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Weekend of January 16 - 17, 1971

Governor's Proposed State Aid Cut Will Put Farmington In 'Tragic' Bind



MAN OF THE YEAR — Ron Holland (left) receives a plaque and citation naming him Man of the Year from George Ray, president of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, at the Chamber's annual dinner Wednesday night. Holland, first recipient of the Chamber's award, is head coach of the North Farmington High football team. (Evert photo)

By MARTHA MAHAN

Farmington public schools, already running on an austerity budget, will be in a "tragic" bind financially if Gov. William Milliken's proposed state aid cut goes through, schoolmen agree.

It would lop \$122,000 "counted on and included" from a budget balanced only after (1) paring between \$300,000 and \$400,000 from anticipated expenditures and (2) tossing in all of a \$700,000 surplus built up in previous years.

STATE AID payments this year contributed only 35% of the district's \$15.4 million budget and amounted to only \$246,000 more than the previous year. Milliken's proposed cut would reduce the increase by nearly half.

Moreover, the Michigan Supreme Court decision that districts must furnish free textbooks and supplies cost Farmington about \$250,000, eating up all the state aid increase now threatened to be halved.

"The horrendous part is

that the reduction is proposed in mid-year when the budget is established," said Board of Education President John M. Washburn III, who makes no secret of his belief local millage must be hiked to meet next year's school costs.

"We'd have only half a school year to accomplish the savings, and I don't know how we'd do it," Washburn went on. "It would be a tragic thing to have to sit down and try."

THE BOARD Monday instructed Supt. Roderick J. Smith to set up a meeting with the district's two legislators, Sen. Carl Pursell and Rep. Raymond Baker, both of whom told the Farmington Enterprise and Observer they felt other alternatives were available to meet the state's anticipated \$108 million deficit.

"I want to look further," commented Pursell, who said he already had met with about 35 school officials and some school boards in Oakland County and numerous state officials to review the impact of Milliken's proposal.

Pursell could play a key role in any legislative action. Just this week he was named a member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee which, along with its House counterpart, must give its approval before Milliken's school aid cut could be accomplished.

Pursell also pointed out that House Minority Leader Clifford Smart is a former

Walled Lake school superintendent who could be expected to lend sympathetic hearing to the schools' plight.

FARMINGTON is fortunate in two respects in the current tumultuous school situation.

A further Milliken proposal to cut \$12 million from the so-called "grandfather clause" in the school aid bill would not apply. Nor would possible closing of parochial schools and absorption of their pupils into the public school system cause any hardship, one schoolman said; it might even be a boon.

Pursell said he had taken steps to review some alternatives, such as borrowing from the Veterans Trust Fund, and "there are other funds available."

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ask the universities to take another one per cent and cut K-12.

"The universities got only a one per cent cutback, and I think the K-12 grades are more important," he declared. "I think we should ask the universities to take another one per cent and cut K-12 grades only one per cent. I think all departments should be open and available for this adjustment, and equally from a percentage standpoint."

BAKER SAID he'd "hate to see anything like this happen," referring to the recommended school slash. Baker "couldn't buy" just education being cut, but pointed out at the same time that "as of right now, the state has a serious problem."

Baker, like Pursell, said he felt "all departments should be reduced proportionately" to any cut in funds for education.

"Just how it should be done, I don't know," he said. "I haven't got into it that deeply."

Baker said he was awaiting a meeting of the Republican caucus and, especially, discussion with Rep. Smart to become more informed on impact of the proposal and possible alternatives.

Milliken's two per cent across the board school aid cut would save the state \$15 million at a time when the state is threatened with a \$108 million deficit.

He proposed a further \$12 million saving by reducing from \$19.5 million to \$7.5 million the amount named by the Department of Education as needed to meet the "grandfather clause," which guarantees each school district aid at a previous level.

He also would reduce a portion of the retirement funding to the Michigan Public

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RAIDER DAY — The North Farmington High School flag flew over Farmington Township Hall all day Jan. 11 which was proclaimed Raider Day in Farmington Township. Raising the flag early that morning were (left) Brian Smith, co-captain; Lt. Thomas Schriber, township police; Joe Rebb, township police cadet and 1969 NFHS grad; Drew Mahalic, all-state quarterback; and Mike Gow, all-state halfback. (Evert photo)

Farmington Calendar

CAMPERS AND HIKERS MEET

Sunday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. the Carefree Conestogas, a Farmington-based chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Assn., will meet in St. John Lutheran Church at 23225 Gill Rd., Farmington.

FLUORIDE TO EAGLE SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 18, fluoride program will move to Eagle Elementary School. A treatment of four applications for \$6 is received with parental permission.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING

Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 8 p.m. the Farmington Township Board and Civic Assn. will meet in Power Junior High. Charles Cook, Livonia's director of senior citizen housing, will discuss all phases of housing and a question-answer period will follow. Public is invited.

AIR QUALITY MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 19, at noon the League of Women Voters of West Bloomfield-Farmington will meet in the West Bloomfield Township Library to discuss air quality.

GILL SCHOOL PTA

Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 8 p.m. the Gill School PTA will meet with guest speaker being the Rev. Ralph Ridout, director of the Farmington Area Advisory Council, to speak on the problems of drugs. The public is welcome.

AAUW POLLUTION FILM

Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 8 p.m. the American Assn. of University Women will meet in the Farmington Community Center to view "The Gifts," a film about water pollution sponsored by the Federal Water Quality Administration. Afterwards, a discussion will be led by Mrs. William B. Cooper.

EAGLE SCHOOL PTA

Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Detroit Free Press Sports Editor Joe Falls will interview Mickey Stanley and Paul Foytack at the meeting of the Eagle School PTA. All fathers and sons are invited. All three of these sports fathers have children attending Eagle School.

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Thursday, Jan. 21, at 1 p.m. Farmington Chapter 49 of the Blue Star Mothers of America will meet in its regular business meeting in the home of Mrs. June Koehler, 23220 Mayfield, Farmington.

SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL CLUB

Friday, Jan. 22, at noon the Senior Citizens Social Club of Farmington will meet in the social room of the First United Methodist Church on Grand River. A social afternoon with cards will follow the business meeting.

SWIM PROGRAM SIGNUP

Saturday, Jan. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon, registration will be taken for Farmington School's Community Swim Program at both high schools having operative pools. Instructional and recreational swimming will be offered. Information about the program is available from Jack Cotton, director of physical education and athletics, at 474-5527.

COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 8 p.m. the Farmington Community Concert Band will present a free concert in the auditorium of North Farmington High School.

CENTER CLASSES SIGNUP

Registrations are still being accepted for classes in which there are openings at the Farmington Community Center. For information call the Center at 474-6873 or 474-2990.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the March of Dimes 1971 drive for the City of Farmington in January. Volunteers may call Marian Wallace at 474-8607 or Diane Rose at 476-5077.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN



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- TITLE
- APPLICATION
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