Senators split over school finance reform plan

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BY TRM RICHAR "Chos reigns." In two words, as chool lobbyts summed up four months of work to summed up four months of work summed up four months of work to summed up four months of the summed up four months to summed up four months of the summed up four months to summed up four months of the summed up four months to summed up four months of the summed up four months to summed up four months of the summed up four months to summed up four months of the sum

posals such as charter schools. Honigman plan "The Democrats claim they other committee changes on the quality bils: said Honigman lata Thursday. "Kelly promised hed vote on a tax bill but reneged. Kelly wouldn't are note for his town ax bill. "Daug Carl doesn't want to vote for a (stato) tax increase unless ty executive order. We (legisla-towernor to that." Mongman pushed his own, plan: \$1 billion in state general povernor to that."

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half going back to taxpayers; a five-year freeze on government for cducetion; and half of all growth in state tax revenues going into education. "I think this committee has come to the end of its productivi-ty," said Ernmons, who has En-glor's old mid-state Senate seat. "I don't know why I told (ma-jority leader Dick) Posthumus I'd servo on this friggin' committee." "Our party is undergoing an identity crisis. I would like to focus more on budget cuts," said Carl, one of the Senate's most conservative members.

conservative members. Middle ground The House Education Commit-tee, on the other hand, was mov-ing toward compromise. The two Bills who co-chair the panel — Democrat Keith of Garden City and Republican Bryant of Grosse Pointe — dumped Englers "char-ter achools" idea in favor of a less radical "academy" system. Result: Conservative Republi-cans and labor-oriented Demo-crats jumped off the wagon as it headed down the middle of the

road. A House plan to give more school districts local tax opportu-nities pleased suburban districts. Engler wants to give only 35 top-spending districts local-option taxes, insisting he wants to get administrators and school boards out of the millage campaign busi-ness.

administrators and school ownes-out of the millage campaign buai-ness. Suburban school people also are concerned about cuts in state oid for adult education. Currently state aid for adult ed is \$285 mil-ilon a year, but thero is a move to cut it entirely. A Senate bill puts adult-ed aid at \$160 million -"better than nothing," said the anonymous lobbyist. At Schooleraft College in Livo-nia last week, teachers union and PTA leaders railled in support of public schools and against En-glers charter and voucher plans. John Ellicit, president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, called charter schools "a manage-raid gimmick" that will "divert public scholars to private inter-ests." Elliott said charter schools "will have no impact on stu-dents."

dents." Julius Maddox, Michigan Edu-cation Association president, said

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Engler's "overwhelming concern is how cheaply we can educate children, not how well." Maddos staid the best thing Engler and howmakers can do is "mandate at high-quality core curiculum for overy child," fully funded by the tates and implemented by "sito-based decision-making involving teachers and parents." If a charter-schools law were passed, the state or a school dis-trict could charter a group of reachers or non-profit company or but not a church-affiliated school in a union-free environ-ment with many state regulations "Three achers", unions, do.

ment with many state regulations removed. The teachers' unions de-nounced Engler's proposal to "privatize" non-teaching func-tions such as transportation. En-gler sees "competition" from business as leading to lower costs. MEA's Maddox sees "an out-side company buying school buses for 10 cents on the dollar, hiring back the laid-off drivers at minimum wage and no pensions," and putting up with a high turn-over of employees that is both dangerous and upsetting to pupils — and still making a profit.

Body language is seminar topic and avoid making snap judg-ments and decisions. They will become more conscious of the messages sent and clues received about atitudes, emotions and needs of others. The fee is \$39; MasterCard/ VISA accepted. Register for Program 20013CC by Nov. 15; call 370-3033. Outside Oakland Coun-ty Call 1:800-370-3042. The Con-tinuum Center is part of Oakland University's Division of Continu-ing Education and specializes in programs of personal enrichment and professional development.

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