

# New Drug Law Gets Local Votes

LANSING A reform of Michigan's drug abuse laws drew support last week from Observerland's four senators and five of the area's eight representatives. The bill, which drastically changes penalties for possession and "delivery" of

marijuana, dangerous drugs and narcotics, was opposed by State Reps. James Tierney (D-Garden City), John Bennett (D-Redford Township) and Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights).

The House vote on Dec. 7 was 67-30 and included support from Reps. Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) and James Delfaugh (R-Birmingham).

THE SENATE vote of 22 to 12 included support from Sens. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park), Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), David Plawicki (D-Redford Township) and William Faust (D-Westland).

Cooper had voted against the bill on the first vote last week which was one vote short of the 20 needed for passage. Two other senators also voted "aye" in the second vote.

During the debate on the bill Cooper had said the compromise version of the bill was not tenet enough.

Bennett had voted for the original bill when it passed the House in June but voted against the compromise version last week.

ADVOCATES of reform argued that judges and juries were reluctant to enforce the former harsh laws.

The new Controlled Substances Act of 1971 will take effect on April 1 if it is signed by Governor Milliken.

Where the penalties for

possession of the drugs were often reduced considerably in the report, the penalties for sale remained stiff.

Under the new classification for first offenses, the maximum penalty for use of marijuana is 90 days in jail and \$100 fine; for possession it is a maximum one year in prison and \$1,000; and for sale or delivery, four years in prison and \$2,000.

Formerly the maximum penalties regarding marijuana offenses were: One year in prison and \$1,000 for use; 10 years in prison and \$5,000 for possession; and 20 years in prison to life for sale and delivery.

ONE YEAR in prison and \$1,000 would be the maximum penalty for the first conviction of possession of LSD, a hallucinogen. Seven years in prison and \$5,000 are the maximum set for sale and delivery under the new law.

Formerly, the penalty for possession as well as sale and delivery of LSD was a maximum of four years in prison.

Possession of heroin was reduced from 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine maximum to four years in prison and \$2,000. Sale and delivery of heroin was changed from a maximum of 20 years in prison to life. The penalty now is a maximum of 20 years in prison and \$25,000.

The bill also contains an amendment instructing parole boards to review the cases of an estimated 300 prisoners sentenced under the former laws.



DAVID N. JENSEN, 28, of Birmingham, has been appointed assistant manager of the Chamberlain Companies' Franklin-Farmington real estate office. Jensen is a graduate of Seasholm High School and Middlebury College in Vermont.

## 2 Residents Are CPAs

Two local residents were among 18 persons to be granted certified Public accountant certificates by the Michigan State Board of Accountancy. Steven J. Chapin, 17280 W. 13 Mile, Birmingham; and Ray Martindale Jr., 9940 Harrison, Livonia, were granted the certificates after meeting educational qualifications and passing the CPA examination.

## Most Tragic

While any hearing loss is tragic, a hearing impairment imposed upon a baby through a birth defect probably is the saddest type of all, according to experts. They urge expectant mothers to avoid the causes that could produce congenital hearing defects.

# Wiretap Bill Splits Reps, 4-3

LANSING When a wiretap bill was defeated in the House last week, three of Observerland's representatives voted against it, four supported it, and one did not vote. Final vote of the bill was 50 to 46, six short of the 56 votes needed for passage.

Opposed to the bill were Reps. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), and James Delfaugh (R-Birmingham).

Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford Township) did not vote on the bill. Voting for it were Reps. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights), James

Tierney (D-Garden City), Thomas Brown (D-Westland) and Raymond Baker (R-Farmington).

The bill would have given eavesdropping powers to county prosecutors. Prosecutors could seek court permission to tap local phones under the terms of the bill. The U.S. Justice Department is now sole agency in the state with authority to conduct secret wiretaps.

While opponents argued that the bill infringed on an individual's privacy and civil rights, it was strongly supported by local police agencies and county prosecutors.

# Tax Cut Bill Gets 3-1 Support

WASHINGTON A \$15.8 billion tax reduction bill that passed the U.S. House last week, and included repeal of the seven per cent auto excise tax, was supported by three Observerland congressmen.

U.S. Reps. William Broomfield (R-Royal Oak), Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor), and Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) voted for the tax reductions.

U.S. Rep. William Ford (D-Taylor) voted against the bill "not because he opposed the reductions but because it gave too many advantages to the people who don't need it, and not enough to those who do," spokesman for Ford said.

THE BILL was patterned after proposals by President Nixon to stimulate the

economy. It provides for increased personal exemptions of \$675 in 1971, and \$750 in 1972. The minimum standard deduction would be increased for the 25 million low-income individuals and families. Persons at or near the poverty level would be entirely relieved of taxes.

Working families can get tax deductions for babysitters. Businesses would be spurred by the seven per cent tax credit.

President Nixon had threatened to veto the bill because of a provision allowing persons to check off a dollar of their taxes to go toward presidential campaigns for a specified party. The provision was stricken from the bill, but another provision for tax relief for contributors remained.

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