

# State Tax Package Faces Legal Tests

Michigan's new \$238 million tax reform package, to be further legal tests and knotty administrative problems before collection machinery starts operating Oct. 1.

Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley has ruled it constitutional but Senator George W. Kuhn, of Birmingham, is trying for a court test.

Elsewhere, L. Montgomery Shepard, a St. Louis businessman and Richard Durant, of Groese Pointe, plus other legal attacks. All three are critics of Gov. Romney.

Basically, the package operates this way:

- Imposes a 2.6 per cent levy on the income of individuals, 3.5 per cent on financial institutions.

- Increases taxes paid by business by \$70 million net after repealing the business activities tax, \$142 million.
- Collects \$220 million from individuals.

- Reimburses \$38 million to local units of government for lost property taxes.
- Reduces the intangibles tax from \$48 million to \$38 million.

- A 3-cent-a-package cigarette tax increase is being held in reserve if the net yield of the package fails to prop up state finances, dwindling a sharp edge over the past three years to use up a surplus.

Under the plan, individual tax collections will be withheld from paychecks starting Oct. 1.

Lanning sources said the average family of four with a \$4,500 income would not pay a state income tax, a family of four with a \$9,000 income paying approximately \$82.60; a family of five with a \$9,000 income would pay \$28 if they pay a city income tax. But a family with an \$18,000 annual income with two children paying also a city income tax would pay \$285.

Voters will go to the polls in November, 1980, to decide on a graduated income tax proposal.

Kuhn's legal challenge is based on the theory that the new reform package has factors that already make it a graduated tax and thus in violation of the 1963 state constitution.

Cities in Observerland are already touting with local income tax proposals on the tentative promise from Lansing that up to 50 per cent of the local levy will be picked up by the state.

The state package contains a credit formula by which local income taxes can be

## Officers For Development Group Named

Industrial development leaders from Westland, Livonia, and Plymouth have been elected officers of the newly-formed Municipal Development Committee of Wayne County.

The group is under the County's Economic Development Commission, which is part of the Wayne County Road Commission.

Elected the committee's first state of officers recently were:

Gerald T. Harris, chairman, president of the Westland Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation; Dan Anderson, secretary, industrial coordinator for Livonia; and Harold Fischer, treasurer, Plymouth Area Planning Director.

Other officers are: Ralph Quinn, vice chairman, Detroit industrial coordinator, and Richard Warfel, executive board ex-officio member, head of the Detroit office of the Michigan Dept. of Economic Expansion.

Harris, of 33540 W. Warren, and public affairs director for the Detroit Trade Center, said that all Wayne County communities will be represented on the board of directors of the committee and "it is my hope to have all city planners as executive members to formulate a plan by incorporating all of the local city plans."

written off in part against the state payments.

## Suburbs Computerize Fight Against Crime

Crime fighting in the suburbs has become computerized.

Michigan's computer-based Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) electronically linking 105 departments in the state is now fully operational, Col. Frederick E. Davis, State Police director reported today.

Police agencies in this area with the new computer system are Farmington, Farmington Township, Plymouth, Livonia, Redford, Garden City and State Police along with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

"Michigan's computer center is tied into the national crime information center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington," Davis said. "Michigan is one of 16 areas in the county linked to the FBI system, which carries information on wanted persons, stolen cars, stolen guns and certain categories of stolen property."

The central computer has information stored already on 8,000 stolen cars and over 7,000 suspended, revoked or denied driver licenses. It is prepared to handle up to 450,000 warrants on wanted persons.

Area police are enthusiastic about the computer. Each local department has a teletypewriter, which will be used to seek data needed in a crime or to file information for the central bank of records.

"I think it's a great step forward," City of Farmington Police Chief Robert Deadman said. "In the old days we would catch a suspect, send his fingerprints to Lansing and wait three days for a reply. In the meantime he would be gone. Now we will be able to check on suspects in a matter of seconds."

Livonia's police chief James Jordan agrees. "This system has more potential than we can imagine. It's a definite asset... it's something we've needed and wanted."

Jordan added that the program would take a lot of training an orientation. "We'll have to play it by ear for a while, but we've needed a central record keeper for years."

Plymouth's police chief Robert Corrington said it was "the biggest step made in all my years of police work."

And in Garden City, chief Robert Behrendt called it the "greatest thing to happen in years."

The system represents the application of modern technology to contemporary law enforcement problems.

Each local department will have a unit that can seek answers from a central repository in Lansing. If it is to work successfully, all departments will have to join eventually.

The ultimate goal is a nation-wide computer hook-up whereby a man arrested in Livonia for drunk driving can be checked all over the country. He may be wanted in California—and if he is, the computer can have the answer in minutes, or even seconds.

Data sent and received is being transmitted over Bell Telephone lines in rapid order. Thus the old teletype will become obsolete when the program is finished.

The central computer is being bought by the state; terminal and local equipment is being leased.

While still only in the experimentation stage, early results show the computer can work miracles.

The system—if used properly by each department with records kept up to date—represents a resource to crime fighting that knows no limit.

## Announce Promotion

The promotion of two members of the Building Division of the Manufacturing Staff was announced by W. E. Wilson, General Motors vice president in charge of the Manufacturing Staff.

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between \$100 and \$150, the state credit would be \$17.50 plus 10 per cent of the total over \$100; and \$22.50 plus 5 per cent over \$150 if the local payment is over \$150

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Wednesday, July 12, 1987

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## Schoolcraft Has Record 630 in Summer Classes

Summer session enrollment at Schoolcraft College reached a record 630, as classes for the eight-week session began on Monday, July 3, according to incomplete figures released by Registrar Norman E. Dunn.

Dunn said summer session enrollment a year ago was 543. The 1987 total was swelled by approximately 100 guest students who are regularly enrolled at four-year colleges but who are taking courses for credit at Schoolcraft.

Most of the summer students are attending evening classes, figures show a breakdown of 372 evening and 258 day students. Resident students make up nearly 60 per cent of the total on a breakdown of 358 residents to 274 who live outside the college district.

Not only is total enrollment up, but the future estimated total is up by 75 per cent, from 100 last year to 175. The average work load is about 2.5 credit hours during the summer session.

## New School Bd. Head Outlines Program

A five-point pledge was issued by the newly-elected president of the Wayne County Board of Education at Monday's annual organizational meeting.

Warren Spurlin, top vote-getter in the June 12 school board election for a four-year term, was elected unanimously to a one-year term as president, a post he held during the 1985-86 school year.

Also elected Monday were Gerard McGrath, vice president; Philip R. Biebesheimer, secretary; and Myron Becker, elected last month to a four-year term, treasurer.

Previous officers were Robert Reichard, president; Thomas Barrett, vice president; Spurlin, secretary; and Robert Elmsinger, treasurer. Elmsinger was defeated in his re-election campaign last month.

Immediately after assuming the president's gavel, Spurlin issued a five-point pledge for the school board:

1—The board will work for an improved state aid program as the current proposal before the legislature is dropping and would actually be less than the previous state aid package in view of the rising operating costs of school systems.

2—There would be an analysis and development of the community-school program so that school buildings would be used to their maximum potential. The program will be studied by a citizens committee now under formation, with a recommendation given to the school board by the end of the year.

3—There will be improved communications to the public through groups and organizations with board members to be made more available to groups and individuals.

4—The board will negotiate employee contracts with local school staff organizations in good faith, as it has done in the past.

5—Although individual board members may disagree among themselves, they all agree that quality education of children is their first priority, followed by their concern for the school district's taxpayers and those of the school system's employees.

**Gets Indoctrination**  
Midshipman 2/C Michael O. Jones, son of Commander Mrs. R. O. Jones, 1721 Mayfield, Livonia, was among a group of future Naval Officers from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., who made a flight indoctrination trip to the Saufley Field Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Pensacola, Fla.

**Sorna Gets Jail Term In Murder Conspiracy**  
Jules Sorna, 25, of 20224 Purlingbrook, Livonia, has been sentenced to a two to two and a half year term in the Jackson State Prison on a charge of attempted conspiracy to commit murder.

Sorna's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John V. Sorna of the same address, were placed on two years' probation.

Sentencing was made by Oakland Circuit Judge Farrell E. Roberts. The trio interrupted their trial last

month on the charge of conspiracy to plead guilty to the reduced charge of attempted conspiracy.

Bert Davis, a Detroit auto worker, testified at the trial that Jules Sorna offered to hire him to murder a Farmington Township woman party store owner.

The younger Sorna had been convicted of holding up the store, Park and River Market at 28734 Grand River on Nov. 21.

Clarence W. Lock faces the task of organizing his collection machinery before Oct. 1, using a \$3 million appropriation to pay the extra staff needed.

The appropriation itself is a part of the legal controversy. Under the constitution, all bills are subject to referendum except appropriations bills.

Critics of the entire package contend that the legislature blocked off citizen action on a referendum by tying the \$3 million appropriation to the basic tax bills.

**County Elections Chief Dies**  
Leonard P. Howe, Wayne County director of election since 1964, died Monday in Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit.

His death was attributed to complications which developed following major surgery which Mr. Howe underwent on April 27.

Mr. Howe was 44. He began his career on Wayne County government as a file clerk in 1949 and later served as a Circuit Court clerk and as assistant director of elections.

Mr. Howe served in the army for three years during World War II. He was born in Detroit where he attended St. Gregory's parochial school.

Survivors include his widow, Dorothy; seven children; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Howe, of 7005 Eaton, Detroit; and a brother, Frederick. The family resides at 6148 Cardwell, Garden City.

Funeral arrangements are being made by the Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, 14230 W. McNichols, Detroit.

**Eleanor Geer New Prexy of Legion Unit**  
Eleanor Geer is the newly installed President of the American Legion Auxiliary Beals Unit 32 of Livonia.

Other officers are: Jean Massingill, first vice president; Doris Behrendt, second vice president; Dorothy Silarski, secretary - treasurer;

Vera Guthrie, historian; Ruth Kocan, chaplain; and Suzanne Sitarski, sergeant-at-arms. Serving on the executive board are Gladys Ryder, Leona Michalcik, and Carrie Milditch.

Mrs. Geer has been a member of the Beals unit for 19 years, and has held many offices and served as a delegate to state conventions.

She has held several district offices and chairmanships also, presently serving as historian and as chairman of the legislative committee.

**Wonderland Center cordially invites you and your family to a special musical concert featuring BUDDY MORROW and his famous 'NIGHT TRAIN' orchestra -- this Friday -- on the Wonderland bandstand, near Winkelman's! Enjoy a solid 45-minute musical extravaganza -- all Free -- at Wonderland!**

**2 FREE SHOWS!**  
FRIDAY, JULY 14  
6:45 and 9 p.m.  
ON THE MALL  
NEAR WINKELMAN'S

**WONDERLAND CENTER**  
PLYMOUTH ROAD AT MIDDLE BELT

**LAST CALL!**  
WONDERLAND CENTER

Girls 17-21—enter Wonderland Center's third annual Bathing Beauty contest. Register before Saturday, July 15. Send your name, age, address and telephone number to "MISS Wonderland Center, P. O. Box 2387, Livonia, Michigan 48151.

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