

No Qualms About Junket -- Baker

By KATHY MORAN

At least one local legislator returned from the highly-publicized junket to Miami Beach, Fla., without "any qualms about it."

State Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) was back in his Lansing office Monday after the all-expenses paid week at a legislative conference in Miami.

State Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford Township) was among the legislators attending the conference but couldn't be reached after he returned. He was attending caucus meetings in Lansing on Monday.

BOTH LEGISLATORS were given \$519 each to cover their Florida expenses, Baker said. Speaker of the House William Ryan (D-Detroit) approved the expenditures from state funds for each legislator.

"I have no qualms about it," said Baker, whose district spreads to Southfield. "I feel my time was used to useful advantage."

"I attended all the

meetings, or at least all that I was able to attend. I wasn't at the race track—either the dogs or horses."

Articles in the metropolitan papers criticized legislators for basking in the sun and attending the races while at the conference.

Baker, who said he didn't take his wife with him, said that as a member of the board of governors, he was requested to attend the meeting.

"I've been most conservative on taking business trips," he said. "I think this is my third—all of them have been business trips."

"I have found that local school board members, county officials and city and township officials often take similar trips."

"I've had lots of opportunities to go on trips before," he said emphasizing that this is only his third. He said he shared a "modest room" at the Bal Moral motel with Rep. Clifford Smart R-Walled Lake. "In fact, we had a black and white television that didn't work."

Baker said he didn't have much time to be in the sun and is "going down there on my own over Christmas."

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OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

Publishers of Farmington Enterprise & Observer, Garden City Observer, Livonia Observer, Plymouth Mail & Observer, Redford Observer, Southfield News & Observer, Westland Observer.

How Students Can Get SC Aid

Two deadlines for applying have already passed, but Keith Witmer says there still may be financial aids available for persons needing assistance to attend Schoolcraft College during the winter semester.

Witmer is director of financial aids and placement at the college. His office will provide loans, outright grants, and work-study opportunities for 350 students this year. Expenditures will total about \$550,000, or an average \$1,000 per student. Financial assistance is available primarily for full-time students. The kind and amount are based on need. "We do have a few dollars of loan money for half-time students," Witmer said, "but our emphasis is on the person who attends full-time."

STUDENTS ON work-study assignments are employed both on campus and at agencies in the immediate area. They may work up to 15 hours a week and wages vary from \$1.60 to \$2.50 per hour. The director went on to say that the original deadline for applications was Nov. 15, which he extended to Dec. 1. He would still encourage persons to apply now, however.

He said they will be given every consideration, although at this point he could not assure they would know what help they might get before classes start on January 6. Regular registration for Schoolcraft's winter semester will be conducted Jan. 3 and 4.

with classes beginning the following Saturday. The semester extends through April 26. Persons interested may visit Witmer's office on campus to obtain an application and the financial statement form which is required, or they may call him at the college.

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