

SC Confusion: Court Vs. Legislature

By KATHY MORAN

New Dimensions have been added to the Schoolcraft College reapportionment issue. At the same time as the issue was being heard in Wayne County Circuit Court, a long-awaited ruling from attorney general was released, and a bill specifically aimed at Schoolcraft's problem was introduced into the Legislature.

ATTY. GEN. Frank Kelly ruled that the present method of electing trustees "discriminates against the electors of the school districts with the larger population such as Livonia School District and the School District of Garden City in favor of the school

districts with the smaller population." "The votes of the electors are not equal," Kelley's opinion continues. It further states that the present method cannot be continued since it does not comply with the "constitutional mandate that each person's vote counts as much as another as far as practicable."

Based on the ruling, State Rep. Marvin Stempien introduced a bill last Thursday requiring that all college trustees be elected on a "one-man, one-vote" basis. "This would require that trustees of all community colleges in the state be elected from single member districts of equal population within the community college districts," he said.

Under Stempien's bill, Schoolcraft's district would be apportioned by a special commission consisting of the county clerk, county treasurer, prosecuting attorney, and the county chairman of the two leading political parties.

THE DISTRICT must be reapportioned because under the present method, each school district belonging to the college district is allotted one representative despite the fact that the school districts vary considerably in size.

However, Stempien's proposal conflicts with the decision reached between Circuit Court Judge Roland Olzak, the defendant Schoolcraft Board of Trustees, and the

plaintiff New Democratic Coalition of Livonia.

In a suit filed by the NDC asking for reapportionment and delay of the June trustees election, Judge Olzak ruled that the current board should come up with a plan for equal apportionment. The board must submit its plan to the court on June 1.

To give the court time to examine the plan and make any changes, the trustee election was postponed until Sept. 12. Both the judicial decision and Stempien's bill would call for the complete election of a new board under the agreed-upon reapportionment plan because the board is now considered illegally constituted.

"I THINK IT is poor policy to allow the incumbent board, which has vested interests, to reapportion its own district," Stempien said about the court ruling. "I think it is truly a legislative and not a judicial function."

But Schoolcraft board Chairman Jane Moehle was critical of the legislative action. "Mr. Stempien drew up his bill without the advice and consultation of the present board or any of the school districts concerned."

Mrs. Moehle said that she had offered the help and assistance of the board and termed as "short-sighted" Stempien's action in not consulting the "wisdom and experience" of the board.

Regarding the attorney general's ruling, she said, "Interestingly enough, the decision came on the same day as they knew we were going to court."

She said the board had not formally discussed the three actions because of the holidays but that they would begin meetings on reapportionment soon.

"Either way we go, eventually we will need new legislation because the law (governing composition of community college board) has been found unconstitutional."

STEMPIEN expressed optimism that his bill could be pushed through the Senate and House in time for the June trustee election. He said

that the procedure for reapportioning the college districts would parallel county apportionment procedures.

"My bill says that you district them (college districts) as the county's are districted," he said. "Every 10 years you have new lines drawn depending on the population. Trustees would be elected on a non-partisan basis."

He said his bill was referred to the colleges and universities committee and could be reported out and passed as early as April 20.

"I'm assuming it will be passed," he said. "I don't see any valid reason to oppose it at this point."

Stempien expects equally fact action in the Senate. But whether apportionment will follow the judicial route or a legislative route is still uncertain.

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Madonna Graduation April 25; Hart Speaker

Graduation exercises will be held for 94 seniors at Madonna College Sunday, April 25.

A baccalaureate mass in the Presentation chapel is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. with Rev. John J. Caspelt as the celebrant. Most Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton, auxiliary bishop of Detroit will preside. Graduates will receive baccalaureate hoods following the mass.

The commencement exercises, also to be held in the chapel, will begin at 3 p.m. Sister M. Lauriana, academic dean, will present the candidates for degrees. Sister M. Danatha, president, will confer the degrees, and Bishop Gumbleton will present the diplomas to the graduates. U.S. Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) will be the guest speaker. He will also be awarded an honorary degree

of doctor of humanities "in recognition for his outstanding interest in human equality and his dedication to public service."

The graduation ceremony will conclude with the president's reception in the Student Center.

The previous day, April 24, an honors program will be held in the student center at 7 p.m. Sr. Danatha will present the awards. Sen. Adamczak, who is graduating with high honors, will be valedictorian. Salutatorian will be Inez Renee Hunter, who is graduating with honors.

Six graduates will be awarded Kappa Gamma Pi memberships and 11 will receive recognition in "Who's Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

awards will also be presented.

The honors program will conclude with the induction of seniors into the Alumnae Association by President Diane Ptak. An alumnae reception will follow the program.

Earth Week Set By Schoolcraft

A wide range of environmental concerns will be explored by Schoolcraft College students during "Earth Week," April 19 to 23.

Daily speakers are slated for the week's activities by the recently-formed Schoolcraft Environmental Action Coalition, according to its president, Alan Drenchen.

The events will be held in the Little Theatre in the Liberal Arts Building and there will be no admission.

"OVER-POPULATION" will be the first area of discussion lead by members of Zero Population Growth Monday at 3 p.m.

Dr. James Swan, professor from the University of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will speak on air pollution at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 20.

Pesticides will be discussed by Dr. Rolf Hartung, U-M professor from the Institute of Industrial Health. He will speak at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Former State Sen. Sander Levin will talk about "Environment and Politics" at 4 p.m. Thursday.

The final activity will be a discussion on "Technological Solutions to the Environment" at 3 p.m. Friday, April 23, by a representative of the Technocracy Organization.

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