

Labor launches campaign to defeat Proposal A

Big Labor is opposing Proposal A, the March 16 ballot plan on school financing reform.

Both the General Board of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and the Executive Committee of the United Auto Workers community action program called for votes against Proposal A, whose key feature is a 2-cent increase in the state sales tax.

"The statutory plan was best for the men and women we represent," said Michigan State AFL-CIO President Frank Garrison. The statutory plan, which fea-

tures a 1.4 percent hike in the income tax rate, will go into effect if voters reject the sales tax plan.

"The board decided to oppose the ballot proposal because its impact on middle- and low-income families, senior citizens and renters would be worse than that of the statutory back-up plan," said Garrison.

Generally, the state AFL-CIO has opposed increases in the sales tax (as the ballot plan would do) because middle- and low-income persons spend a higher percentage of their incomes on items subject

to the sales tax than do high-income persons.

While the statutory plan increases the state income rate from 4.6 to 6 percent, the plan also increases the personal exemption from \$2,100 to \$3,000 (and up to \$3,900 for senior citizens), lessening the impact on low- and middle-income individuals and families.

UAW-CAP said Proposal A would place an unfair burden on senior citizens living on a fixed income.

"The ballot plan would raise a projected \$425 million from the real estate transfer tax. But the highly cyclical nature of the real estate market makes such a tax an unstable source of funding for Michigan's schools," said UAW vice president Ernest Lotton.

New dean takes helm at OCC

The Oakland Community College board of trustees has appointed Carol Culpepper dean of academic and student services for the Royal Oak and Southfield campuses.

Culpepper, a 14-year Southfield resident, assumed her new post Monday. She replaced James Gural, who retired from OCC more than a year ago.

Culpepper comes to OCC from Wayne County Community College, where she has been a dean of the Eastside and Western campuses since January 1991. From 1980 to 1991, she was a faculty specialist at Michigan

State University, developing and implementing national and state curriculum and education programs.

Culpepper began her career in higher education at WCCC, where she served as director of articulation and occupational advisory committee projects from 1973 to 1980.

She holds a doctorate in higher education administration from MSU, with specialties in adult/continuing education and labor/industrial relations. Culpepper earned her master's degree in guidance and counseling, and her bachelor's degree in

journalism at WSU. She also has a gerontology certificate from WSU and is a licensed counselor.

She is active in a lot of community organizations, including the Mersey Hospital Community Health Board and advisory board on substance abuse at the Herman Kiefer Hospital.

Culpepper has written several studies, training manuals and articles for professional publications, including "Status of Curriculum Articulation in Michigan," which turned up in the Journal of Michigan Industrial Education.

Variety of seedlings available

The Oakland Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for tree seedlings. Species available are red, white and Austrian pine, Norway, Colo-

rado blue and white spruce, Douglas, Fraser and Concolor fir, hybrid poplar, birch, mountain ash, maple, oak, highbush cranberry, autumn olive, walnut, hick-

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