

Local Reps Buck New Capitol Bill

LANSING — Four Observant representatives voted "no" last week when the House defeated a bill that would have provided planning money for a few state Capitol buildings.

Rep. Richard Young of Dearborn Heights, James Pettipren of Westland, Vincent Tierney of Garden City and Marvin Stempfen of Livonia voted against the bill as it lost 55-51. All are Democrats.

Reps. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) and John Bennett (D-Redford) were absent. Bennett has been ill.

THE BILL, expected to be re-introduced, provided \$79 million for state capital outlay programs, including \$8 million

for plans for a new Capitol Building.

The bill provided not only for a new Capitol, to replace the one built in the 1890's, but for state universities, prisons, hospitals and other institutions.

There's disagreement about how much the Capitol Building would cost. As proposed, it would run \$45 million and take five to seven years to build. Some legislators disagreed, contending it would cost as much as \$70 million.

It would go up on a site about three blocks west of the present Capitol.

STEMPIEN's remarks on the

floor were instrumental in defeating the bill.

"There's no question that the state needs a new Capitol Building," said Stempfen, "but I have two objections to the bill.

"First, it's like writing a blank check, saying we will commit the state to build a Capitol. But we don't know the total cost of which we don't know."

"Second, there's the planning and design selection method. It's presently controlled by a group of a half-dozen legislators who closely and jealously guard their prerogatives." He identified the leaders as Senators Charles Zollar (R-Benton Harbor) and Garland Lane (D-Flint).

Youths Need More Rights, Responsibilities

LANSING — Gov. Milliken, prompted in part by an Observer Newspaper "White Paper" on maturity laws, has begun working a series of laws to bring young people more rights and responsibilities at an earlier age.

His program includes not only adoption of the 18-year-old vote by constitutional amendment, but liberalization of work laws and greater participation in political parties.

In a recent speech, the governor told a youthful audience: "For the most part, the young people of today have the education, the experience and the maturity to assume the privi-

leges of full citizenship."

"IN OUR SOCIETY," he went on, "a young person may complete school and be entirely self-supporting -- yet is unable to enter into a contract or purchase property."

"In our society, and under our laws, we allow a young person to leave school; yet we cripple him with outdated restrictions that prohibit him from gainful employment."

The Observer White Paper proposed that the governor appoint a commission of scientists to discover how much earlier Michigan youngsters are reaching maturity, and a

group of lawyers to define all the issues of law relating to maturity -- such as voting, drinking, working, marrying, making contracts, standing trial for crimes and so on.

AMONG MILLIKEN'S specific proposals were these: ● Creation of a youth services bureau in the Department of Social Services.

● A means to give students "a voice in the governing bodies of our state colleges and universities."

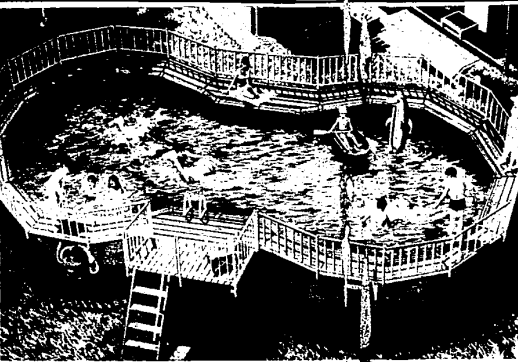
● Representation of young people on certain committees of the major political parties.

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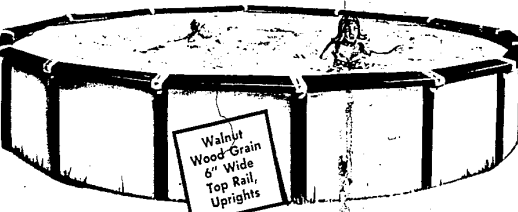
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