

House Passes Its Own Version Of Open Housing

Michigan's historic open housing law lay in legislative limbo today with speculation rising that the Senate would accept House changes and put it on Gov. Romney's desk.

Its provisions are tougher than the new federal act and apply antidiscrimination clauses to owners of single homes. The House vote on the Senate-passed bill was 76 to 13 with 40 Republicans and 36 Democrats voting for it and 13 Republicans and 18 Democrats

voting against it.

SUBURBAN legislators split on the issue, some contending that the federal law pre-empted the field and the state act was not necessary.

Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford) and Vincent J. Pettkin (D-Westland) voted for the bill, also Reps. James Tierney (D-Garden City), Ray Baker (D-Farmington) voted against it. Rep. Louis C. Schmidt (R-Livonia) did not vote. Schmidt was called to Sag-

inaw by the sudden illness of his mother, but said most of his objections had been eliminated by House amendments. "I felt that the complainant (in a discrimination case) should have some responsibility and a homeowner should not be harassed or subjected to entrapment," Schmidt said. "I think these objections have been met."

TIERNEY, FORMER mayor of Garden City, was the only legislator from this area to impose his right to explain his negative vote. He said:

"I do not believe it right or equitable or in keeping with the spirit of individual freedom to deny any person the prerogative of using their own best judgment in entering into a longtime contract pertaining to what frequently amounts to savings, sacrifice and toll of a lifetime by a man and his wife—their home."

The House version went back to the Senate for agreement in amendments. If the Senate does not agree on the floor, the bill will go to a House-Senate conference committee.

HOWEVER, pressure started developing in the wake of the House vote for the Senate to accept the changes without a conference.

The major House changes will allow a defendant in a Civil Rights Commission case to take the issue directly into circuit court, thus bypassing the commission, which some legislators felt has too much power.

The House reacted to Michigan Supreme Court decision a month ago which required the Legislature to enact an implementing law to ban discrimination in housing. Schmidt and others said they felt this left no alternative, what a failure for the Legislature to act would toss enforcement of the constitutional provision and the court decision into the Civil Rights Commission.

GM Assembly Appoints 2

Two executive appointments within the GM Assembly Division of General Motors Corp. both effective May 1, were announced by C.W. Dobos, division general manager.

P.J. Coletta, who has been GMAD director of production engineering since November 1, 1967, is appointed plant manager at the Kansas City (Kan.) GMAD assembly plant. He succeeds Charles Kaiko, who has been transferred to the General Motors manufacturing staff in Detroit.

B.C. Carter, who has been GMAD director of works engineering since April, 1966, is appointed to the new position of GMAD director of production and works engineering.

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The Lower Michigan Paddling Council will hold a canoe race Sunday on the Clinton River beginning at the fishing access site in the Rochester-Union Recreation Area. Some 150 participants are expected.

Port Austin, at the tip of the thumb, is celebrating a centennial, and the Port Crescent State Park on M-25 west of town is holding open house for the occasion.

The district conservation office, at 2405 N. Williams Lake Rd., Pontiac, has a supply of \$7 Golden Eagle Passport permits to enter all federal recreation areas where fees are charged. The passports are valid from April 1 to next March 31.

TWO OUTDOORS events are on tap for the weekend:

Wildflowers, trees, mushrooms, songbirds—all are visible and at peak activity in southeastern Michigan's woods and grasslands, according to the State Conservation Department.

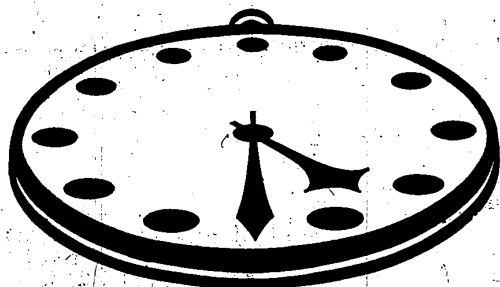
In the last week, wildflowers and blooming trees have reached their maximum development and beauty. State parks and recreation areas report a good deal of songbird activity—notably the height of the migration of goldfinches ("wild canaries").

The Holly and Bald Mountain State Recreation Areas in Oakland County report good mushroom hunting.

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