

State Legislator Is Full Time Job

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

"I realize that the work of the state legislature was diversified before I became a legislator—but the number and varied aspects of the bills brought before the short session really surprised me."

In these words, State Representative Richard C. Van Dusen, 1722 Pine, summed up his impressions of his first session in Lansing. The 28-year-old Republican won his seat in the state legislature in a special election in February, called to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Howard R. Estes.

Several weeks ago Van Dusen announced he would be a candidate for re-election. "The session was tremendously educational," Van Dusen furthered "but the work in studying all of the bills accounted for most of my time in Lansing."

Van Dusen explained that the legislature was faced with nearly 740 bills. The House was responsible for 453 of the bills while the remainder were under Senate consideration.

"OF THIS total, only a little over 220 were passed—but all took time in consideration," Van Dusen said.

As for diversification, the Birmingham lawyer pointed to the fact that bills ranged from a request to change the opening date of the frog season by two days, to important revisions in the Michigan unemployment compensation regulations.

"The work of the legislature must be measured not only in the number and quality of the bills passed, but also by those bills that are considered and ultimately rejected," Van Dusen commented.

Van Dusen pointed to rejected bills such as the 19-year-old vote PEPC, telecasts of brewery advertisements and the four-year term for all state officials as being important bills that required a great deal of time on the part of legislators.

HE WAS reluctant to say which bill passed in the last session was the most important action taken by the lawmakers, but added that legislation passed on the state election code, unemployment compensation, workmen's compensation, state school codes, the Conlin sales tax diversion plan, and the Korean Veterans state bonus were among the more important steps taken in Lansing.

The Conlin Plan as well as the veterans bonus will appear on the state ballot in November.

Adoption of the state election code paves the way for important revisions in election laws next year, Van Dusen advised. By codifying present laws, the legislature can take steps next year to correct long-standing defects in the law.

"THE MOST controversial bill

before the state this term was the revisions sought in the unemployment compensation scale," Van Dusen stated.

"This was the most time-consuming question and I believe that the law we passed is a good one. It is both fair to the employer and liberal to the employee."

"Important changes were made in the school code that will enable school districts to consolidate with less trouble than ever before. These revisions have been drafted over a two-year period," Van Dusen added.

Also adopted were major improvements in the scale of workmen's compensation allotments, according to the representative.

Van Dusen's opposition to the Korean veteran's bonus was based on a review of the state's budget which seemingly cannot cover the \$80,000,000 total in bonuses that would be required should elections approve the issue.

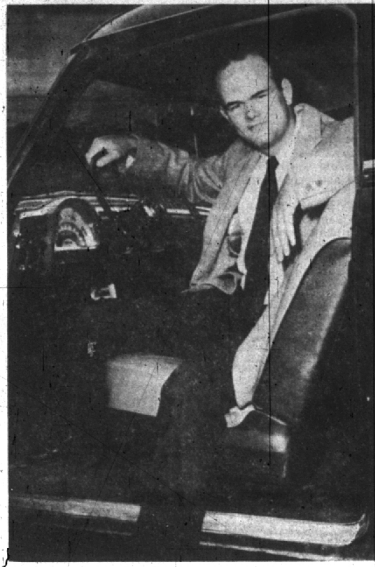
HE DID promote passage of the Conlin Plan that, if approved by voters, would put sales tax diversions on a current basis and give the state a clearer view of the continuing financial picture.

"On a rising tax collection basis, school boards would continue to receive greater sums of money as would local governments and the state," according to the young lawmaker. They would not lose funds under this bill.

He stated that the present formula used to return sales tax monies is burdensome and is based on population figures as much as two years old and did not reflect an up-to-date picture of the needs of either the schools, local or state governments.

Van Dusen, who was sworn in on February 15, missed only two days of the session which ended on April 15.

"Five days a week we found that study, committee sessions and actual discussion on the floor of the house meant a full time job. I was at my desk in the house morning and worked both before and after each legislative session. On Mondays the legislature meets at 8 p.m. on Fridays at 10 a.m. and the balance of the week at 2 p.m. These meetings lasted from



RICHARD C. VAN DUSEN
State legislator covers many miles

(Eccentric Photo)

Abandons Loot On His Way Out

A would-be burglar left his loot behind him when he apparently was frightened away by Mrs. Albert A. Clark, 5052 N. Adams, Bloomfield township, as she returned to her home Wednesday afternoon, May 26.

Township Police Chief Clark Green said the Clark home was only slightly disturbed and a portable radio was lying near the front door where it was dropped as the intruder fled.

Green said another break-in was attempted the same afternoon at the nearby Arthur Poveley home at 4665 N. Adams.

1½ to three hours and the free time I did have was spent in visiting state institutions and discussing various bills with lobbyists," Van Dusen explained.

Maple Widening Assessments Ok'd

Assessments totalling several thousand dollars against business properties at the northwest corner of Maple and Chesterfield were confirmed this week by the Birmingham city commission.

Scheduled for approval several weeks ago, confirmation of the assessment roll was postponed until it could be revised to reflect prices in the paving contract.

Bulk of the estimated cost of better than \$100,000 is being paid by the city-at-large. The widening and repaving will be from Linden to Glenhurst.

★ Smile a Minute . . .

Patron: "That barber down the street has cut his prices down to 40 cents for a haircut."

Barber (after a withering silence): "Yeah? Well, a good barber cuts hair and a poor one cuts prices."

SOC Water System Seen Ready in 1955

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Necessary contract negotiations between the City of Detroit and the South Oakland County water authority are delaying acceptance of bids and the sale of bonds for the authority's proposed water system that will serve seven area communities.

At the beginning of the year, authority members believed that bids for the system could be taken in March or April. Present status of the water supply contract and progress of engineering plans would indicate that this date is still two months away, according to Birmingham City Engineer L. L. Gare who is chairman of the water authority.

Several revisions in the contract to buy water from Detroit have been ordered by Detroit's water board and authority attorney Claude Stevens is ready to begin final talks with L. V. Garrity, assistant superintendent and manager of the Detroit board.

"GARE STATED that questions concerning the length of the contract and the volume of water to be provided by Detroit necessitated considerable study and discussion. Legal aspects of such a contract between municipalities also have demanded a great deal of time."

The authority's efforts to gain a clause in the contract to allow cessation of its terms at any time another source of water is discovered were rejected by Detroit but Detroit officials did agree to cancel the contract if the city itself decided to join in such an authority to twin a second water source.

Only other source under study at this time is a direct pipeline from Lake Huron, a project that has been criticized from a cost standpoint.

WHILE ENGINEERING plans for the lower portion of the estimated \$6 million system are almost completed, authority members now believe plans for the entire construction must be ready before bids are taken on any part of the water network.

These delays have forced the authority to set its sights on a July 1 date for the start of construction, with a sizeable section of the system expected to be in operation by July 1, 1955, according to George Schmid, authority engineer.

The 18-month project is hoped to be completed by December 1955. Authority members stress the importance of immediate progress on the project, pointing to the serious lack of water suffered in Royal Oak last year and also to the diminishing ground water table being experienced in most of the South Oakland area.

maximum day volume of 20 1/2 million gallons.

The average day volume is expected to be 9 1/2 million gallons.

Initial plans call for three water mains running into Southfield township from Greenfield on 10, 11 and 12 Mile roads. These lines only will extend to Southfield road.

Call Midwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad. Deadline, 5 P.M. Tuesday.

Saturday Shooters

Shooting dates for the Birmingham Gun Club this month have been set for Saturday, June 5, and Saturday, June 12 at the club grounds on Richardson road in Commerce Township.

Early copy for church activities makes it better for us and better for you. Don't wait until the deadline, please.

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