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FARMINGTON
The financial squeeze and taxes continue to trouble the Farmington Board of Education.

Trustees have approved a resolution calling for the state to legislate a substantial reduction in local school property taxes and a substantial increase in state funds for the school budget.

Also, the trustees deleted several purchases, a process which has become a ritual over the past several months.

ALDO VAGNOZZI, secretary of the board and chairman of the legislative committee, repeated the stand of school board regarding shifting the school tax burden.

The resolution, approved unanimously, says the present system of financing education has resulted in "an ever-increasing burden on local property owners caught in the cycle of higher assessments—higher taxes while the Farmington School District has not materially benefited because of a resulting sharp decrease in the percentage of state aid."

The resolution urges an education reform program which shifts the financing away from the overburdened property taxpayer to a statewide tax base.

This particular district has seen an erosion of our state aid part of the budget," Vagnozzi commented at the meeting. Local taxpayers now support about 57% of the \$13 million budget, but Vagnozzi said the local support could rise to 65% next year.

"I don't think I have to convince anyone in the room that the property tax has gone past the point of reasonableness," the board secretary said.

THE TRUSTEES also deleted three color television sets and some equipment for Harrison High school from the list of purchases routinely presented to the board.

The school board has questioned and deleted many items from purchases and payments over the past several months. Questioning payment for Gary Lichtman, board vice president, to attend a convention in

San Francisco set off a mild row within the board.

Economy was given as the reason for the questioning and many more items have been questioned for the same reason since that disagreement.

The television sets, costing \$375 each for a RCA 23-inch table model, were to be used for educational television programs in two elementary schools.

Lichtman pointed out that the items, such as aspirin, bandages and other consumable goods, were to be paid with

cedent which would eventually require them to place color televisions in each school.

THE OTHER deletion came from supplies for the new Harrison High School which will open in September. About \$2,800 of supplies for the physical education department were omitted.

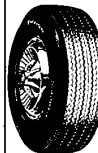
Lichtman pointed out that the items, such as aspirin, bandages and other consumable goods, were to be paid with

funds from the Harrison High building and site account.

The vice president of the board said money spent now from building and site accounts costs the district about \$2.75 for each \$1.

The building and site funds contain money from the sale of bonds which cost more over the long life of the bonds. Lichtman said consumable materials should be paid for with money from operating accounts.

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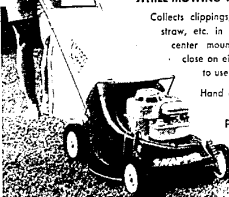
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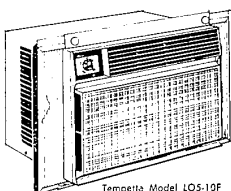
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