

Godchaux challenges military spending

State Capitol capsules:

House bills

Rep. Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham, introduced House Concurrent Resolution 44 and House Resolution 75 asking the U.S. Congress to redirect some military spending to domestic needs.

"The battlefields of the 21st Century," she said, in committee testimony, may be "infrastructure, education, public health, environmental protection, feeding our people and strengthening our economy." The resolutions were debated in committee this week.

Senate OKs wiretap

The state Senate approved 27-9 a wiretap bill that its sponsor called "a model" and opponents called an expensive and useless intrusion into people's private lives.

Senate Bill 633 allows a police agency to get clearance from the attorney general to apply for court authorization to tap the telephones of suspected high-level drug dealers. A 30-day authorization could be renewed twice for a total of 90 days, said sponsor Jon Ciskie, R-Saginaw. The bill was sent to the House.

"This is a model bill on the Fourth Amendment (search and seizure)," said Ciskie, a former sheriff's officer and college professor. "The State Police will also monitor this process to make sure that everything is in accordance with proper procedure and police work. There is also a penalty for law enforcement should they abuse their privilege — up to \$1,000 a day fine."

He praised two fellow senators who are former law enforcement agents — Mike Bouchard, R-Birmingham (local police), and Mike Rogers, R-Brighton (FBI).

Among supporters of the bill were Loren Bennett, R-Canton, Bouchard, Bill Bullard, R-Milford, Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, Bob Geske, R-Northville, George Hart, D-Deerborn, and Rogers.

Opponents, all Democrats, included John Cherry of Chio, Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township, and Alma Wheeler Smith of Salem.

Cherry called wiretap "a major weapon" in the war on drugs because drug kingpins are international and can shift to the Internet rather than telephones.

"You can't conduct a wiretap for less than \$30,000 to \$60,000 per tap," Cherry said. "For a simple \$500 to \$1,000, these targets

OCC offers self-esteem and divorce workshops

The Womencenter of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills will present workshops on empowerment and divorce.

The empowerment workshop runs from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 25, in J Building-Room 308. The cost is \$20.

Susie Symons, MA, TLLP, will lead the interactive workshop entitled, "Empowerment: A Fresh Approach Can Make You More Effective." Participants will focus on strengthening self-esteem, communication skills, relating to others, and goal-setting. Participants are asked to bring a short quotation or poem which they have found encouraging.

A seminar for women with questions about divorce is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28, in J Building-Room 308. The cost is \$20.

Karen Teaser, MSW, Kathryn Lenter, CPA, Louise M. Bittker, JD and Wilma Fellman, LPC, will lead the seminar on exploring divorce options.

This workshop is sponsored by the Womencenter, a facility providing educational and supportive resources for area women. For further information on the workshop and other program offerings, call the Womencenter at (248) 471-7602.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696, in Farmington Hills.

can sweep their phones and be free and clear of that surveillance." He said the 37 states with wiretap laws don't have less severe drug problems than Michigan.

Cherry said Ohio and Illinois police weren't stopped from "illegal and unauthorized wiretapping within the past 10 years." Even the women's rape crisis center in Norfolk, Va., has been illegally wiretapped.

Smith said the bill feeds the fears of anti-government extremists and the general citizenry that police can "reach into their daily lives" by mistake or otherwise.

Bond bill OK'd

Critics from the left and right voted no when the House raised the state's bond issue limit by \$700 million to \$2.7 billion. Senate Bill 277 will fund new building projects at state universities and community colleges, according to its sponsor, Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

Rep. David Jaye, R-Macomb County, failed with three amendments to limit what can be spent on a new state Hall of Justice; to require voter approval at the 1998 election; and to dedicate the proceeds to road construction rather than higher education. None of the Jaye amendments

got a roll call vote.

The bill passed 88-18 and was sent to Gov. John Engler for signing.

The only area representative voting no was Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills.

Schwarz said raising the bond cap won't raise taxes. It allows the State Building Authority to sell bonds and use the proceeds for building projects. "The average debt in Michigan is \$333 per person while the national average is \$633," said Schwarz. "Even with the \$700 million increase, Michigan's debt per capital would be only \$406."

Jobless rate up

Unemployment in Michigan rose to 4 percent in September from 3.7 percent in August, but Gov. Engler put a good face on it.

"New Workers Flood Michigan's Job Market," said the headline on his news release. "Michigan's labor force climbed by 15,000 workers, reaching a near-record high of 4.86 million. At the same time, total employment climbed by 1,000."

Senate bills

■ Bill Bullard, R-Milford, introduced SB 754 will raise the threshold for levying Michigan's inheritance tax by \$50,000 a year for 10 years. Currently, heirs pay taxes on estates

greater than \$600,000. Bullard's bill would raise the threshold to \$1 million, matching the new federal tax law. His bill went to the Senate Finance Committee.

Appointments

Gov. Engler has appointed:

■ Jacquelyn Stewart of Farmington Hills, as chair of the Liquor Control Commission, replacing former Sen. Phil Arthurhult, who resigned Oct. 10. Her term expires June 12, 2000. Stewart is a former state House candidate (from Garden City in 1970), worked the Oakland County prosecutor's criminal investigations unit (1973-89), and graduated from the Oakland Police Academy (1978). She has been on the LCC since 1995.

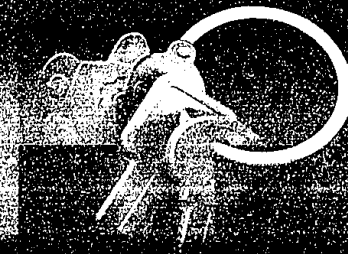
■ Jeffrey Weston of Farmington Hills to the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance policy board. Weston is district engineer for Amoco Oil and will represent the Petroleum Refiner Supplier Trade Association for a term expiring Sept. 17, 1999.

■ Ronald Moore of Bloomfield Hills to the Athletic Board of Control, which regulates boxing and wrestling, both pro and amateur. Moore is chairman of RDM Holdings, Ltd., and will represent professionals for a term expiring March 31, 2001.



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