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By GENE ALLEMAN

Hottest issue in the forthcoming election campaign is proposal No. 2, the sales tax diversion amendment to the state constitution.

If this amendment is adopted by voters on Nov. 5, Michigan public schools will receive approximately \$100,000,000 a year in state money. They now get \$60,000,000.

The Michigan Education Association has done a neat flip-flop on the question. Originally officials condemned roundly the tax diversion amendment; last week the association's governing board went on record as favoring it. As vigor-

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This proposal is the outcome of legislative demands made by mayors of Michigan's leading cities, for a split of the Michigan sales tax.

When upstate legislators united in resisting the big city municipalities, strategists decided that other interests must be incorporated into the plan. A coalition would break the upstate ranks.

Hence initiatory petitions were circulated in leading cities, calling for the submission to the voters on Nov. 5 of the following amendment to article ten of the Constitution:

"Shall one cent of every one dollar of sales under a state sales tax on the present basis be returned to cities, villages, townships and school districts; half

apportioned per capita among cities, villages and townships according to county populations, and half apportioned to school districts on basis of the primary school census; and in addition annual grants be made school districts from general funds in ratio to sales tax revenue of preceding fiscal years but not less than borne between such grants in fiscal year ending 1946 and the preceding year's revenues?"

The amendment would divert one-third of the present tax, or one cent, to the following local governments:

One-half of one cent, or 16 2/3 per cent of the present 3-cent tax, would be returned to cities, villages and townships on a per capita basis according to county populations.

The remaining one-half of one cent, or 16 2/3 per cent of the tax, would be distributed to public school districts on basis of the primary school census whereby every child 5 to 18 years old is counted.

As an added inducement for educators to join hands with city municipalities in the new tax diversion, the amendment was worded to insure that public schools would continue to receive their regular annual grants "in ratio to sales tax revenue of preceding fiscal years but not less than that

## Honeymoon at 75 and 98



The passing years failed to take cupid out of the lives of Luther Wilson, 75, and Mrs. Mary DeWitt Wilson, 98. They're shown on their honeymoon at Wilson's cottage in Matteson, Ill., following wedding at Charleston, Ill.

## Cranbrook Exhibit For September Features Textiles

Current new exhibits at the Cranbrook Academy of Arts and Sciences feature textiles, made up into Guatemalan costumes, and 11 of the best pictures from the Capehart collection, representing musical selections. The exhibits will be at the Academy for the month of September.

The textile show is a novel display of life-like dolls with typical Guatemalan features. Each doll is dressed in a different, colorful native costume.

The other exhibit, arranged through the Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation, contains Franklin Walker's "Hallelujah Chorus," and the famous negro painter, Horace Pippin's "Old Black Joe."

The museum is open every afternoon except Monday.

NEWS COPY must be in The Eccentric editorial offices by 9 a. m. each Wednesday for publication that week. However, early copy is given preference. adv. 17

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borne between such grants in fiscal year ending 1946 and the preceding year's revenue."

This phraseology would do justice to a Philadelphia lawyer, so we made an inquiry at the state department of public instruction as to what it actually meant.

We were informed that continuation of state aid to public schools, as computed for the years 1945 and 1946, would be equivalent to 43 1/3 per cent of the sales tax revenue. The new tax diversion, 16 2/3 per cent, would free the state constitution for use of the schools a total amount equal to approximately 60 per cent of sales tax revenue.

For years the Michigan Education association has conducted biennial campaigns among legislators for more state aid to public schools.

Headings have been effective, for schools are close to the hearts of the American people and the need for more funds has not been hard to prove.

The proposal No. 2 is carried on Nov. 5, the MEA lobbying will be over. The state constitution will guarantee, for years to come, a substantially higher proportion of state aid than the schools have ever received.

Between now and November 5, the voters will have to make up their minds about several things.

One is whether the schools should have more money. Here we believe the MEA will be on firm ground. Allen Schoenfeld, one of the best writers of the Detroit News, recently made a detailed study of the Michigan school problem. The MEA liked it so well that they obtained permission to reproduce the series of ten articles in a booklet which has been given wide circulation.

After interviewing scores of Michigan educators, Schoenfeld came to the conclusion that public education was facing "complete collapse." Teachers are underpaid; quality of teaching staff has been deteriorating. The 15-mill tax limitation amendment, added to the constitution in 1932, has become a strait-jacket. Modern school buildings are imperatively needed.

The other topic for consideration is whether state services—such as welfare, colleges, prisons and hospitals—must be curtailed if one-third of the 3 cent sales tax is to be diverted, and also whether new and added tax levies must be imposed in 1947 if state services are continued.

The \$270,000,000 veterans' bonus—proposal No. 3 on the ballot—would be paid off in taxes, too.

If this question of new and added taxes cannot be satisfactorily answered, then the veterans' bonus and the school aid issue are due for a head-on collision in the minds of Michigan voters before Nov. 5. Voters are apt to be wary

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