

# Senate cuts Youth Corps funds

Thursday, May 31, 1990 O.S.F.

(S-BAR)15A

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

State Sen. Doug Cruce, R-Troy, won Senate approval of a two-thirds cut in Gov. James Blanchard's 1991 Youth Corps program.

But senators of both parties rejected Cruce's effort to focus what's left of the jobs program for poor youths.

Cruce charged Democrat Blanchard wanted to channel too much of the budget into programs at the governor's "political discretion."

THE SENATE last week gave 32-3 approval to House Bill 5479, the so-called "regulatory budget." It covers the departments of Commerce, Labor, and Licensing and Regulation.

"We've pared almost \$20 million off the governor's recommendation (\$199 million)," said Cruce, who chairs the Senate Appropriations subcommittee handling it. He said the tax money could be used for

other purposes.

The bill goes back to the House for concurrence in the Senate amendments. If, as seems likely, the House fails to concur, the bill will go to a House-Senate conference committee.

CRUCE SUCCEEDED in cutting Youth Corps appropriations from Blanchard's recommended \$22 million to \$7.4 million.

Since the Youth Corps was created in 1983, Cruce said, "unemployment has plummeted, and lucrative entry-level jobs go unfilled, but the Youth Corps continues to grow."

Cruce lost, 12 to 23, on an amendment. The amendment would have required that Youth Corps money go to families with annual incomes below 125 percent of the federal poverty level and give priority to communities where 10 percent of the population is below the poverty level. He blamed Democrats for the loss.

Seven Republicans — including Robert Geake of Northville and Rudy Nichols of Waterford — joined 16 Democrats to vote against the amendment.

Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, called the amendment "tight-listed and mean-spirited."

CRUCE SAID other Senate improvements include:

- Cutting part of Blanchard's "Yes! Michigan" economic promotion budget but retaining travel and tourism advertising.

- Offering \$2 million in single business tax credits for companies that offer employees child care assistance.

Cruce called it an improvement over Blanchard's "new and fuzzily defined child care partnership."

- Increasing spending for the Center for Independent Living (formerly blind), Youth Low Vision Program, the Detroit Pre-college Program in Engineering and the Sciences, and the weatherization program for poor people.

## Quayle headlines fund-raiser

Oakland County Republicans are expecting about 300 people Monday for the annual spring fund-raiser featuring Vice President Dan

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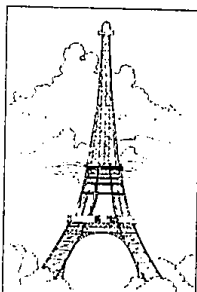
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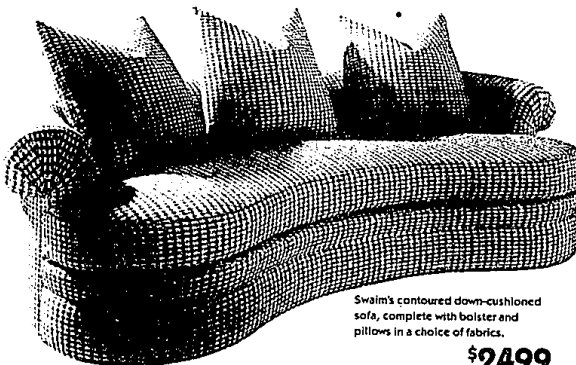
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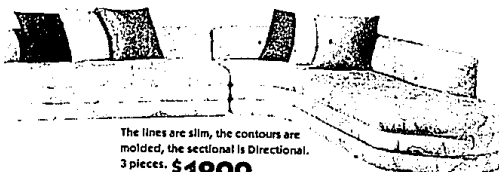
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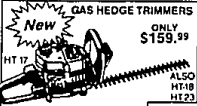


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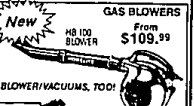
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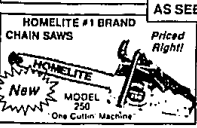
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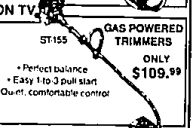
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