

# Teachers Fight Loss Of 60-Day Notices

By MARTHA MAHAN

With contract talks either under way or set to begin, some teacher unions are "seriously considering" seeking a clause to counteract a recent Michigan Tenure Commission ruling which permits waiver of 60 day notices to teachers being laid off for economic reasons.

Most union locals plan to wait out an appeal taken by the Michigan Federation of Teachers which the Michigan Education Assn. is expected to join as an interested party. But others, like Farmington and Detroit, say they are giving serious thought to trying to nail down the guarantee in individual contracts.

Because of pinched finances, most school districts have notified large numbers of teachers that they may not be rehired next year. The action was taken as a safeguard against the 60-day notification requirement in the event higher costs, including teacher pay raises, and shortened budgets may force staff reductions.

"WE EXPECT to kill it (the tenure commission ruling) on appeal," said Robert Crumpton, executive director of the Livonia Education Assn. "Any board which follows the ruling might put itself in considerable jeopardy on the basis of later damage claims."

A law, adopted only last

year, gives principals and middle administrators a 90-day notification guarantee. Livonia is the only district in Overland and one of the few in the state whose middle administrators are organized into a recognized bargaining unit, the Livonia Educational Supervisors and Administrators Assn. (LEADS).

Because of the tenure commission ruling on appeal, LEADS may seek to put the 90-day guarantee into the contract it now is writing with the Livonia board, a spokesman said. Fifteen of the district's 30 assistant principals were handed the 90-day notices last month.

Representatives both of boards of education and teachers unions see staff reduction clauses as "real hot issues," as Crumpton put it. Other "warm" issues he sees are internal transfers within the system, both voluntary and involuntary and in both building and job assignment. Some method of adequate teacher evaluation also is mentioned among "warm" issues.

A NEGOTIATOR for the Farmington Education Assn. (FEA) said his group will also

try to write contract language preventing elimination of programs, such as music, art, physical education.

A Wayne County Intermediate School District source, who asked not to be identified, said he looked for argument on both layoff and recall procedures. Recall problems would center on whether it should be guided by seniority or area of competency.

"If a science class needs a teacher, you just can't fill the post properly with someone whose training is in art or music, even if he does have seniority over the science teacher," he explained.

TEACHERS ARE in the "poorest" position they have been in years, one Observerland negotiator said, and boards are at their strongest. He said the teachers' position has deteriorated because of the strained financial picture, a teacher surplus, and public reaction to teacher demands. School bargainers are "better organized" and have increased their skills through group meetings and group interchange.

Crumpton disputes the claim that teacher surplus, saying its nature must be defined. The reason most unemployed teachers are jobless is because they are incompetent, he believes.

"The issuance of more than

3,000 emergency permits by the state board last fall does indicate a surplus of qualified teachers to me," he said.

The Michigan Education Assn.'s answer to the money shortage is simply to close

down schools when funds run out instead of laying off teachers or cutting programs.

OFFICIALS acknowledged their position leaves unanswered state requirements that school districts offer at least 900 classroom hours and 180 days of instruction a year to qualify for state aid. It also could place in jeopardy North Central Assn. accreditation for high schools.

"If these programs were

it isn't logical to turn around later and say they're not worth buying now," Crumpton argued. "If they didn't think they were worth buying, they shouldn't have bought them in the first place."

"Besides," an MEA spokesman said, "as long as the schools are running, no one bothers to put pressure on the state. But once they close down and the kids are at home, that's when Mama gets on the phone to her legislator."

## Census Briefing Set For Execs

Businessmen and community service personnel will have an opportunity to join June 11 with government analysts in a one-day briefing on "Using the 1970 Census" at University of Michigan.

Co-sponsors are the U of M Institute of Public Policy Studies and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

The session will feature demographers, planners, geographers, economists and others with expertise in use of census data for a variety of purposes.

THE SOPHISTICATED now possible in processing of information developed as a result of the computerization of census data offers unlimited potential for all segments of society," E. Robert Turner, executive director of SEMCOG said.

"As the Census Service Center for the U.S. Bureau of the Census in Southeast Michigan, SEMCOG has

developed a system of delivering to any element of the region desiring it, a fantastic array of data about SEM people. The conference will describe how this can be utilized."

The conference will be held in Towle Center for Continuing Medical Education, East Hospital Drive, Ann Arbor.

AMONG THE speakers: John C. Beresford, president, National Data Use and Access Laboratories; George L. Farnsworth, assistant director, census use study and Southern California Regional Information Study; Constantine Ben, geographer, urban planning division, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

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## 5 Area Reps Vote For Trailer Bill

Five of Overland's state representatives voted for passage of a so-called "monster trailer" bill that would permit the towing of 14-foot wide trailers and modular housing units on state roads.

Reps. Richard Young (D-Deerborn Heights), John Bennett (D-Redford Township), Marvin Stempien (D-Garden City), James Tierney (D-Garden City), and Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) voted for the bill.

Rep. Thomas Brown (D-Westland) opposed it and Raymond Baker (D-Farmington) did not vote.

THE SENATE had passed

the bill earlier. It will be sent to Gov. Milliken after amendments added by the House are approved by the Senate.

## 4 Congressmen List Stocks

Two of Overland's U.S. congressmen were listed as having stock holdings valued at more than \$5,000 in a recent disclosure of U.S. representatives' holdings.

Each congressman is required by law to list his

stock holdings if they are valued at more than \$5,000. The files are kept by the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Rep. Marvin Esch, (R-Ann Arbor) holds stock in Ansul Chemical Co. of Marietta, Wis., and in MP Pumps of which he is director. Esch, whose 2nd district includes Plymouth city and township, is a member of the education and labor committee.

Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-Royal Oak) holds stock in Eastman Kodak and in Fairchild Hiller. Representing the 18th District including Southfield, Broomfield is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Neither William Ford (D-Taylor) nor Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) has holdings reaching the \$5,000 mark.

Ford, representing the 15th district (which includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township) is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

McDonald represents the 19th district which includes Redford Township, Livonia and Farmington. He is a member of the public works committee and the Merchant Marine and fisheries committee.

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