

Officials attack Tax Commission

State Tax Commission practices would come under the scrutiny of a special legislative committee if a resolution introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives Thursday was approved.

Sponsored by State Rep. W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton (R-Farmington), the resolution is in response to growing complaints by local assessors and county equalization directors that the commission is ignoring state law and legislative intent in its policies.

"There is an increasing threat of lawsuits against the commission from local units throughout the state," Brotherton said. "Some allegations are that the commission will not permit assessors to reflect certain costs involved with land contract sales, such as financing, surveys and personal items."

"Another common complaint is that the commission is relying on sales studies that are either too old or too small in quantity to set factors, which means that assessment levels are too high."

"IN FACT, local assessors and county equalization directors argue that the commission's policies for the 1982 tax year will result in factors being applied

at the local level which will raise some assessments above the 50-percent level in violation of the State Constitution."

The depressed real estate market has produced so many new and innovative financing methods that it is impossible to accurately estimate the true cash value of many properties, Brotherton said.

The Truth in Taxation legislation recently passed encourages local units of government and school boards to set tax rates at levels designed to keep individual tax bills at 1981 levels. However, increased assessments could cost some school districts partial loss of their school aid, he added.

The resolution would require the creation of a special House-Senate committee to determine if the policies of the State Tax Commission properly carry out legislative intent and mandates in state law and the State Constitution.

"I will urge that this resolution be a legislative priority," Brotherton said.

"It's important to property owners and school districts that assessments be set at a level that truly reflects the current market, which has been in a decline for the better part of a year."

Two men arrested in armed robbery

By Judith Berns staff writer

abeth Lake roads at about 1 a.m. Sunday.

Two Pontiac men are charged with the armed robbery Saturday night of the Boron service station at Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt in West Bloomfield.

Robert Hunt, 21, and Jeffrey Wall, 22, were arraigned in 48th District Court Tuesday. Hunt was charged with two counts of armed robbery and possession of a firearm in commission of a felony. Wall was charged with a single count of armed robbery.

Police report the two allegedly drove into the Sylvan Lake Auto Service at about 9:45 p.m. and purchased \$1 worth of gas through the pay window. When they requested to use the pay telephone, the attendant, a 29-year-old township resident, let them into the station.

BUT AFTER another customer had left, one of the men produced a handgun and a paper sack and told the attendant to fill it, police said.

The two left, reportedly taking approximately \$300.

A description of the men and the car they were driving was redibed to other area police departments.

Waterford Patrolman Edward Thomson stopped a car meeting the description at Cooley Lake and Cass Eliz-

A radio check confirmed the two also fit the description of two men wanted in the 12:45 a.m. holdup of Richardson's Farm Dairy, 6890 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford.

The salesperson there handed over \$75 after one suspect pulled a handgun.

Police recovered \$216 of the \$300 taken in the first robbery. The entire amount was recovered in the second incident.

BOTH SUSPECTS STOOD mute at their 48th District Court arraignment. A plea of not guilty was entered for them, a court spokeswoman said.

Neither was able to post the required 10 percent of the \$50,000 bond set for each of them.

They are in Oakland County Jail awaiting examination Feb. 4 before District Court Judge David Breck.

County appointed attorneys have been requested.

The two men were arraigned Monday in 51st District Court on armed-robbery charges in the Waterford case, a court spokeswoman said. The additional charge of possession of a weapon in commission of a felony was lodged against Hunt.

Examination is Feb. 5 before District Judge Robert Carr.

obituaries

IRENE L. APPEGATE

Mrs. Applegate, 89, of Farmington died Jan. 19 in the Evangelical Home for the Aged.

Mrs. Applegate was a homemaker. Survivors include one grandchild and three great-grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 22 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington with the Rev. Lee W. Tyler of Salem United Church of Christ of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Memorial Park Cemetery, Livonia.

WILLIAM J. SMITH

Mr. Smith, 63, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 24 in Boisford Hospital.

Mr. Smith was a retired printer for the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press. He was a member of the Detroit Typographical Union for 50 years.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; his

mother, Kathleen Smith; and one brother, Patrick.

Services were Jan. 27 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Kean Cronin of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

GEORGE W. IRVINE

Mr. Irvine, 66, of Farmington died Jan. 24 in Boisford Hospital.

He had worked 42 years for the Railway Express Agency before retiring. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; daughters, Karen Mitchell and Delores Summers; a son, George; a sister, Priscilla Perry; and six grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 27 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Lee Tyler of Salem United Church of Christ officiating. Cremation was in Evergreen Crematory, Detroit.

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Some cookbooks recommend telling the butcher to remove the bone. We prefer to leave the backbone on the steak. Broiling or grilling with the bone in place helps sweeten the meat. The backbone also serves to spread the heat and keep the cooking temperature uniform.

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