

Seek Tax Exemption On Local Improvements

Cong. William S. Broomfield has proposed legislation that would make payments for special assessments for local improvements deductible from income taxes.

Broomfield (R., Oakland County) introduced a bill Tuesday in the House of Representatives that would make a series of payments for sewers, drains, water supply and paving exempt from the income tax.

He said his bill came at the request of a number of South Oakland communities which asked for tax relief for residents to spur improvements, particularly in business districts.

Revenue Service, the nation's tax collector, ruled originally that special assessments, such as off-street parking lots, were tax deductible.

But, after months of deliberations, the decision was reversed in Washington.

City commissions and councils in South Oakland claim that the adverse ruling was holding up the development of central business district improvements in such communities as Birmingham, Royal Oak and Madison Heights and that special assessments should be exempt from Federal taxes the same as county and state taxes.

"IT IS EVIDENT," said Broomfield, "that the Internal Revenue Service isn't going to change its mind without action by Congress. I am going to do everything I can to get this bill through committee and out onto the floor for a vote as quickly as possible, as I believe that tax exemption for these special assessments could mean a great deal to many communities, businesses and home-owners."

He said people "who buy municipal bonds for such improvements do not have to pay taxes on the interest they receive. It is only fair that home-owners and business should receive the same treatment by our Federal Government."

BIRMINGHAM City Manager L. R. Gare last week wrote letters to Broomfield and Sen. Philip Hart and asked them to explain Birmingham's position.

Although pleased at the news Broomfield had introduced his bill, Gare noted lack of mention of parking lots in the congressman's announcement and that it was exemption for assessments for municipal parking lots that Birmingham was primarily interested in.

Gare's letter asked for legislative action to reverse a 1960 Treasury Dept. ruling that such payments would not be deductible.

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Civic Leader To Address Altrusa Club

Edward L. Cushman, civic leader and vice chairman of the Citizens for Michigan Committee, will speak on "Michigan Constitution Convention: A Challenge to Democracy" at a dinner meeting Jan. 23 in the Birmingham Community House.

The Altrusa Club of Greater Birmingham, sponsor of the meeting, invites Mrs. interested citizens to attend.

Cushman, vice president in charge of industrial relations of American Motors Corp., is known throughout the state for his active participation in matters relating to citizen interests. His wife, Katherine, is a delegate to the convention.

MRS. FLORENCE WILLETT, mayor of Birmingham, an honorary member of Altrusa, will introduce Cushman and the meeting will be opened with an invocation by Mrs. George Romney.

The meeting is under the direction of Mrs. Gunnar Karlstrom, chairman of the Altrusa Public Affairs Committee. She is being assisted by Mrs. Leslie Shanker, Dr. Mary Ann Casak, Dr. Jean Forest, Miss Helen Hartman and Miss Mary Spaulding.

Who hope Birmingham will turn out in full force for the discussion," said Dr. Ethel Calloun, president of Altrusa. Tickets, at \$5.00 a person, may be purchased at The Village Bookshelf or through individual Altrusans. The dinner starts at 6:45.

Nine Older Children Adopted in 1961 Under Pilot Program

Members of the County Ways and Means Committee were told on Thursday last week that nine difficult-to-place children were adopted in 1961, saving the cost of care in a county institution, estimated at a possible \$27,000.

The 1961 pilot program in older adoptions was under the supervision of Mrs. Dorothy Reason whose own children are grown.

Mrs. Reason is the wife of a Birmingham dentist.

Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore's pilot program may be expanded by hiring two additional caseworkers and a secretary for 1962, the committee members indicated.

Judge Moore told committee members that the average age of the nine children is eight years. Cost of care for a year in a county home would cost about \$3,000 each; care in a boarding home about \$1,300 for each child, the judge said.



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Romney: His Debate, Pay, Con-Con Status

Related Story on 6-D

Potential gubernatorial candidate George Romney and state labor leader August Scholle traded verbal blows in Lansing Tuesday night.

They debated the hottest issue before the Constitutional Convention—reapportionment.

Sponsored by the Central Michigan chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national journalism fraternity, the debate drew 125 persons, including Con-Con delegates, state legislators and other politicians.

Romney (R., Bloomfield Hills), representing Oakland County and a vice president of Con-Con called Scholle (president of the Michigan AFL-CIO) an "extremist."

And Scholle termed Romney a "Wisconsin industrialist," referring to American Motors Corp.'s move to Wisconsin several years ago.

Romney, AMC president, told why the move was made and said Walter Reuther, UAW president, approved it.

AS FOR reapportionment, Scholle plugged for selection of House and Senate members through the principle of "one man—one vote."

Romney, arguing for compromise, favored electing the House along population lines, including reforms necessary to make districts more equal in population.

The Senate, he stated, should be based on both population and "effective participation for people living in sparsely settled areas."

Romney said this plan, which he has presented to Con-Con, would add "three or four" more senators to the sparsely settled Upper Peninsula and the northern part of the Lower Peninsula.

SCHOLLE WAS asked whether his organization would campaign against a Constitution that doesn't include his plan for redistributing "I expect," he replied "that if no decent proposal comes out, my organization will continue to en-

gage in the struggle for equality at the ballot box."

Although the two engaged in a heated exchange at one point, they ended the debate on a friendly note—they shook hands.

ROMNEY HAS said he will announce by Feb. 10 whether he will campaign for the Republican nomination for governor this year.

Scholle opposes his nomination. Romney has said that if he decides to run, his status with American Motors Corp. will have to be determined by its board of directors.

As president and board chairman, he drew \$149,211 last year as compared to \$250,000 in 1960.

A proxy statement issued Tuesday indicated that remuneration of AMC officers and directors was reduced by almost \$500,000 last year.

ROMNEY ASKED the Con-Con Rules and Resolutions Committee this week to make "some positive disposition" of a resolution that would require delegates seeking public office to resign. It had been tabled indefinitely.

He said he would not campaign for office as long as Con-Con is in session.

Birmingham Fire Department Issues Report on 1961

Birmingham Fire Department during 1961 made a total of 403 runs.

Of the total, 347 were silent alarms for fires and fire investigations; 15 were for investigation of suspected gas.

Birmingham firemen administered first aid on 75 runs. The department counted two second alarms and recorded five false alarms.

THE PER CAPITA loss based on an estimated 26,000 population was \$3.74. The total estimated loss by fire was \$86,450. Total estimated insurance paid was \$81,950. Total estimated insurance carried was \$7,935,290. Total amount of property endangered by fire was \$9,043,085.

The fire department report was submitted to Birmingham's city manager by Turk H. Smith, fire chief.

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ASSETS	
Cash on Hand/and in Banks	\$ 1,252,675.00
U. S. Government Securities	2,998,829.21
Federal Home Loan Bank Securities	301,419.12
Federal Home Loan Bank Stock	500,000.00
F.H.A. Improvement Loans	146,301.41
First Mortgage Loans and Other First Liens on Real Estate	27,733,495.60
Real Estate Owned	17,734.25
Real Estate in Judgment	56,224.35
Loans on Savings Accounts	324,160.46
Office Buildings & Equipment (less depreciation)	283,671.78
Deferred Charges & Other Assets	28,439.54
TOTAL ASSETS	\$33,642,980.72
LIABILITIES	
Insured Savings Accounts	\$30,438,345.89
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank	1,000,000.00
Loans in Process	86,389.27
Other Liabilities	6,828.05
Specific Reserves	59,476.63
General Reserves	\$2,008,960.36
Surplus	42,980.52
Total Reserves & Surplus	2,051,940.88
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$33,642,980.72

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