

## Conservation Vs. Urban Needs

# Senate, House May Differ On Park Fund Split

How to split a \$100 million bond issue for recreation is splitting Overland legislators. The State Senate last week passed a bill pretty much along the lines that Gov. Milliken recommended — 60 per cent to urban areas, 40 per cent to state programs.

Representatives want to hold out for the 70-30 split in favor of state programs that was originally proposed by the Natural Resources Department. The House is due to take up the bill next week.

"I WAS IN favor of the administration's position," said Sen. George Kuhn (R-West Bloom-

field), defending his vote in favor of the 60-40 urban split. "There are five million people in the metropolitan area, and that plan was the best. Recreation facilities just aren't adequate in the three metropolitan counties," Kuhn said. That Senate bill was passed 32-4, with Overland's other two senators, Republican Lor-

raine Beebe and Democrat William Faust, also voting "yes." The Milliken-Senate version is particularly tough on the state's fisheries program. The NR Department had asked for \$17.7 million for fisheries but stands to get only \$5 million. The Senate bill allocates \$40 million to state programs, \$30 million in grants to local units of

government, and \$30 million to state programs in urban areas. IN THE HOUSE, Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford) says he's still for the original 70-30 program weighted in favor of state programs. "I don't buy what the Senate has passed," Bennett said. House Convention Committee

Chairman Thomas Anderson (D-Southgate) says his committee members "put to hold out for their own" bill rather than the Senate version. But Rep. Marvin Stenplein (D-Livonia) said the House, under the pressure of a massive amount of bills, would probably send the House version back to Anderson's committee and in-

stead take up the Senate-passed bill. VOTERS LAST November approved a \$100 million bond issue for recreation programs, but the bond proposal didn't spell out how the money would be spent. Conservation interests contend that to depart from the original NRD plan would "break faith" with the voters who supported the bond issue.

Urban interests, however, contend that there's no legal commitment to spend the money that way, and that it would be better to pay attention to the recreation needs of the more crowded parts of the state, notably Detroit.

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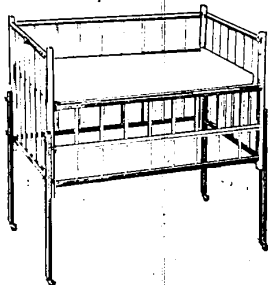
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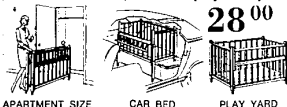
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