

1-House Legislature Drive Falter

By KATHY MORAN
Though the state organization of the Michigan Jaycees overwhelmingly voted to undertake a petition drive on the unicameral legislature question, local chapters have been slow to fall in line.

Three Observerland chapters have voted against joining the petition drive to put the question on the November ballot, and two that voted to join the petition drive have not yet started the work.

In addition, the project leadership has changed. The Jaycees voted in August to conduct a statewide petition drive to give Michigan voters an opportunity to amend the state constitution from a two-house system (with a Senate and House of Representatives) to a one-house system.

A total of 350,000 signatures are needed to get the issue put on a November 1972 referendum.

ORIGINALLY, the project was to stay in the hands of the Americanism and government affairs committee headed by Redford Jaycee Paul Salamy. The committee did the original research on the proposal and recommended that Michigan Jaycees support a petition drive to encourage academic debate on the issue.

"We talked to state legislators about it," Salamy said. "They all agreed some reform was needed in the legislative process, but no one was willing to take the question in hand."

"My committee decided that by supporting a petition drive, the academic debate would begin on the issue," he said, explaining that information on unicameralism was scarce. Salamy said the decision to create a special committee to handle the drive resulted in order to give more attention to the drive and to free some of his time for such projects as registration of new young voters.

BEFORE THE project left his hands, Salamy said he has received letters from politicians in both parties asking him not to support the drive.

"I've had political figures write and ask not to support this thing. But I ask them if they are willing to debate the issue on the floor of the Legislature. They would say no."

"I like to believe that since this started, they have started moving more in Lansing because they (legislators) knew there was an interest in this thing."

"Compare the record for the first six months with the record since August, and you will see they started bucking down."

ONE PROJECTION has it that 114 chapters have agreed to conduct the petition drive so far, but that figure is considered inflated.

In Observerland, the Redford Township and Westland Jaycees voted to undertake the petition drive but have not voted on the actual issue. Livonia and

Plymouth Jaycees have voted against taking action.

The Garden City chapter voted for the issue of unicameralism, or a one-house legislature, but voted against conducting a petition drive, according to former President Al Haney.

Haney said they may reconsider the drive in January or February. He said it was his opinion that the vote for the drive failed because they have too many projects in action at present.

"We have until July," he said. "We may vote to reconsider the drive or do something else, like sponsor a community debate on unicameralism."

LOSS OF SUPPORT by the Livonia Jaycees will hurt the state effort because they could have brought in several thousand signatures toward the 350,000 needed to let the voters decide whether to change the traditional legislative makeup this November.

Tom Gorton, Livonia Jaycee president, said the chapter first made an extensive study of unicameralism and voted against the issue itself. Then it voted not to help in the drive for two reasons.

"Our feelings were, first, that you can't pass petitions realistically without taking a favorable stand on the issue," he said.

"Secondly, the main argument for it is to let the people decide. But we have found that generally that local citizens don't examine an issue in depth."

HE WENT ON to explain the report by the Livonia group, which investigated the experience in Nebraska with a one-house legislature and gave details on the workings of the two-house legislature, which is often taken for granted.

Based on the findings, Livonia Jaycees voted against the issue and mailed copies of their report to all the Jaycees chapters, all state legislators and civic teachers in school systems.

Gorton said he has not felt any political pressure against conducting the campaign, and Jim Herter, president of the Plymouth Jaycees, said that any pressure his group has experienced has been from the one-house legislature proponents.

"The general feeling was that we weren't well informed enough to sell the public on it. And a lot of people just felt it wasn't a better system," Herter said.

"Although it has some good features, it also has some weak ones."

Herter said the Plymouth chapter debated the question 1½ hours before voting against conducting the drive. The vote was close, he added.

REDFORD JAYCEES president William Martin said his group will conduct a petition drive, but it is just in the organizational stages at present. He expects the drive to get under way near the first of the year.

Likewise, Dennis Sacherski, president of the Westland chapter, said his group is currently getting organized and may be underway during the holidays.

He said they will probably collect signatures in the shopping centers and, when the weather improves, conduct a door-to-door canvass. The signatures must be collected by July.

Sacherski stressed that the chapter voted to conduct the petition drive and has not yet voted on the issue.

"We felt the citizens should be able to have a choice, to be able to take a stand on the issue," he said, explaining that if the drive is successful and the issue is put on the ballot, then the chapter will actually vote on the issue.

Rep. Joseph Swallow (R-Alpena) is leading the campaign for a one-house legislature in the state. He argues that the elimination of one house will be cost-saving, more efficient and make government more directly responsive to the public. Nebraska is the only state with such a system.

New Snowmobile Law Adopted

Observerland's four senators joined in supporting a bill to impose stringent restrictions on snowmobiling in Michigan.

Vote on the adoption of House amendments was 27-7 with Sens. William Faust (D-Westland), Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), David Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) voting in the affirmative.

The bill increases registration fees and imposes age restrictions.

PERSONS UNDER 12 years of age can not operate a snowmobile without direct adult supervision unless he is on his parents' land. It gives the Dept. of Natural Resources a 50 per cent hand

in planning training courses and enforcing regulations with local county sheriff's departments.

Snowmobiles must have mufflers and can not be driven within 100 feet of a dwelling "at a speed greater than a minimum required to maintain forward motion" between 12 midnight and 6 a.m.

An amendment would prohibit snowmobilers from driving the vehicle on highways but not along the "roadway."

THE NEW registration fees jump from \$5 to \$9 for a three-year license, \$3 to \$6 for the second year and \$2 to \$5 for the third year.

The bill will take effect immediately with the governor's signature, but the licensing fees will not be effective until January.

Opposition to the bill stemmed from the amendment allowing DNR participation in enforcement and training programs. It was argued that it would take control away from local authority.

Bendix Sets A Dividend

SOUTHFIELD The directors of the Bendix Corp. have declared a quarterly dividend of 40 cents a share on the common stock, payable Dec. 23, to stockholders of record Dec. 10. Directors also voted a quarterly dividend of 75 cents a share on the Series A \$3 cumulative convertible preferred stock, also payable December 23 to stockholders of record Dec. 10.

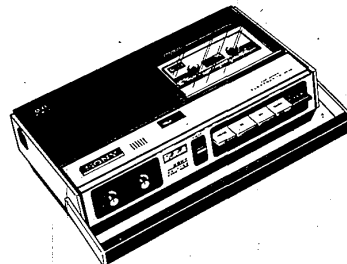
Kadish, Grote On Committee

Trustee Paul Y. Kadish and President C. Nelson Grote have been appointed to the committee on legislation by the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA). The legislation committee is chaired by Dr. George Potter, Jackson Community College trustee. It has two major functions: to study current and pending federal and state legislation and make action recommendations to the MCCA; and to develop programs of federal and state legislation for approval and action by the MCCA.

The MCCA is an association of Michigan public community colleges. Kadish is Kalamazoo's representative to its board of directors, which is comprised of a trustee and the president of each member college.

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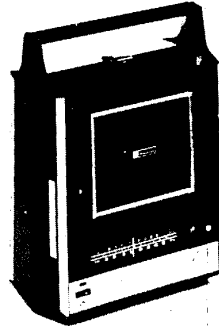
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