

# 2 Switch On Stadium

LANSING

Observerland's legislators disagreed on whether a five per cent tax on hotel and motel bills in Wayne County should be levied to help finance a riverfront stadium in Detroit.

The bill cleared the Senate last week in a 28-8 vote and was sent back to the House for concurrence on Senate amendments. The House concurred in a 65-33 vote, with two local legislators changing their votes from the first vote cast on the proposal.

Sens. David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted with the majority in endorsing the tax while Sens. William Faust (D-Westland) and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) voted against it.

ON THE FINAL vote in the House, support came from Reps. John Bennett (D-Redford), Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) and James Defebaugh (R-Birmingham).

Opposed were Reps. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights), James Tierney (D-Garden City) and Thomas Brown (D-Westland).

On the first vote on the tax Nov. 24, Brown voted for it while Baker voted against it. Forbes did not vote on the bill at that time.

Passage of the tax has been urged by stadium backers because it would provide an anticipated \$2 million of the expected \$13.5 million per year needed to finance the river-front stadium.

THE STADIUM is expected to generate \$9 million to pay off the revenue bonds to finance construction.

That leaves another \$2.5 million needed before the stadium can get under way. The Legislature is expected to consider pledging a portion of the state's share in racing funds for the stadium or to legalize off-track betting or dog-racing and divert some of those funds.

# Reps Go 4-3-1 On Wiretapping

LANSING

Observerland's eight state representatives maintained their positions when a wiretap bill passed the House last week on a second vote.

It was initially defeated on Dec. 8 with Observerland's representatives split on the bill that would allow county prosecutors to seek court permission to tap local telephones.

In a second vote Dec. 15, the bill passed in a 58-43 vote, just two votes over the 56 needed for passage. The first vote was 50-46.

REPS. RICHARD Young (D-Dearborn Heights), James Tierney (D-Garden City), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), and Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) maintained their support.

Voting against it for the second time were Reps. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), and James Defebaugh (R-Birmingham). Abstaining on both votes was Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford Township).

Reversal of the defeat was apparently due to a push by police and prosecutors associations that argued the bill was necessary for fighting organized crime.

IF IT PASSES the Senate and is signed by Gov. Milliken, county prosecutors could apply for an eavesdropping warrant in Circuit Court.

If the prosecutors could prove that the eavesdropping could deter or solve a major crime and that all other methods have been exhausted, the judge could issue a warrant good for 20 days.

Opponents argued that the bill would infringe on the privacy of an individual in his home and on his civil rights.

# How They Split On Welfare Bill

LANSING

After months of haggling and indecision, the Michigan Legislature passed the \$519.1 million welfare bill with divided support from Observerland legislators.

The compromise bill governing the current fiscal year passed the Senate in a 27-10 vote with three Observerland senators for it and one opposed.

It passed the House in a 67-41 vote with local representatives splitting 4-4.

STATE SENS. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) and David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) voted for the social services measure while Sen. William Faust (D-Westland) voted against it.

In the House, Reps. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights), John Bennett (D-Redford Township), Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) and Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) supported the measure.

Against passage were Reps. James Tierney (D-Garden City), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) and James Defebaugh (R-Birmingham).

The final bill is a compromise of the \$503 million passed by the House and the \$503 million approved by the Senate.

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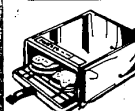
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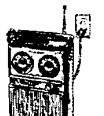
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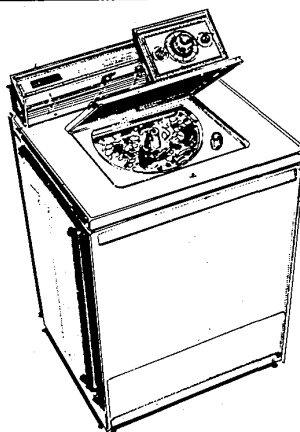
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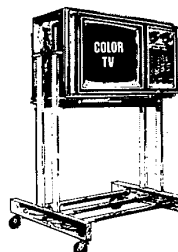


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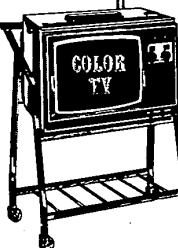
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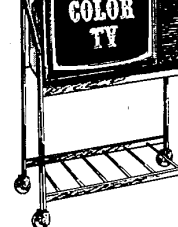
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