

School Income Tax Plan Blasted

By MARTHA MAHAN

The State Senate Education Committee heard a forecast of increased board of education special elections if an income tax provision is retained in a proposed 1973-74 school aid bill.

The state Senate Education Committee heard a forecast of increased board of education recall elections if an income tax provision is retained in a proposed 1973-74 school aid bill.

The prediction came from Don Elliott of the Michigan Assn. of School Administrators at the first of eight statewide public hearings held at Inster City Hall.

The provision also was challenged on its constitutionality. Harry Howard, Wayne-Westland school superintendent,

said he was "bothered" because the bill still fails to provide equal educational opportunity while striving to provide equal dollars.

THE BILL is an attempt to meet a recent Michigan State Supreme Court decision, outlawing the current method of distributing state school funds.

Sen. Gilbert Bursley (R-Ann Arbor), education committee chairman, called the measure a "discussion vehicle" for re-introduction in the 1973 legislative session.

The bill, as written now, provides a three-year phase-in of the "guaranteed tax yield principle" of state school aid distribution.

Each school district would be guaranteed in combined state aid and locally raised

revenue a total per pupil amount of \$38 for each mill levied up to 22 mills in 1973-74. This would increase to \$39 per pupil for each mill levied up to 23 mills in 1974-75. For 1975-76, \$40 per pupil per mill would be guaranteed without limitation on the amount of millage covered.

IN DISTRICTS failing to vote at least 20 mills for general operating purposes, local boards of education would be empowered to levy local income taxes of 0.2 per cent for each mill of deficiency.

But school administrators and local trustees at the hearing indicated it would be very hard to get the hardy board which would im-

pose an income tax on an electorate which had just turned down a millage at the polls.

Tom Summerville of the Inster Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO) joined Howard in saying the committee had not been able to come up with a basic amount for a good education.

"I think we'll still be on the same spot," said Summerville, whose district is among the state's poorest while still laying a 25.65 school millage.

SEN. WILLIAM FAUST (D-Westland), education committee member who presided at the hearing, commented that his area points up the "major wrongs" of the current distribution method, based on a district's state equalized valuation (SEV).

est SEV," he said, "next to a district with the highest SEV."

Richard Smith of the Detroit public schools said he saw a constitutional conflict where a district which financed its schools through a combined property and income tax was limited to 20 mills while those relying on property tax alone could have up to 22 mills.

But Gene Caesar, Senate educational consultant, said the choice would have been made by the electors who refused to vote the property tax.

Smith also saw a constitutional conflict in the ratio allowed to apply toward state reimbursement for a district using the income tax. The state formula, he said, considers one per cent of income tax to be the equivalent of five mills, whereas one per cent income tax on Detroit residences would be the

equivalent of approximately seven mills.

Guests at the opening hearing were Reps. Tom Brown (D-Westland) and William Keith (D-Garden City).

Further hearings will be held during the next two weeks in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Detroit, Flint, Traverse City, Marquette and Lansing.

Bursley said he anticipates introducing an education bill by the end of January or early February and that the Senate will have voted by the end of February or early March.

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New River Park Plan For Huron

A new river oriented park plan will be developed as an alternative to the proposed 980-acre Island Lake dam and impoundment on the Huron River in Livingston County's Green Oak Township.

O. J. Scherschligt, head of the Department of Natural Resources' parks division, said, "The alternate plan which will evaluate every possible use of the park, including environmental impact, will be completed late in March."

Since its inception, the plan for the impoundment has suffered opposition from local people and organizations who fear damage to the downriver flow and who objected to the alteration of the wild area belt surrounding the stream bed.

as well as pollution and the construction of artificial impoundments, have left very few typical examples of an unsullied, unchanged river and its valley in southeastern Michigan, Scherschligt explained.

The meandering six-mile river stretch is considered perfect for canoeing—safe but beautiful and varied. The countryside ranges from swamp and muck to rolling hillsides covered with growths of sycamore, ash and oak. In the spring the land is carpeted with wildflowers, mostly marigold and trillium.

Carpenters Graduate 300 Apprentices

A record total of 300 apprentices will receive journeyman certificates during the Detroit Carpenters' joint apprenticeship banquet on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the Raleigh House, Southfield.

The class is the largest in the 27-year apprenticeship history. The graduates will become members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

John R. Harrington, secretary of Carpenters District Council, will be the union representative at the banquet.

Roland M. Wilkening, executive vice president of Barton-Malow Co., president-elect of Associated General Contractors of America, will represent the four employer organizations which fund the apprenticeship committee along with the district council.

In addition to Associated General Contractors, employer groups include Builders Assn. of Southeastern Michigan, Carpenters Contractors Assn. and Michigan Carpenters Contractors Assn.

4 From Area Are Boating Queen Finalists

Four local women are among five finalists for 1973 boating queen in the statewide competition conducted by the Michigan Marine and Snowmobile Dealers Assn.

Final judging is on Jan. 15. Selected from among 220 entries were Mary C. MacGillivray, 21, of Northville, an amateur model and employee at Schoolcraft College; Leanne Millard, 21, of Westland, a student at St. Clair Community College and a professional model; Robin Schwartz, 18, of Southfield, a student at Oakland Community College and professional model; and Jan Weber, 18, of Southfield, also a student at OCC.

The winner will receive \$500 and will reign during the boat show which opens on Jan. 27 and runs for nine days.

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DIY Sets Dates For Registration

January registration dates for spring semester classes at the Detroit Institute of Technology (DIT), Detroit's only privately-financed downtown university, run from Jan. 26 through May 25.

Current students, those entering for the first time, and students seeking re-admission may register on Wednesday, Jan. 24 and Thursday, Jan. 25. New students and those who seek re-admission should contact the admissions office prior to registration.

DIT, at 2300 Park, Detroit, offers fully-accredited four-year degrees in three colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business Administration and Engineering.

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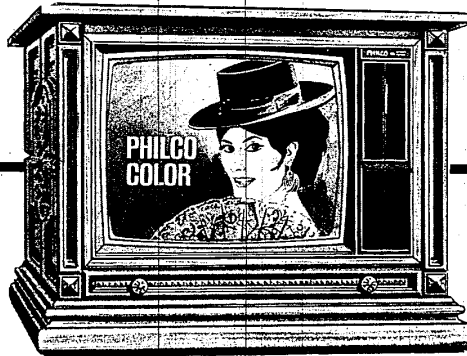
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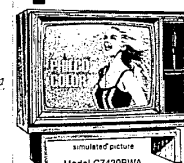
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