, former Democratic State Senate candidate, and Neil deStigter, plaintiff in the NDC-L suit against Schoolcraft College, spoke in opposition to the bill. Though co-sponsor Sen. William Faust (D-Westland) did not have major objections to the bill, he said he cast a negative vote because it needed further study.

"I thought some points brought out by Sen. (James) Gray (D-Warren) were valid and warranted further investigation," Faust said afterwards.

GRAY HAD suggested that the election provision in the bill should be amended to have trustee elections held in November of odd years concurrently with municipal political elections.

The rationale is that the shared elections would save college districts money. Indications are that this amendment could be added to the bill on the floor of the Senate.

Pursell indicated that the odd year elections would result in partisan politics being thrust into the college elections.

"It appears now that there is an attempt to make this a partisan issue," Pursell said after the committee meeting. "I'm disappointed at that."

THOUGH STEMPIEN's bill was discussed in committee on Thursday, it was not reported out until Friday

morning after a compromise had been worked out.

In the Thursday meeting, Stempien attempted to add an amendment to his bill which calls for the division of each of the state's 29 community college districts into equal population districts from which trustees would be elected.

The amendment would have exempted all college districts with populations under 50,000 from having to be redistricted. The 12 districts affected would have had the option of holding at-large or district elections.

But some committee members argued against the bill, saying "talent isn't spread geographically" and that many of the community colleges are operating without problems with at-large trustee elections.

With an apparent growing opposition, Stempien said he would be willing to soften the proposed amendment to allow all the college districts the option of having either type of trustee election.

Stempien talked individually with committee members throughout Thursday afternoon until the compromise was agreed upon on Friday.

UNDER THE compromise form, Stempien's bill gives each district the election option and sets uniform procedures if district elections are decided upon. The college trustees and the community college apportionment commissions would have to vote on which type of election they preferred.

The apportionment commissions would be made up of the county clerk, the county treasurer, prosecuting attorney, and the statutory county chairman of each of the top two vote-getting political parties.

STEMPIEN ALSO won the right to intervene in the court suit involving Schoolcraft.

Judge Olzak said he granted permission in order to get as wide a perspective as possible before making a decision on the case.

After arriving nearly two hours late for the hearing, Stempien met with Roger Craig, NDC lawyer; Edward Draugelis, representing Schoolcraft; and Judge Olzak. In the judge's chambers and agreed not to ask for removal of the current Schoolcraft trustees.

Originally Stempien had asked that the trustees be removed and a receiver be appointed until a new board was selected.

Schoolcraft Trustees Paul Mutnick and Dr. R. Robert Geake had taken half-days off work to attend the hearing. President Eric Bradner also attended.

CRAIG DID NOT object to Stempien's entering the suit, saying: "Our concern is that the community college board be elected in accordance with the constitution."

Draugelis objected to allowing the intervention, alleging Stempien's "interests are political as well as legal." "He is asking for remedies that have in fact already been met," Draugelis said. "If the intervention is not ending the action but prolonging it indefinitely."

Draugelis submitted the plan approved by the Schoolcraft trustees to the court. The plan calls for an at-large election on Sept. 13 with the three current at-large trustees serving out their terms. These trustees are Dr. Geake, Dr. George Martin and John LaRue.

The board's recommendation to the Circuit Court will tentatively be discussed on May 21.

Regional Affairs



AS A MARINE, Tom Donoghue shot this vivid color picture of two boys eating oranges in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. It received an honorable

mention in color in the daily newspapers category of the Michigan Press Photographers Assn. annual contest.

Donoghue Wins 2 State Prizes In Contest

Thomas Donoghue, a freelance photographer often employed by Observer Newspapers Inc., picked up double honors in the recent 1971 Michigan Press Photographers Assn. contest.

Donoghue was first place winner in the black-and-white feature category for weekly newspapers and won an honorable mention for his entry in the color category for daily newspapers.

Donoghue graduated from Farmington High School in 1965, where he did sports photography for ONI, as well as working as track photographer for the Detroit Race Course and doing freelance work for the Detroit Pistons.

He attended the University of Missouri, where he was campus photographer and a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

IN 1967, Donoghue enlisted in the Marine Corps and served, camera in hand, in Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, California, Japan and Vietnam.

Since his return from Vietnam he has been doing sports photography for ONI and working with the Detroit Pistons, in addition to his freelance work. He was recently assigned team photographer for the Detroit Tigers.

The Michigan Press Photographer Competition, held last weekend at the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, was the first such contest for Donoghue. His entries included pictures taken overseas and in California, as well as those taken on assignment for Observer Newspapers Inc.

Donoghue says he photographs "everything from weddings and babies to sports" and enjoys taking pictures "from a human interest angle." He has a darkroom set-up in his home and uses Nikon and Mamiya equipment.

Two of his photographs have been requested by the Chicago Tribune for display in the Chicago Tribune Building. The Chicago Press Photographers Assn. was judge for the Michigan contest.



TOM DONOGHUE will be seen often in this pose by Detroit Tigers fans because he is now team photographer. He shoots from the photo hanger during the game and on the field before game time.



FIRST PRIZE WINNER in the weekly newspaper feature category of MPPA was taken by freelancer Tom Donoghue on assignment for Observer Newspapers Inc. He used a Nikon F camera with a 300 mm f/4.5 lens and Tri-X film to record this young sledder in Farmington's City Park during the Christmas holidays.

4 Senators Night Gym Back Vote Too Costly On Lottery For S'craft No-Fault Divorce Draws 5-2 Vote

Observerland's four senators voted in favor of putting the state lottery issue to the voters in November of 1972.

Sens. David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights), William Faust (D-Westland), Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) cast affirmative votes.

The measure passed by 27-4 in the Senate and is expected to get the 74 votes needed in the House for passage.

The lottery is considered a way of raising revenue for the state without further adding to taxes.

If the voters approved the state lottery, the State Legislature will decide the procedure which will be used.

A proposal to have the physical education building open Friday evenings and Saturdays at Schoolcraft College was tabled by the board of trustees due to costs.

In order to keep the facilities open for a maximum of 26 weeks, the board was faced with three alternatives. It could underwrite the \$15,120 total cost, partially underwrite \$11,350 and charge a fee, or shift the total costs to the public by charging \$3.75 per person per night.

With an estimated \$34,000 left in the contingency fund, the board concluded it could not afford to underwrite the costs and that the public would not be willing to assume the high fees.

LANSING A bill which would drastically revise the grounds for obtaining a divorce passed the House Friday with all but two of Observerland's representatives voting for passage.

It passed by a 72-22 margin and Reps. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) and Thomas Brown (D-Westland) voted in opposition.

Reps. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights), John Bennett (D-Redford Township), James Tierney (D-Garden City), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), and Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) voted 'yes'.

IN OBTAINING a divorce under the current law, one of

the partners has to prove his mate guilty of adultery, desertion, cruelty, or other offenses.

Most of the representatives backing the bill said that usually the total blame for failure of the marriage does not rest with just one partner.

As a result, the bill would make it possible for a couple to get a divorce by proving the marriage was a failure and is irreconcilable.

The bill's opponents argued that it would make the grounds for divorce too lax and easy for one partner to impose on the other.

The bill was referred to the Senate where passage is expected.

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