



Newsprint Hit By New Price Hike

The American newspaper industry, already suffering under the tightest newsprint shortage crisis since World War II, has been hit with another round of newsprint price increases.

Observer Newspapers Publisher Philip H. Power said Wednesday that he had been informed of a \$27 per ton increase in newsprint, effective Nov. 1.

"This represents nearly a 15 per cent increase in one of our most sizable cost centers," Power said, "and it comes at a time when every newspaperman in Michigan is desperately trying to get enough paper to finish out the year."

"At Observer Newspapers, we are doing everything we can to economize in our use of newsprint."

Legislature Says: No Studded Tires

LANSING Most local legislators supported a bill which virtually eliminates the use of studded snow tires in Michigan after April 1, 1975.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. William Faust (D-Westland), gives the Department of Highways and Transportation the authority to determine when the tires can be used after the 1975 date. It is now awaiting the governor's signature.

Voting for the measure in the Senate were Faust and Sens. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) and David Playewski (D-Dearborn Heights). Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) didn't vote on the final bill although he had voted against it earlier.

State Reps. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), John Bennett (D-Redford Township), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), R. Robert Geake (R-Northville), William Keith (D-Garden City), John Markes (D-Westland), and Raymond Smit (R-Ann Arbor) voted for it.

Opposing the ban was Rep. Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park).

The bill would allow use of the studded tires this winter and between Dec. 1, 1974 and April 1, 1975 before the ban takes effect.

The tires have been permitted between Nov. 1 and April 30 for nearly six years but have been blamed for causing gouges on the highways. The rules fill with water and can throw cars out of control, according to highway department officials.

Faust said the tires have caused millions of dollars in road repairs.

"Michigan taxpayers cannot afford to keep pace with road repairs needed because of deterioration caused by studded tires," Faust said. "Snow tires are only needed in November or May, yet some people still have

studded tires on their cars." The bill was amended in the House to have the highway department consider severe weather conditions in the upper peninsula and northern lower peninsula in establishing rules regulating the studded tires. It also exempts mail carriers and law enforcement officials.

Faust opposed separate provisions for the upper peninsula but had urged support of the final bill because the bill's major purpose was to ban the tires.

Elsewhere, the number of states restricting the time period studded tires will be permitted this winter has increased from 26 to 29. However, the number of states banning studs outright has dipped from five in 1972 to four this coming winter.

Joseph Ratke, touring manager of the Automobile Club of Michigan, advises motorists whose vehicles are equipped with studded tires to plan their winter trips with the various state restrictions in mind.

Right now, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, Mississippi and the Canadian province of Ontario prohibit the use of studs any time of the year. Minnesota's regulations affect only vehicles registered in that state, while other states' restrictions apply to all vehicles.

Meanwhile, Auto Club reports that Florida is interpreting its statutes so strictly as to have the effect of prohibiting the use of metal studs. Rubber studs are permitted.

Some motorists using metal studded tires were stopped by the Florida Highway Patrol during the past year, Ratke states, and were forced to buy regular tires to replace their studded tires before they were permitted to continue their trips.

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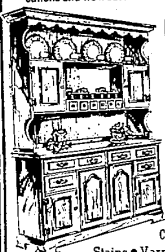
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