

Will '73 Be The Year?

By KATHY MORAN
As a new legislative session opens, Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) predicts legislators will finally come to grips with the complex issue of education financing. "Because this isn't an election year for legislators and because reapportionment has shifted power from cities to the suburbs, Pursell expects action in 1973. "Education reform in the number one major issue in the state," he said. "I think it is probably the most complex issue because it deals with the total tax structure in the state."
PURSELL WENT ONE step beyond predicting action—he predicted the solution in a recent interview.
He said the Legislature will likely retain a foundational level of property tax for schools—approximately 10 mills—and that additional funding for schools will come from sources such as income tax, lottery revenue and cigarette taxes.
Although he is certain the Senate is ready to act on such

a plan he pointed out that the House has 30 new members and may not be as quick to act. "Most legislators support the citizen viewpoint that they would like to see a maximum of local school control but are willing to assume financing through state sources in order to resolve the local school board dilemma," he said.
Pursell said he will introduce a bill this session to establish uniform accounting procedures for all school districts in Michigan.
While some districts may fear it will infringe on their control, Pursell said it is the only way to evaluate each district's income and expenditures.
"PUBLIC CONFIDENCE in school systems is at a low ebb," he said. "If we talk about fiscal reform we also

have to include the development of appropriate management controls." The recent State Supreme Court decision on education financing "really didn't say anything we didn't already know," Pursell said.
The opinion didn't get into tax issues, he pointed out.
"It sort of carefully was saying to the Legislature that if you don't act, then we will apply legal action mandating it."
Some type of higher education council will probably be created this year to coordinate programs, primarily in community colleges where Pursell believes there is unnecessary duplication.
HE ALSO expects the Legislature to enact a land use

plan for undeveloped areas in Michigan. A nine-man commission drew up a proposal, but several loopholes were discovered after public hearings. It was scrapped and another one is being drawn up.
His own bill reforming county government and establishing a county executive position will pass during the beginning of the session, he said.
Pursell said he intends to expand his activities in the community by holding forums on pertinent issues.
A major issue which may become the subject of a forum is the loss of industry in Michigan. Pursell cited the cutbacks from Burroughs Corp. in Plymouth as an indication of industry leaving the state and either heading south or to other countries where labor costs and expenses are less.
Gov. Milliken is looking into ways of enticing industry into Michigan, but Pursell said he "would prefer" the development of an atmosphere where local businesses can expand."



F. HARGER GREEN, 10570 JoAnn, Plymouth, has been appointed 1973 chairman of General Motors' Livonia plant city committee which is responsible for coordinating public relations. Green joined the company in 1970 and is manager of the Fisher Body division plant.

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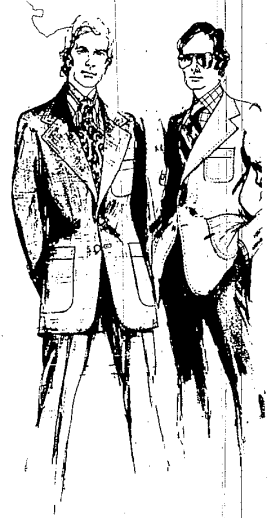
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