

## Michigan Mirror

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lature then had the distasteful task of trying to balance the budget while the nation was undergoing the worst inflation in a half century.

It is always easier to find ways to spend money than to find ways to raise money, and Governor Sigler's program of new taxes was due inevitably to be unpopular with someone. Shelved by legislators were these recommendations: soft drink tax, beer tax increase, and a state property tax. A 3-cent cigarette tax was approved. Lost in the shuffle: a personal income tax (rejected repeatedly by the voters); a manufacturers' tax and removal of the corporate tax ceiling.

Featuring legislators' consideration of these proposals was the renewed feud between city and rural interests. Rural legislators were friendly to needs for more money for highways, while city legislators were hostile. Each group disagreed as to how the money should be spent. This is a perennial conflict, and every state has it.

In the words of Governor Sigler, the earmarking of public revenues by constitutional amendment has had the effect of "depriving the representatives of the people (the legislature) of a true opportunity to consider and evaluate all the needs for public expenditure."

Granting that such is the case, it seems illogical to make the legislature the scapegoat for the confusion at Lansing since the first of the year. The root of the trouble as we see it, goes right back to the antiquated crazy-quilt system of taxes, now firmly imbedded in a state constitution adopted shortly after the turn of the century and periodically revised since then.

The sales tax diversion amendment may be resubmitted to the people in November, 1948. Approved by the Senate, the resolution is now before the House.

The prospect for a solution of the constitutional problem — this earmarking of funds — is none too bright. If the house approves senate plan to create a constitutional commission, the Sigler administration can rightfully point with satisfaction to a constructive step toward modernization of the state's charter.

Until this is done, Michigan must continue to struggle along under the handicap of an oft-patched constitution which has now taken away from the legislature the power to spend public revenues according to changing needs. This curb may reflect a lack of confidence in the legislature. From first impression such would seem to be the case. But we believe that the root of the conflict goes deeper than that.

As long as one agency of government collects money and another agency of government spends it, we will continue to have a breakdown in tax responsibility. The sales tax has become "Lansing money," 75 per cent of which is spent now by local units of government. A dollar collected at Lansing or Washington has a tendency to become the "other fellow's" dollar — not your dollar.

This breakdown in tax responsibility invites an ever-increasing demand for spending by government. The needs of the people are unending and inexhaustible; pressure groups will continue to seek more state aid for their privileged use — worthy as it may be.

The problem is "tremendously difficult," to quote Governor Sigler, and the answer will not be easy to find.



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## VETERANS NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

LANSING

### VETERANS WARNED TO PROTECT G.I. PROPERTY LOANS

Ex-servicemen and women who have used G.I. Loans to buy homes are advised not to sell their property without making certain that their interests are protected.

A veteran is inviting trouble if he consents to any sale of his property whereby the purchaser merely takes over the existing loan. In such case the veteran remains personally responsible for payment of the loan and once the ex-serviceman has used his \$4000 loan guarantee, he can secure no further backing from Uncle Sam.

Whenever an ex-serviceman sells a home financed by a G.I. Loan, he should demand that the purchaser either pay cash or arrange a loan in his own name. Then the veteran should see that his own note is marked sold and that the lien on his property is marked satisfied on court records.

If an ex-serviceman consents to a sale in which the purchaser merely assumes the existing indebtedness, the veteran later may have to pay any part of the debt defaulted by the new owner. If the new owner fails to keep up his payments, the lending institution can foreclose and may force a trustee's sale where the property could be sold at less than the amount of the debt remaining. When proceeds from the sale do not cover the amount of the loan outstanding, the difference remains a debt against the veteran. The U. S. government will pay the lending agency for any portion of this debt which is guaranteed, and the veteran will then owe the government. If part of the remaining debt is not guaranteed, the veteran will continue to owe this to the lending institution.

JOHN SCHROEDER MARRIED TO PLYMOUTH GIRL

A lovely candlelight wedding of interest to many Farmington people was solemnized at the First Methodist Church of Plymouth on Saturday evening, May 10, at eight o'clock, uniting Patricia M. Martin and John R. Schroeder, formerly of Farmington.

Patricia, a Plymouth girl, graduated from high school there in 1946. John attended Farmington High School for three years, graduating from Plymouth in 1946.

Several from Farmington attended the wedding, including the grandparents of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. John Landau, and Mrs. Mary Schroeder and her daughter, Mrs. Alice Smith.

A reception in the church hall followed the ceremony, after which the young couple left for a short honeymoon. They will make their home at 217 Houstonia Avenue, Royal Oak.

Noble P.T.A. Members To Elect Officers

The Noble School Parent Teachers Association will meet on Tuesday evening, June 2, at 8:00 p.m. at the school.

Officers for the new year will be elected at this time, and all members are requested to make a special effort to attend this meeting. Mrs. McBride is in charge of the program for the evening.

## WASHINGTON DIGEST

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and has the privilege of selecting the design of his own house. However, the house cannot be any bigger than 1,200 square feet (around average size), and construction must meet FHA standards and building requirements. Members

can have the co-op build for them, or they may merely purchase the materials through the organization. All labor is paid for, but members can reduce the cost of their houses by working on their own or other houses under construction. If a plumber who is working full time on other jobs spends Saturdays doing plumbing work on one of the cooperative houses, he will be given credit for the hours he works.

Quite a few members have done this but most of them are men with office jobs, anxious to pitch in and get the house built. When they work on the project, they are assigned as laborers and receive credit at laborers' pay. There are a few unaccustomed blisters and callouses, but they enjoy the novelty, and houses are going up fast.

As you know, people in the Southwest are more than mildly en-

thusiastic in describing their scenery and their weather. But when you try to get an Albuquerque Co-op association member to tell you about himself and his work in the group, he shies off like a skittier colt. He wants to hand the credit to the other fellow. Perhaps that's one reason the co-op building association of Albuquerque is a real cooperative and a real success.

## Tim Doolittle To Play At Clarenceville Dance

You are invited to "Dance by Starlight" on Friday evening, June 20, at the Clarenceville High School on Middlebelt Road. The dance will feature the music of Tim Doolittle and his gang, and it is being sponsored by the Parents Community Club for the benefit of Boy

## Scout Troop CL 2.

The Club is planning to make this a gala evening, and everyone is promised a good time.

## Cabbage Nutrition

Cabbage adds to the day's supply of calcium, minerals and the B vitamins—thiamine, riboflavin and niacin. The greens leaves even furnish some vitamin A as well.

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