



They're off!

About 500 students at Gill Elementary launched helium balloons with messages asking for their return to the students at the school. The launch is in honor of the sesquicentennial, and

(from left) Laura Edwards, Mrs. Gale Johnson, Kim Rogers, Kurt Bargabus and Beth Weaver dressed for the occasion. (Photo by Fran Evert)

Bill before House

Election reform under study

By APRIL KORNILLER

There's a very good chance voters in the August, 1974, primary will know before, and not just after the votes have been tallied, how much candidates have spent on their campaigns and from where those contributions have come.

Rep. James E. Defebaugh (R-65) is part of a House group of four Republicans and four Democrats working on a stringent election reform bill passed unanimously in January by the Senate.

"If (the bill) will probably not go as far as I personally like it to, but it will pass easily (in the House of Representatives)," Defebaugh said at the March 18 meeting of the West Bloomfield-Pontiac Republican Women's Club.

DEFebaugh SAID the bill would apply to all candidates seeking public office, including those "labor of love" candidates such as trustees and school board members who receive no full salary for their services.

There would be no limitations on the amount of individual contributions to a campaign or on the total amount of campaign expenditures, despite the protests of such groups as Common Cause and The League of Women Voters, Defebaugh added.

"Where I got my money is far more important than the total number of dollars I've spent," he said.

THERE ARE also several court rulings which have indicated that no limit expenditures may prove unconstitutional, Defebaugh said.

The filing of campaign expenditure reports with the county clerk and the state elections division would be a requirement for assuming that office.

Candidates also would be required to report "in kind" contributions, those favors extended to

candidates outside of financial assistance.

THE BILL means not only the net total of a fund-raiser would be reported, but from where each contribution comes.

Contributions could still be made in cash rather than limited to checks, but all contributions would be required to be receipted.

Senate Bill 1016, as presently written, requires every contribution to be reported. There is, however, pressure from the Democrats to limit reportable contributions to \$25 and more, Defebaugh said.

THE BILL now stipulates that campaign expenditures be filed 10 days before the election and an up-

dated version filed 20 days after the election.

Defebaugh said he would like to see the pre-election filing deadline moved up to within five or six days of the election, saying "you just open up a greater loophole" with the earlier deadline.

He acknowledged that much of the responsibility for getting information on campaign expenditures out to the public in the week before an election will rest heavily with the press.

The bill is expected to be released from the House Policy Committee within the week and presented before to the House of Representatives for a full vote.

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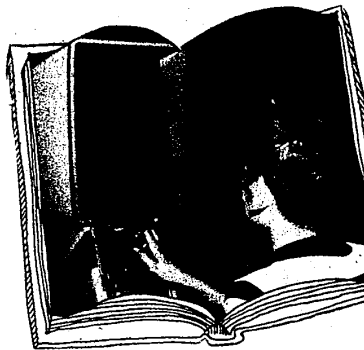
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Insurance FACTS

by Robert H. Bergstrom, CPCU

Insurance is always an individual consideration. Here are some of the things that determine the sort of insurance you will need: Your age and your responsibilities, the type of coverage you receive at your job, retirement plans you are involved in. When you decide on an insurance plan to fit your needs, make a list of the considerations that are most important to you. Talk to your insurance man about them. He will be able to develop a plan to suit you.

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HELPFUL HINT:
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