

Legislators listen

Residents want break on auto tax

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

The Michigan Automobile Dealers Association is pushing for legislation to allow sales and use tax to be figured on the difference between the trade-in value of a used car and the retail price of a new one.

6 are held up at restaurant

A young man armed with a pistol and a knife and wearing a nylon stocking over his head held up six persons Sunday evening at Blakeney's Ranch House Restaurant, 28333 Grand River, police reported.

Absentee ballots are available

Clarenceville School District residents may secure application for absentee ballot for the annual school election to be held Monday, June 8, by calling or writing Mrs. Geraldine Kelly, Clarenceville Board of Education Office, 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, 48152.

The Board of Education Office will remain open on Saturday, June 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to receive absentee voters.

The bills were introduced by State Sen. Thomas Guastello, D-Sterling Heights, Sen. Gary Corbin, D-Clio, Sen. Doug Ross, D-Southfield, and Sen. Gilbert Dinello, D-E. Detroit, of the Senate Finance Committee. They conducted a public hearing on the proposed measures Monday in Southfield.

"Under Senate Bills 221 and 222,

sales and use taxes would be computed on the basis of the retail value of the vehicle less the value of a trade-in," said Gil Haley, head of the auto dealers group.

"The auto industry would be hard hit if the sales tax is increased to 5.5 percent under Proposal A. In February, Michigan's unemployment rate was a whopping 14.2 percent. This means an estimated 604,000 persons were unemployed.

"It's tough to do business in Michigan whatever business you're in. The state in applying sales tax to the full purchase price of motor vehicles is in the minority."

IN ABOUT 39 states the sales tax isn't applied to the full motor vehicle price, according to Haley. Because of Michigan's taxing policies, auto dealers lose some sales to neighboring states, he maintained.

If a person buys a \$10,000 car and has a trade-in worth \$2,600, the car would cost \$754 more than in Indiana

or Wisconsin, he said. Under proposal A, the \$550 sales tax for the auto would be the highest among midwestern states, he said.

Applying sales tax on the difference, the state would get \$407 with a 5.5 percent tax and collect a total of \$192,820,197 — \$27 million more than in 1980. And buyers would have an incentive of more than \$100, Haley contended.

If the bills pass, Haley said, sales would increase, more persons would be employed, Michigan's business climate would improve, consumers would have safer cars, the state would collect more revenue and voters will be more likely to approve Proposal A on May 19.

"PEOPLE KEEP their cars longer before selling them because of the expense of a new car," said Marvin Tamaroff of Tamaroff Buick on 12 Mile and Telegraph in Southfield. "If they get credit for their used car and are taxed on the difference, it would help.

"Dealers rely on good used cars for profit. And cars are safer because they're repaired before they're sold. The state has been losing out because most sellers in the private market don't declare the right amount of the sale. And there are exemptions for selling a car to relatives."

Last year, Tamaroff said, his auto sales reached \$35 million and he paid \$1.3 million to the state.

Dealers at the hearing maintained even if buyers saved \$150 in sales tax under the bills, it would provide an incentive just as did auto rebates.

Alma names honor students

Alma College freshman Theodore Kallgren and senior Ann Simanek of Farmington Hills are among the 184 students named to the college's dean's list for outstanding academic performance during the 1981 Winter Term ending April 18. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits are named to the dean's list.

Kallgren, a 930 graduate of Harrison High School, is the son of Roderick and Jean Kallgren, 30019 Wicklow, Farmington Hills. He is majoring in business administration at Alma College.

Simanek, a 1977 graduate of Harrison High School, is the daughter of Robert and Nancy Simanek, 25194 Westmoreland, Farmington Hills. She is majoring in music at Alma College.

Knighton is justice cadet

Beth K. Knighton of Farmington has been appointed a cadet in the Lake Superior State College criminal justice intern program.

She is the daughter of Burton and Rosemary Knighton of 33920 State Street, Farmington.

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