

It's bye, bye beer and booze

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Eighteen year olds won't be crying in their beer anymore.

Not after two bills raising the drinking age to 19 in Michigan become law.

The bills raising the age of drinking and purchasing recently passed the Michigan House by votes of 73-28 and 71-28.

Oakland County representatives were overwhelmingly in favor of the move, voting 5-1 to deprive 18-year-olds of the right to drink.

Reps. Wilbur (Sand.) Brotherton (R-Farmington), James DeFebaugh (R-Birmingham), Richard Fessler (R-

Union Lake), Ruth McNamee (R-Birmingham) and Sal Rocca (D-Sterling Heights), whose district includes a portion of Troy, voted for the change.

Rep. Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), Democratic floor leader, opposed the bills.

"IF YOU'RE going to make young people adults we should make them whole adults and not just part adults," said Forbes, whose district includes part of Southfield.

The bills were an answer to what was seen as an increasing problem of alcohol abuse among teenagers.

School officials had been complaining

that 18-year-old high school seniors were buying liquor and distributing it among younger students leading to disciplinary problems in the schools.

"If you go down the police records to see who's being brought in drunk, you'll see that the alcohol problem doesn't stop at age 25," Forbes said.

"It goes right on up to the older people."

"The whole bill just leaves a bad taste in my mouth."

Forbes said raising the drinking age will not eliminate the problems. "Remember the young people aren't drunk as a result of our law. The problem will still be there. The same adults who are doing the screaming now still load up their houses with liquor."

"I wonder, of all those who voted 'aye,' how many of them really felt deep down in their hearts that they were right?"

"It's just another crisis for the young people," he said.

BROTHERTON, who voted for the bills, also questioned its effects.

He said raising the drinking age by one year probably would not eliminate many problems.

The selling point of the package, he said, was the chance to eliminate some of the problems in the schools.

"It would eliminate the easy access," Brotherton said. "It was easy for an 18-year-old senior to go down to the Quik Pik store and pick up a six-pack and bring it back to school and share it with his friends. Maybe now that will change," he said.

THE DATE the new drinking age will take effect has not been set. The Michigan House had intended the bills to take effect Dec. 3, 1978. However, a procedural error may delay it until April 1, 1979. The House is attempting to correct that error.

The bills contain a "grandfather clause" which would allow those who turned 18 before the law takes effect to continue to drink even though they have not reached the new drinking age.

UAW won't bank with South Africa investors

The UAW will withdraw its funds from banks and financial institutions that participate in loans to South Africa, because of that country's racist, undemocratic political and economic practices.

The union intends to urge banks at which it maintains accounts to publicly pledge not to make direct or indirect loans to support the present South African government or economy, according to President Douglas Fraser.

Fraser has also urged President Jimmy Carter to take a number of steps to discourage U.S. investment in South Africa, including an end to all export-import loan guarantees for exports to South Africa.

"The government of South Africa continues to brutally suppress blacks and other non-whites who make up 80 percent of the population," Fraser said. "It is a racist society that refuses to allow black workers even the most basic human rights."

"We don't believe that the hard-

earned dues money of our 1.5 million members should wind up being used directly or indirectly to aid a country that practices such racist, repressive and undemocratic policies."

Fraser said the union was in sound financial shape and the decision to refuse to do business with banks that make loans to South Africa is consistent with careful stewardship of UAW funds.

"We will be asking the banks the International Union has accounts with if they are participating directly or through subsidiaries in providing loans or other funds to South Africa," Fraser said. "We'll ask those that are not to declare publicly that they will not lend money or guarantee loans to South Africa until it changes its racist policies."

A number of banks have previously agreed to such a position, including City National Bank of Detroit, Maryland National Bank, First Pennsylvania of Philadelphia, and Central National Bank of Chicago.

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