

Tax plan from page 7A

STATUS: Petition drive being conducted by school officials. Not in bill form in the Legislature, where pundits consider it dead on arrival. Once 205,168 signatures are collected, the Legislature will have 40 days to adopt it or automatically gets a place on the state ballot.

schools and distributed equally on a per-pupil basis.

■ Retirement costs would be paid by state and not reduced below 1992-3 level.

■ Current general fund school aid could not be reduced — no "shall game" with existing money.

IMPACT: Net tax cut of \$654 million by 1996 (of current total school taxes of \$5 billion). State would need to make up that amount to schools beyond sales tax revenue.

OPPOSITION: Elements of this plan were floated in Senate discussion of Engler's plan. Many Republicans said no because they favor a simple tax cut. Democrats said no property tax cut until the sales tax increase is in place.

STATUS: Not in bill form. Some pundits believe something like this may evolve from the legislative process.

would be one district. Wayne and Monroe counties would be another.

■ Cap school operating property taxes at 30 mills. (Current state-wide average is 34.) Financial districts could ask voters for additional millage or income taxes.

■ Require state to dedicate resources for equitable amount per child.

OPPOSITION: Too few, too large, districts would impair local control. Voters would be unlikely to vote taxes for such large districts. But many legislators favor eliminating small districts, and Gov. Engler likes idea of "one-stop shopping" at schools for other state services.

STATUS: A written report takes a few months. No known legislative bills or petitions.

Area NAACP hosts lawyer

The Southern Oakland County NAACP hosts its seventh annual Freedom Fund Dinner on March 20.

Nationally known trial lawyer and philanthropist Willie E. Gary will be keynote speaker.

A gathering of 500 people is expected at the Southfield Manor, 2626 Telegraph Road, Southfield, to further the organization's mission of eliminating racism under the theme, "Opportunities in a Challenging World."

One couple will be awarded round-trip tickets on a United Airlines Domestic flight, including Hawaii and Alaska. "These tickets are due to the generosity and support of United Airlines," according to organization president Miriam M. Stewart.

Featured speaker attorney Gary

will discuss his rag-to-riches success; his drive to share his personal wealth; and his life long determination to stamp out social injustice.

The Florida resident has donated \$10 million to his alma mater, Shaw University, a historically black college and has donated thousands more to assist African-American youths achieve their educational goals.

This year's honorary chairman is Patrick Morin, president of Ross Roy advertising and public relations. Dorothy Croft of General Motors Corporation is Freedom Fund chairwoman.

Tickets for the dinner are \$50 and can be purchased by calling 559-2441 or writing SOC-NAACP, Post Office Box 47487, Oak Park, MI 48237.

The local SOC Branch of the NAACP operates throughout southern Oakland County, participating in many important issues affecting minority citizens in southern Oakland County.

In our area, the branch participates in the Birmingham-Bloomingfield Task Force on Race Relations and Ethnic Diversity.

In 1988, it was instrumental in developing and incorporating a multicultural program in the Birmingham/Groves High School curriculum to address problems of racism in the schools. In 1988, it led the fight for a more comprehensive hiring policy for blacks/minorities for policeman, fireman and other departmental positions within the city of Southfield.

Sweet 16

GOALS: Cut school property taxes. Allow replacement of lost revenue by sales tax increase, but still offers net tax cut.

SPONSORS: Public sector — Michigan Municipal League, Township Association, Association of School Boards, Association of Counties, Federation of Teachers, Middle Cities Education Association, Out-of-Formula Districts Association, City of Detroit. Sen. Dave Holmgren, R-West Bloomfield, likes this one.

Private sector — National Federation of Independent Business, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Association of Home Builders, Bankers Association, Operating Engineers Local 547, Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce.

FEATURES: ■ Cut valuations for school property taxes from current 60 percent to 45 percent.

■ State reimbursement of lost school taxes.

■ Place 1-cent increase in sales tax on August ballot.

■ If sales tax hike is approved: ■ Valuations would be reduced to 35 percent by 1996.

■ Proceeds would be dedicated to

MEA plan

GOALS: Reduce school property taxes slightly. Give equity to school funding. Reduce number of small school districts for operating efficiency. Use schools to provide such state services as mental health, social services, legal assistance.

SPONSOR: Michigan Education Association, 125,000-member union of teachers, administrators and other school personnel.

FEATURES: ■ Reduce number of school districts from 562 to 14 "financial districts." Oakland, Livingston, Lapeers and Genesee counties

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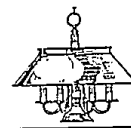
For information contact the AIFS local representative: Lynne Levenbach at 483-8582 or 483-8851 or Amber Crowell at the AIFS national office at 1-800-322-4678.

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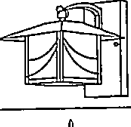
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