

# Tax increase inevitable despite GOP protests

WATCHING THE Michigan Legislature last week pass a state personal income tax increase was much like watching Shakespeare's "Hamlet" — one knows how it's going to end, but it is still an absorbing drama.

There was much of the inevitable about the battle over a major tax increase. Anyone watching the revenue numbers knew, absolutely, that an increase was coming. The fact that a year ago Gov. William G. Milliken proposed an income tax increase, then backed off in favor of a six-month hike, only underscored the inevitability of it all.

Listening to Democratic candidate James Blanchard discuss the situation last fall, one had to know he would propose some kind of major increase. And so he did — 0.25 percent to pay off the accumulated debt, 1.5 percent to cover current shortfalls, \$225 million in expenditure cuts beyond the billion or so Milliken had cut.

The editorial board of this newspaper warned of the inevitability of a tax increase. Around the nation, more than half of the other states are facing

deficits that already have required, or shortly will require, tax transfusions.

THE NAIVETE of the anti-tax protesters was touching.

They scheduled a rally on the State Capitol Building steps March 1, and the House of Representatives responded by passing the increase one day later.

They scheduled a headlights and candle-burning event for March 25. The Senate responded by passing its version of the tax increase March 24, and the House concurred March 25.

They roared, waved flags, chanted threats of recalling Blanchard. It is doubtful Blanchard will lose five seconds sleep over it.

For the political fact of life is that the anti-tax folks didn't have an experienced politician among them. I talked with as many as I could buttonhole and failed to find a party precinct delegate, a county chairman or a former candidate among them. Even Bob Tisch didn't bother to show up.



Tim Richard

THE REPUBLICANS at first talked of developing a \$600 million "hit list" of expenditures they would propose for cutting.

As the session wore on, they suddenly fell silent about reducing expenditures, much the same way a pond full of spring peepers stops croaking when a human clomps by.

In the House, the Democrats simply rolled over the Republicans, 58-50, without a single Republican voting yes.

In the Senate, the situation was somewhat more tense. Democrats held a bare 20-18 majority. One

Democrat, Gilbert DiNello of East Detroit, was a firm no, and there were question marks behind the names of Patrick McCollough of Dearborn, Joe Mack of Ironwood and John Kelly of Detroit.

Republicans went so far as to report a majority of its caucus would support a tax increase if 1) it would be phased out sooner and more definitely and 2) the single business tax burden on small firms were reduced.

For a spell, it looked as if a major caucus-to-caucus deal might be struck. But the Democratic leadership found one yes vote among the Republicans — Harry DeMaso of Battle Creek, a veteran of two dozen years in the Legislature, a man with a conservative streak a mile wide, a liberal streak a mile wide, and a streak of stubborn Dutch independence three miles wide.

DeMaso did what had to be done. He joined the 19 Democrats to support a slightly scaled-down version of Blanchard's proposal, and the whole affair was over within a day.

It was inevitable.

the stroller  
W.W.  
Edgar

## A pioneer's Easter Parade of memories

UNFORTUNATELY, when the planners of suburbia laid out street designs, no thought was given to the need for an avenue for the annual Easter Parade.

In New York City, no Easter would be complete unless you strolled down Fifth Avenue with your latest Easter attire, bowing graciously along the way.

This promenade has been kept alive with song and story, and almost everyone recalls the famous song "Easter Parade" composed by Irving Berlin.

But trying to duplicate anything like that would be almost impossible in Redford, Livonia, Garden City, Westland, Canton or Plymouth unless you went window-shopping in the business district.

The lack of a boulevard will not prevent The Stroller from making the old-time rounds this Easter Sunday. He won't be strolling. But he will be riding through the area and recalling the days that used to be.

A RESIDENT of Livonia for high on to 45 years, he will start out at Six Mile and stop for a few moments at the intersection of Farmington Road.

There will come the vision again of the first courthouse in Livonia. In those days, Leo Nye was justice of the peace. When Livonia was incorporated as a city, Nye was appointed JP and was instructed to open an office.

What do you suppose he did? He built an addition to his chicken coop and held court there several days a week. It was not strange to have him leave a hearing to tend to the chickens in the area now taken over by the Burton Hollow Mall.

On the other corner, now mostly residential, was the city's playground with several baseball diamonds. In fall it was used for football.

THEN THE Stroller will take a turn and move down Farmington Road to Five Mile, and there he will see again, in his mind's eye, two old, broken-down gas stations and a small print shop, along with the first office of The Livonian, now part of the Observer & Eccentric family.

There will be Rosch's Drug Store, made famous because in the back room many plans were discussed for the city — such institutions as the Post Office and St. Mary Hospital. There was never a dream of anything so great as the present City Hall.

There will be a stop along Plymouth Road between Farmington and Merriman to live again in the memory of the Pen Mar Cafe, now known as The Other Place. In the old days, it was a famous eating establishment known for spaghetti and frog legs.

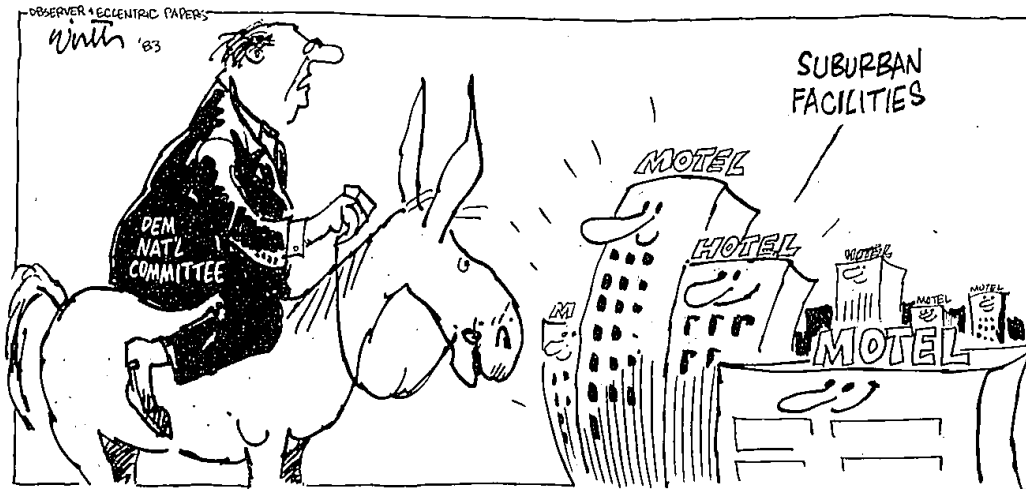
Just across the street, Clarence Hoffman opened the area's first bowling establishment.

THE PARADE then will move on to Plymouth Road and Middlebelt, where there was an airport where The Stroller many times took a plane to St. Clair to speak at luncheons.

Then up Middlebelt to Five Mile for a visit in memory with the late Hughie Ross, manager of an 18-hole golf course that was a member of the county golf league. It has been long gone and now is a mixture of business and residences.

From there The Stroller will return home, happy in the fact that while he didn't have the honor of strolling along a boulevard, he did have an Easter Parade of his own and a visit, in memory, with his old-time friends.

It promises to be a great Easter Sunday afternoon — more enjoyable than even Fifth Avenue in New York.



## Detroit area impresses Democrats

MEMORIES CAME flooding back last week when the Democratic Site Selection Committee came to metropolitan Detroit for a three-day inspection. They were looking at sites for the 1984 convention. Detroit is one of five cities bidding for the event.

Several suburban hotels — including the Holiday Inn, Hilton, Northfield Hilton and Somerset Inn in Troy — were visited Friday by the inspection team. Staffs spent many hours sprucing up hotel appearances in preparation for the site committee.

IT WAS LESS than three years ago that we celebrated "Detroit Loves a Good Party." That was the slogan for the Republican Convention held in Detroit in 1980. It was a clever turn of a phrase for a GOP (Grand Old Party) convention.

And what a party we gave. Many delegations stayed in hotels in this area. They included: Massachusetts in Plymouth Hilton; South Dakota in Farmington Hills Holiday Inn; Virginia, Alabama and Florida in Troy Hilton; Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa in Somerset Inn, Troy; Kentucky and Mississippi in Northfield Hilton in Troy; Utah in Holiday Inn in Southfield; Montana in old Northland Inn in Southfield; and Ohio and Pennsylvania in Michigan Inn in Southfield.

Delegates not only stayed in local hotels, but they were also entertained at numerous suburban parties and events. Suburban hosts became sponsors of del-



Nick Sharkey

egates and took them on excursions to places like Greenfield Village and the Detroit Yacht Club.

In short, we tried to be perfect hosts for our guests. And it paid off.

Typical of the responses after the convention was that of Rep. Carroll Campbell, head of the South Carolina delegation.

"When they said we're going to Detroit for the national convention, everyone went, 'Ohh,'" he said. "After having come here, we have a totally different attitude. I've been to a number of national conventions. . . This far exceeds the others, not only in the facilities but in the attitude of the people."

DELEGATES DID everything except spend money. They didn't have to.

The Massachusetts delegation in the Plymouth Hilton was typical. The hotel gave an arrival party which included free food and drinks for all delegates. Delegates attended a free band concert at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. More recep-

tions and parties were held throughout the week.

On Monday night the Troy Hilton offered a buffet and five-piece band in the ballroom for \$10 per person. Only 19 persons showed up, and it was cancelled for the rest of the week.

At the same time suburbanites worried that their favorite restaurants and bars would be crowded with delegates. Thus, they decided to stay away from a week.

The combination meant that local bars and restaurants had few customers that week.

AH, WHAT a good time we all had during that week in July 1980. I hope that the Democratic site committee gives Detroit the favorable nod for 1984. Even if predictions of delegates' spending are exaggerated, it's great for the image of this area to host a national convention.

But I don't expect that to happen. A Democratic convention is several times larger than a Republican convention. Unfortunately, this area may be unable to provide the 20,000 required hotel and motel rooms.

From all reports, San Francisco is front runner. But that can't stop us from hoping. Before they left, members of the Democratic committee said they were favorably impressed. They will announce their decision on April 21.

Who knows? Maybe in a few weeks we will be planning for a larger party than we had in 1980.

## 'He was 3 decades ahead of his time'

ARTHUR E. MOORE, who died last week at 81, was one of the Michigan's most respected judges and a "father figure" to hundreds of youngsters in trouble.

Memorial services for Moore, who died Saturday in his Huntington Woods home after a long battle with cancer, were held Tuesday. Burial was at Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak.

Moore was a probate and circuit judge in Oakland County for 39 years and founder of numerous programs for juvenile delinquents, including a summer camp for underprivileged children.

Judge Keith Leenhouts, director of Volunteers in Probate, Royal Oak, summed up Moore's life and work: "He was three decades ahead of his time. Many of the programs he started in the 1940s and



Judge Arthur Moore

1950s are just beginning to take off around the country."

MOORE WAS ELECTED probate judge of Oakland County in 1938 and served until 1963, when he was appointed to the circuit bench by then-Gov. George Romney. He retired in 1976 to practice law. Moore and the late banker Walter Gehrke founded Camp Oakland in 1952 on a former estate in Oxford.

"He was really the inspiration behind this camp," said camp director William Matus, who has worked there since it was founded as a non-profit corporation supported by the county and private sources.

"This program grew because of his genuine commitment to children," Matus added. "We started out with only two kids and a huge debt. But he was convinced that it was a good thing and we had to make it go."

Matus said the late judge visited the camp weekly, becoming a "father figure" to many of the children. "He wrote to them even after they left the camp, attended their weddings and got involved with their lives," he said.

DESIGNS CAMP OAKLAND, Moore is credited with initiating numerous programs for delinquents. He was the first organizer of the Child Guidance

Clinic in Oakland County, first director of the Pontiac Boys Club, director of the Royal Oak Boys Club and co-founder and organizer of Children's Charter Inc.

He originated the Protective Services — Youth Assistance Programs that operate in every Oakland County community and elsewhere throughout the state.

Moore also loaned his services to the Oakland County YMCA, Children's Aid Society and Family Service Association. He was the author of several books and member of many professional groups.

Born June 11, 1901, at Adrian, Moore graduated from Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan Law School. He began his law practice in Royal Oak.

One son, Eugene A., is following in his father's footsteps as a probate judge in Oakland County.

The family suggests memorials be made to Camp Oakland or the First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak.

"During his tenure, he served the people with honor and distinction," said Oakland County Chief Circuit Judge Steven N. Andrews. "His judicial and humanitarian achievements are a benchmark for others to follow."