

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

LANSING—The state capital again sighing with relief. The state legislature, now winding up its fifth month, is due to go home next week.

An adjournment of the legislature is always an occasion for rejoicing by legislators, state officials and legislative agents. This year's event will be more so, now winding up its fifth month, is due to go home next week.

The 1947 session has been distinguished by constant confusion. Although Republicans have been in complete control of both the House and Senate, leadership has been noticeably wobbly and actions have been quite unsystematic. Legislators have confounded everyone by reversing their stands on important measures. New tax bills have emerged periodically with bewildering and contradictory aspects. For utter confusion in the 1947 session, the worst" in 24 years, according to John C. Espie of Eagle, veteran chairman of the important house ways and means committee.

As we look back on this five-month phenomenon, we note several basic reasons why this session has prevailed and also why legislators should not be criticized. Constitutional ear-marking of major sources of revenue has not been a financial disaster. The state is responsible for this dilemma? Two parties: Pressure groups which have sought special privileges or protection, and the able (you, the voter) which has supported these appeals.

The ear-marking of the gasoline tax and motor vehicle weight tax for highway use is a good example. The 15-mil limitation on real estate tax is another. The tax on the sale of automobiles, 70 percent of the sales tax for return to local units of government, is not disputing the merit of each proposal; we do point out a collective.

As Governor Sigler emphasized his first budget message, state

under the handicap of constitutional amendment by constitutional amendment has had the effect of "depriving the representatives of the legislature" of a true opportunity to consider and evaluate all possible public expenditures.

Granting that such is the case, it seems illogical to make the legislature the scapegoat for the confusion at Lansing since the first of the year. The root of the trouble, as we see it, goes right back to the antiquated crazy-quilt system of taxes, now firmly imbedded in a state constitution adopted shortly after the turn of the century and periodically revised since then.

The sales tax diversion amendment may be re-submitted to the people in November, 1948. Approved by the senate, the resolution is now before the House.

The prospect for a solution of the constitutional problem—this ear-marking of funds—is none too bright. If the house approves a senate plan to create a constitutional commission, the Sigler administration can rightfully point with satisfaction to a constructive step toward modernization of the state's charter.

Until, this is done, Michigan must continue to struggle along

Conservation Officer Declares That Nation Must Halt Erosion of Top Soil

Graphically making his points through the use of slides and a movie, A. L. Monroe, chief of Oakland County's conservation district, told the League of Women Voters and guest Garden Club members last week that lack of soil conservation is one of the major problems in the U. S. and elsewhere in the world.

Continued cultivation of our soil without care to replace its minerals or for the kind of its cultivation, would eventually make our rich land a desert, and then what use would our worries about our cities and governmental problems be? asked the speaker.

"We have depleted the soil but it is not a hopeless situation if we correct the practice," Monroe explained the work of the conservation department in arranging for conservation districts where requested by 25 farmers each of whom farms at least three acres. In such a district, the soil 100 acres in size with a seven percent slope at each with concrete pipes at its foot and with concrete walls between.

Scientifically measured plots are planted variously with wheat, corn, oats, rye, etc., he explained, and measurement is made of the amount of water that runs off each, the amount of soil. Experiments are carried out in rotating the crops, planting them in different ways.

"It has been found" said Monroe, "that the soil loss of nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphate, etc., was great with careless planting, much less with scientific."

He described the loss of minerals from soil and water as like the skimming off and throwing out of the cream on top of the milk bottle. This same loss, he pointed out, makes the crops poorer with resultant lacks in the human body.

How Soil Erodes

Monroe's comparative slides of "before and after" scenes of farms formerly eroded, gullied and barren because of incorrect planting and cultivation, now healthy and fertile through intelligent care, told an eloquent story.

Monroe pointed out the process of erosion—top soil flowing off the land, down the grade, ending in a swamp, later being covered by the soil, down the grade on top of it.

He reminded his audience that it takes from 500 to 1,000 years for nature to form the six inches of top soil which produces all crops.

Her Mother's Voice

Mrs. John Mikolaitis uses a hearing aid to talk to her daughter, Jeanne, at a party for deaf children at the Chicago Hearing Society, where mothers learn to talk with deaf or hard-of-hearing children.

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Dairy Fresh Cottage Cheese lb. 19c
Tender Smoked Picnics lb. 43c
Kraft's PARKAY lb. 36c
Oscar Mayer Spam-Party Loaf 12 oz., each 35c

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For the MEMORIAL DAY Week End

| | | |
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| DUZ 1ge. pkg. 32c | OXYDOL 1ge. pkg. 32c | Extra Fancy Dried Prunes 2 lbs. 59c |
| Grandie Stuffed Olives 2 tall botls. 65c | Fancy Oregon CRAB MEAT can 59c | New Era Potato Chips 1ge. pkg. 55c |

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Doyle's Dill Pickles quart 29c
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