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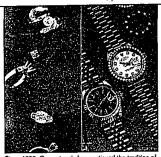
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#### # FIRST OF AMERICA

# Corrections costs

#### Kaza in minority in no vote on prison budget

BY TIM RICHARD STATE WRITER

By TIM RICHARD
BYATY WHYEN
Hold down soaring prison costs,
the state House of Representatives warned Gov. John Engler recently as it passed a record corrections department budget.
The vote was 78 to 18. Conservatives tired many amendments
and succeeded on two.
"The fastest-growing category
of state government in the last
decade was corrections," said
freshman Rep. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, a "no" vote.
"Corrections appending increased from about \$200 million
in the early 1980s to \$1.15 billion
in the early 1980s to \$1.15 billion
in the supporpriation. This trend
is expected to continue through
the 1990s.
"So why is Lansing spending
\$1.2 million on free college education for maximum security prisoners when so many law-abiding
families need tax relief to pay for
their own dispring's education?
Why are we debating today how to
make it easier for prisoners to
receive welfare upon their release,
when so many wexking men and
women need tax relief to feet
their families" said Kaza.
Rop. Kirk Profit, D-Ypsilanti,
voted no for different reasons. "I
do not support using 37.1 percentof all now revenues for (fiscal)
1934 for the department of corrections," said Profit, one of the inner circle of Democratic leaders.
Profit said the new money
should go for "job creation efforta,
environmental protection, ducational opportunity, mental health

LANSING

and other, more positive, invest-ment-oriented state efforts."

Engler warned

Engler warned
On final passage, all area
lawmakers but Kaza voted yes
and sent the bill to the Senate.
The real battle was ever
amendments.
Profit and Republican Bill
Martin of Battle Creek wo voice
approval of an amendment to restrict prisoner workers. The department shall not allow prisoners to perform any work that
would require a license if performed by anyone other than a
prisoner."
A second Martin and Profit

prisoner. A second Martin and Profit amendment warned Gov. John Engler and Attorney General Frank Kelley "not (to) enter into a consent decree or judgment concerning the operation of a correctional facility without prior approval" of legislators. It passed by a voice vote.

a voice vote.

It was the lawmakers' way of saying they were angry that \$84 million in new spending was imposed by federal courts.

#### Vorva, Jamian lose

Vorvie, definition to see Freshman Rep. Jerny Vorva, R-Plymouth, and Rep. John Jamin, R-Bloomfield Township, lost their efforts to amend the bill.

The House rejected Vorva's amendment to require the corrections department to "implement programs to recover the cost of

imprisonment and education" by "recovery of costs from tax refunds, wages, judgmenta" and other payments.

The vote was 44 to 69.
Yes votes were cast by Republicans Penny Crissman of Rochester, Jamina, Kaza, Vorva and Deborah Whyman of Canton.
No votes were cast by Republicans Lyn Bankes of Livonia, Barbara Dobb of Union Lake, Jan Dolan of Farmington, and Shirley Johnson of Royal Oak; and Democrata Maxine Berman of Southfield and Richard Yeung of Dearborn Heights.

Missing the vote were Democrata Justine Baras of Westland and William Kelth of Garden City.

Jamina, a second-term mem-

massing that our week shadle and william Keith of Garden City.

Jamian, a second-term member, teamed with David Jaye, Rullica, in a losing effort to add "If a prisoner performs tutorial services for another prisoner, half of the used to pay any amount of relations of the prisoner of th

3 new prisons

The budget measure funds the

opening of three new prisons that had been built but mothballed for lack of operating revenue.

lack of operating revenue.

It also was a one-year appropriation, though Gov. Engler had proposed a two-year budget.

Jaye, the Utlea conservative known for his desire to upset the Lansing applocart, cited a long list of objections to line items in the bill.

"The budget gives Michigan prisoners free college oducation with no repayment requirements, provides a \$500,000 indoor exercise facility at each prison, provides for \$200,000 annually for each prison to operate an electronic law library, free health care, firee room and board, free laundry services and free entertainment.

care, free room and board, free laundry services and free entertainment.

"Civilian food testers ensure that mashed potatoes are served that and Jell-Oi served chilled.

"Michigan convicts are over loading court dockets and squandering \$5 million annually with hundreds of frivolous lawsuits against the state. A rapist actually claimed he loat a clearinghouse sweepstakes because the state mailed his entry form too late... Over 34 state-paid attorneys handle 4,008 immate lawsuits now pending."

Meanwhile, lawmakers are moving to cub court appeals by immates. The senate has approved a constitutional amendment flight to appeal on the court speak of the court speak of the state of the court speak of the court speak of the court speak of the court speak of the speak of the court speak of

guilty.
The House has yet to act.

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