

4 Dems Switch, Back Ryan-Crim

An Observer Roundup

Four local Democrats were among 10 who changed their votes last week to support a \$127 billion state school aid plan after a compromise was reached to aid high-millage districts.

The four were Reps. John Markes (D-Westland), William Keith (D-Garden City), John Bennett (D-Redford Township) and Thomas Brown (D-Westland).

Markes, who assists House Speaker William Van Dusen (D-Detroit), said it was his job to sell the compromise plan which he helped to bring to his colleagues and was "very proud" that it passed.

Originally, the four were among 10 suburban Democrats who sided with Republicans to defeat the so-called "Ryan-Crim" plan

named for Ryan and House Majority Leader Bobby Crim (D-Division).

The first Ryan-Crim plan attempted to bring low millage districts up to the equivalent of 22 mills by giving them 25 per cent of the difference between their levy and what they would receive if they levied 22 mills, including debt retirement millage.

When this plan failed, Ryan threatened to quit. The four legislators changed their votes after this plan was amended to aid high millage districts. The amended version gives tax breaks to districts which levy over 30 mills.

These districts include Wayne-Westland, Redford Union and Clarenceville. They could reduce their operations millage by one-quarter of the millage over 30 and re-

ceive the equivalent amount of money in state aid.

The final plan, which includes the compromise, passed the House with the bare 56 votes needed and was sent to a conference committee.

Local Republicans voted against both versions of the state aid bill. These include State Reps. Robert Geake (R-Northville), Raymond Smit (R-Ann Arbor) and Raymond Baker (R-Farmington).

Voting for both versions of the formula was Rep. Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park). Three local districts will benefit by the amended version.

Wayne-Westland, with a levy of 36.9 mills for operations, will receive an additional \$116,800 which is equivalent to 25 per cent of

the 6.9 mills levied beyond the 30-mill cutoff.

Redford Union will receive an additional \$210,200. The district levies 35.65 mills for operations.

With a levy of 33.83 mills, Clarenceville will get an additional \$69,000.

School districts which levy between 22 and 30 mills won't receive any "bonus" state aid payments. These include all other Overland districts.

Suburban districts would have benefited more under the Senate version, known as the Bursley bill. It was sponsored by Sen. Gilbert E. Bursley (R-Ann Arbor), who chairs the education committee.

The Senate passed Bursley's version. A joint House-Senate conference committee will have to decide between the two or

write another compromise version.

Bursley's bill would guarantee each district \$38 per pupil per mill levied. The main argument against this version was that it gave more aid to high millage districts (primarily suburban districts) and did nothing to aid poorer, low millage districts. Thus, the bill didn't equalize the amount of money behind each student in Michigan.

"All children deserve an equal educational opportunity," Markes said. "How you achieve this is very awkward."

"This is what the idea was behind the compromise—to work toward an equal educational opportunity for each child," he added.

He said the plan rewards high millage districts but at the same time guarantees

aid for children in districts where millages are down for various reasons.

The bill guarantees that "those kids (in low millage districts) aren't going to be short-changed," Markes said.

Keith, a member of the House Education Committee, said the compromise version was a "more palatable version for our district."

"It's one of the best school aid bills I've seen," Keith said. "I'm very pleased with it."

He said the final version provides the "yield equalizing theory" to aid low valued districts.

A former Garden City School board member, Keith said that before the Crim bill was amended, it was unfair to voters who have made an effort to support the needs of their school district by raising their millages.

How Traveler Can Beat Drop In The Dollar

By W. EDWARD WENDOVER

School's out and the peak vacation period is starting, and for many Observers, this means a trip to Europe.

If you're going, be prepared to find that your good Old American Dollars aren't so good any more.

Whether your European vacation is going to be a first class holiday or a "hitchhiking on a shoestring adventure," the dollar crisis not only means your money's worth less each day but also that Europeans are more reluctant to take American Green.

In some countries the exchange rate for the dollar changes as many as three times a day — almost always downward.

"Pound rises as dollar sinks sharply" is about the fourth favorite headline in British newspapers behind Watergate, the British sex scandal and Princess Anne's engagement (in that order).

But there are some simple tricks to averting disaster because of the declining dollar.

The first is determining how to take your money.

By far the best method for Europeans — except in Communist countries where no way seems to be sufficient — is the American Express traveler's check.

While it doesn't open all the doors the advertisements say it will, I'd love to see the AE President left stark naked in Skopje, Yugoslavia with nothing but his AE card; the AE traveler's check is accepted by most shops, taverns and hotels worth shopping, drinking or staying in.

Because American Express has an office in almost every major city, the merchants there can deal with it easily and sometimes give the AE check a slightly better exchange rate than cash. (That can mean a bottle of good wine with dinner.)

Where any traveler's check or the American dollar used to be a universally accepted exchange, some places now prefer to deal in their country's currency rather than take a beating in the race with the international exchange rate on the way to the bank.

The dollar's particular unsteadiness has caused some shops to post signs proclaiming that they will no longer accept American currency.

Other places charge exorbitant exchange rates for American dollars to cover themselves in case the dollar really takes a dive before they cash it in.

There are two ways to beat the dollar's unsteadiness: Exchange what you'll need at the American Express office (where you'll usually get a better rate than foreign banks) or — when the dollar's up — exchange your money for the traveler's checks based on pounds or marks.

The best way of stretching your devalued money in Europe — a common occurrence — is to drop in on long-lost friends, relatives, friends of friends or friends of relatives.

Each summer these American expatriates are besieged by legions of backpacking folks "doing Europe" who claim to be distant blood brothers or to have met once in a Garden City tavern.

In return a couple nights stay, it's polite to take your lost out for dinner — don't worry it's cheap in Europe. (If you paid to take the plane to Europe, you don't have to pay the snail's plane fare to the States.)

There are lots of other bargains in Europe that make your dollars seem bigger than they really are.

The best place to look for them is outside the American Express offices where the down-and-out travelers are selling their return flight tickets and Volkswagen buses.

One thing the devalued dollar hasn't affected is the Europe disease which bites travelers every summer. If you've been bitten by it this summer — don't let the dollar scare you.

While the dollar will cause you some problems, you'll find that a few careful steps can keep it from spoiling your holiday.

Walter's & FRIGIDAIRE'S "FAMILY CIRCUS" FESTIVAL

FREE COLORFUL SHEETS AND PILLOWCASES WORTH \$9.95 WITH EVERY FRIGIDAIRE LAUNDRY PRODUCT!

I GOT THE BEST PART OF THE DEAL... A FREE FAMILY CIRCUS COLORING BOOK JUST FOR COMIN' IN!

BUY THE PAIR ONLY \$388

Free! An Automatic Ice Maker from Frigidaire.

17.0 cu. ft. 100% Frost-Proof. Ready for Automatic Ice Maker

15.2 cu. ft. Refrigerator 100% Frost-Proof \$359

Free! from Frigidaire. An Automatic Ice Maker

338⁰⁰

SKINNY MINI WASHER DRYER Only 2 Ft. Wide

Jet Action Washer with 2 speeds. Normal and Gentle cycles. Family-size tub holds 16-lb. load. Proper care for today's fabrics; lid instructions help you match water temperature settings to the wash load.

Flowing Dryer dries up to 18 pounds — yet it's only 27" wide. Easy to load and unload. Get through gentle "open air" drying from "Soring Fingers" drum vanes. Cool-down period. Cycle-end Signal. Air bedding and full pillows on No Heat cycle.

MOVING?

Be sure to get in touch with the Welcome Wagon hosts. She can help you get to know your new community as quickly as possible.

WAYNE COUNTY
Office 881-7760
PLYMOUTH, NORTHVILLE
GARDEN CITY AND WESTLAND
LIVONIA 427-9740
REDFORD 825-9107
WESTLAND 427-7197
OAKLAND COUNTY
Office 842-2130
FARMINGTON AND SOUTHFIELD

FOREST CITY DRUGS
13507 MIDDLEBELT
LIVONIA

Walter's HOME APPLIANCES

34224 PLYMOUTH
LIVONIA 427-7310
WEST OF FARMINGTON RD.

21747 MICHIGAN DEARBORN 563-1900 1 MILE WEST OF SOUTHFIELD	39915 MICHIGAN AVE. WAYNE 728-9600 2 MILES WEST OF WAYNE ROAD WAREHOUSE OUTLET
--	---

"WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD"

