

Prayer issue has nation waiting

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preaching, proselytizing or spontaneous worship in public buildings.

A spokesman for Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, said the senator likely would vote against the bills, if past response is any indication.

Riegle wants the U.S. Supreme Court to settle the issue, although the majority of constituents writing or calling his office support the amendments, Krawiec said.

Many of the constituents, however, believe the amendments simply would allow prayer in school, she said.

"If you do a poll on prayer in school and ask if they want it, about 80 percent of any sampling will say yes. If you ask a number of questions about religious freedoms first and then ask, the number drops considerably," Krawiec said.

ON THE other hand, Broomfield, "has not taken a specific stand on any of the alternatives (to the Thurmond bill)," Nakamura said. "He pretty much is keeping his options open."

But local officials are sticking with past court decisions. "Right now our policy is based on the court's interpretation of what the Constitution says," said Lew Schulman, superintendent of Farmington Schools.

Following a sometimes bitter controversy over Campus Life, the Christian

social group that tried to deliver its message in and around North Farmington High School for the past couple of years, the Farmington Board of Education in December adopted a new policy on "schools and religion."

The policy says, in part, "... that school districts must be wholly neutral in dealing with religious beliefs. Therefore, while schools may teach about religion, schools must not support or introduce those procedures that either enhance, promote or inhibit religion."

But as far as Board President Helen Prutow is concerned, "by declaring a time for prayer, well, that's not neutral."

"I go along with the Supreme Court that there should be separation between church and state," Prutow said.

"If the government decrees prayer in schools, that's not separation."

"Whose prayer will it be?" Prutow asked, referring to the mix of religions

in the Farmington schools.

Currently, she said, children are allowed to pray, for example, before lunch, if they choose to. "But no one is forced to."

UNDER THE Hatch amendment, however, "equal access" would be provided for, Nakamura said. That means if students want to form a religious type of club or organization, "the schools can provide that opportunity on school property," he said.

There's a "fine line" between discipline and where "child abuse kicks in," Lee said.

"We generally see more welfare clients, but only because the people on welfare can't buy themselves out of the problem," according to Mike Barbour, DSS social worker.

"The family's with money can buy psychiatric help, and they're the people with more options."

Determining exactly when a case is considered child abuse isn't always easy.

"The kid that hasn't eaten or is locked in a closet are obvious signs," Lee said. "It depends on the police officer investigating and the protective services worker's opinion."

Resident urged to speak out

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THE MICHIGAN Department of Social Services categorizes child abuse in four categories. Physical: shaking, beating, burning and failure to provide the necessities such as food. Emotional: failure to provide warmth, attention, supervision and normal living experiences. Verbal: excessive yelling, belittling and teasing. Sexual: incest and other indecent activity in the family.

The DSS also lists the following criteria in determining child abuse or neglect:

Children who are beaten or showing other indications of cruel treatment, abandoned by their caretaker, poorly clothed, ill-fed and dirty are also con-

sidered abused or neglected. Other indications are children who are ill, with no medical attention provided, overworked or exploited, unsupervised or unattended much of the time, especially at night.

More signs are children who are kept at home from school for reasons other than illness, who are sexually abused or molested and who aren't given adequate shelter or sanitation.

"There's no sense in a child being immersed in boiling water, beaten with a belt or a baseball bat," Murphy said. "This is supposed to be a civilized society."

The DSS has a telephone number that is equipped to take calls on suspected child abuse or neglect 24 hours a day. That number is 858-1590.

Fox studios will move

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CBS/Fox Video is involved in the manufacture, production, distribution and sale of home and commercial video products.

"THE PROPOSED use of the (new) facility would involve all the above stated uses as well as offices and studio functions to support operations," Fehlauer said.

"We only have an option on the property (in Livonia)," Fehlauer said.

CBS/Fox Video reportedly wants to consolidate operations under one roof, while leaving space for expansion, Gilmartin said.

Interest in the Livonia site centers on the size of the land, a three-acre take on the land, and the site's relative closeness to the current facility, he said.

"They are considering another site in Atlanta, but by staying in this area they can maintain all their employees."

THE CBS application stated that 120-250 jobs are expected to be created within two years of the project's completion.

Although a price tag hasn't been placed on the project, Gilmartin estimated the cost at \$20 million.

"Livonia has released nine or 10 companies for different incentives. On the same token, other communities have done the same for us," Gilmartin said.

If tenants cannot be found for CBS Fox facilities, Farmington Hills then would experience a tax loss, Cairns said. But Cairns said he is unworried about losing taxes because he is convinced tenants will be readily available when the time comes.

THE LIVONIA site is zoned light industrial and could accommodate the CBS light without a zoning change, he said.

EDC financing can't be used for the project because the project is too large. But Gilmartin said by segmenting construction the EDC's \$10 million maximum could be avoided.

"A lot of these type of decisions will be made after the city council makes a decision on the tax abatement," he said.

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