

# One-House Legislature Drive Opens Here In Area Debate

By KATHY MORAN

A drive that proposes to make the legislative process more efficient and the state legislators more responsive is under way with State Rep. Joseph Swallow (R-Alpena) at the head.

Swallow was in Plymouth Monday for a debate with Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) on the issue of a unicameral (one-house) legislature in Michigan.

But when Pursell was detained in Lansing for a meeting of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a Plymouth attorney, John Thomas, spoke on behalf of the opposing view.

SWALLOW IS convinced that slashing the number of legislators in Lansing would be more efficient, less responsibility on the

legislators, and cost less to operate.

He is currently on a drive to get the question put to a referendum—but to do that he needs 300,000 signatures from Michigan voters. Once he gets the signatures, Swallow hopes to put the limelight on the issue and hold public hearings throughout the state to convince Michigan residents of the merits of a one-house legislature.

A unicameral legislature would cut the number of state legislators from 148 to 76 and would eliminate the one house of the legislature.

The primary advantage of trimming the legislature would be to pin responsibility on representatives and avoid duplication and inefficiency, Swallow said.

The existing system fosters buck-passing and strategy where a bill may be in-

troduced to satisfy a lobby in one house with the understanding that it will be killed in the other, he said.

"By the time you get rid of the political rhetoric no one is quite sure whose responsibility it was," Swallow said.

AS EVIDENCE he cited the fact that 518 bills passed by the Senate in 1969-70, some 249 were defeated by the House. Another 648 were passed by the House of which 286 were defeated in the Senate.

Another consideration in changing the legislative structure would be the monetary savings to the state—nearly \$3.5 million a year, he said.

"And I suspect that the responsibility put on the legislators would save you considerable money," Swallow added.

He added that the only way the question will get a fair hearing in Michigan is if it can be put to a referendum. The only other alternative would be to have the Legislature vote for the change, which would be in effect "legislating themselves out of existence."

Only one state, Nebraska, has a unicameral state legislature at present. All 10 of Canada's provinces have followed in the footsteps made by Ontario for a one-house legislature.

THOMAS TERMED the unicameral legislature an "inadequate substitute" for the present system, which originated "primarily because of a fear on the part of the American public of government."

"We have all kinds of checks built into the system," Thomas said. "It may slow down the legislative process, but I feel we have good legislation coming through as a result."

"It seems foolish and not too prudent to get a system that works," Thomas added. Thomas maintained that the amount of money saved in the restructuring would be minimal compared to the total budget for the state.

"I don't think you would come up with enough money to justify doing away with a very essential, bedrock part of our government."

Swallow's response to the checks and balances argument is that "after it is over, the politicians have the checks and the lobbyists have the balances."

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**On Dean's List**

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Douglas Timms, 15733 Ellen Dr., Livonia, has been named to the dean's list at Kent State University.

Students on the list earned averages of 3.4 or better for the spring quarter.

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**Wechsler President At C'ville**

CLARENCEVILLE  
Dr. Martin T. Wechsler, Wayne University math professor, was elected president of the Clarenceville Board of Education at the recent state-required organizational meeting.

In his 12th year as a board member, Dr. Wechsler was board president for the 1969-70 session. He resides at 20431 Brentwood, in the Livonia section of the school district.

Re-elected secretary was Norman L. Hunt, now in his fifth year with the board. Owner of Micro Machines, Hunt lives at 21215 St. Francis, in the Farmington sector of the district.

Robert Erickson, a four-year veteran who lives at 20346 Weyher, Livonia, was re-elected treasurer. Erickson is administrator of Wayne University's division of urban extensions credit program.

## Area 6 Get An Inside View Of Capitol Hill

ANN ARBOR  
Forty-eight University of Michigan students, including six from Observerland are getting an inside view of Washington, D.C., this summer, from Capitol Hill to the lobbyist groups on the fringes.

They were chosen from among 600 applicants to the U-M's summer intern program, now in its second year of operation through the office of placement services.

About half are working in the Senate and House buildings, including the offices of Congresswomen Bella Abzug and Sen. James L. Buckley. Others have positions with the New York Times, NBC, Ralph Nader's Center for the Study of Responsive Law and such

lobbyist and reform groups as the Center for Community Change, the Consumer Protection Center, Center for Political Reform and Friends of the Earth.

OBSERVERLAND participants and Washington jobs are: Bill Bailey, 22850 Lilac Farmington, consumer protection center; David R. Collins, 33541 Michele, Livonia, Congressman Jorge Cordova; Linda Altman, 24470 Connecticut, Southfield, consumer protection center; Paul Bator, 19078 Coral Gables, Southfield, center for political reform; Cory King, 19329 Birch Ridge, Southfield, center for study of responsive law; Marilyn Welsberg, 29960 Marlmoor, Southfield, Congressman Warren Mitchell.

need. The rest — about two-thirds of them — are working at their own expense."

A U-M junior majoring in pre-law, Michael Posner of Chicago, is credited with initiating Michigan's internship program. While working during the summer of 1969 for Illinois Congressman Frank Annunzio at his own expense, Posner investigated the placement programs of other universities and, with the help of several U-M administrators, organized a successful pilot project in 1970.

Volunteers for this year's program were solicited through an open meeting early in the fall. Some of the 24 students who participated in 1970 were on hand to answer questions, and later to help screen and interview applicants.

A SUMMER internship in Washington could mean anything from formulating a new economic policy to licking envelopes. What matters is, momentous or trivial, it takes place where the action is.

"Twice as many interns participated this year on nearly half the 1970 budget," William R. Audas, associate director of the placement services, said. "The \$5,000 obtained through the U-M development office stretches to provide a small stipend to students who have financial

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