

MICHIGAN MIRROR

State Income Tax in Doubt

By ELMER WHITE
Michigan Press Association

POINTED TAX

Ale of an income tax to the people of Michigan in any size and shape is still very much in doubt.

Of Governor George Romney's eight alternative tax programs only one spells out fiscal reform without an income tax on individuals. In the governor's travels about the state trying to find buyers for one of his several plans, Romney said most people supported an income tax as a replacement for other levies.

The greatest majority of those attending the governor's meetings, however, have been businessmen who theoretically, and perhaps actually, would stand to gain much from the various reforms proposed. Most of the governor's plan call for repeal of the business activity tax, a major objection from businessmen since it was enacted.

HEAVIEST SUPPORT voiced for the governor's plans at his various meetings was hinged on the idea that any personal income tax enacted should be a flat rate as opposed to a graduated one similar to the federal income tax.

Democrats claim this is a natural inclination of the wealthy businessman. A flat rate income tax would not cut as deeply into the pocketbook of the rich man as that of the low wage earner, they contend.

Legislators who will be called upon to make decisions on fiscal reform this fall say it will be no easy task.

Romney's meetings have drawn some support for one or another of his plans, but the voices from the grass roots are yet to be heard.

It will take a real selling job to convince the general public that the income tax is an equitable and necessary part of fiscal reform which will benefit the state.

COMMUNITY leaders throughout the state are now lining up on a law enacted by the 1963 Legislature which places the burden of mental health services on them.

The Community Mental Health Services Act was enacted on the recommendation of a Senate study committee which considered it for two years.

Under the new law communities can get state funds for offering services in mental health such as emergency hospitals, night hospi-

tals, day care, and cooperative services with courts or schools.

Support for the community program came from many corners during the session.

The trend being started by state provision for community programs was described to the Legislature by Dr. Robert Felix, director of the National Institution of Mental Health. "I have no doubt that, if communities assume the role that they and only they can play in building strong mental health programs, mental hospitals as we know them today will have ceased to exist within 25 years," he said.

Several states have already taken the step which Michigan is taking now. New York, California and Minnesota are among the larger states with such programs.

STATISTICS in these states show reductions in state mental hospital populations, decreases in hospital admissions and waiting lists, and other favorable changes in problems which have plagued Michigan for many years.

Passage of the community health law represented a choice in dealing with the mental health problem. Most spokesmen who testified before legislative committees on the proposal said if this measure were not enacted, the Legislature's only alternative was to build more large, costly mental hospitals.

Individuals seeking employment with the state are unlikely to gain any advantage from offers of mail order schools to come or train for these jobs.

State Civil Service Director Franklin K. DeWald said a number of these schools have been soliciting enrollment by civil service job candidates. Most such schools are not authorized to operate, DeWald said.

The personnel director emphasized that they are not licensed to do business in Michigan and state courts have found such programs to be illegal and against public policy.

CIVIL SERVICE examinations are given for state jobs on an open competitive basis, with points awarded to candidates on the basis of performance on these tests.

The content of the examinations, combined with interviews and specific skill tests for some jobs, gives the Civil Service Commission an indication of which candidates are qualified, DeWald said. He emphasized enrollment in the out-of-state "training schools" is not recognized by the commission in any way.

Railroad Club Plans Trip to Ionia Fair

The Ionia Free Fair is the destination of a special diesel-powered train trip scheduled by the Michigan Railroad Club for August 10.

The train, to operate via the Grand Trunk Western Railroad, will leave Detroit's Brush Street Station at 10 a.m., stopping to pick up additional passengers in Royal Oak, Birmingham and Pontiac.

Arrival at Ionia is 1 p.m. Returning, the train will leave Ionia at 6:30 p.m., arriving in Detroit at 9:30 p.m.

Major attraction during the 5½-hour layover at Ionia will be the IMCA championship auto racing event. In addition, there will be Midway shows and rides and a variety of agricultural, livestock and industrial exhibits.

PASSENGERS are urged to bring lunch along if they wish to eat enroute.

There'll be no dining or snack car service on the train. Plenty of food will be available at the fair, which has ample picnic grounds.

Fare for the train trip, which takes passengers within a short walk of the fairgrounds entrance, is \$7.50 for adults, \$3.75 for children ages 5 through 11. Slightly lower fares apply from suburban stations.

Ticket order blanks with full details are available to the public at Grand Trunk Western ticket offices in Detroit, Royal Oak, Birmingham and Pontiac, or by writing to the Michigan Railroad Club, P. O. Box 326, Royal Oak, Mich.

RECENT RAIL trips sponsored by the railfans have been complete sellouts. If any tickets for the Ionia trip remain unsold after July 31st they'll be placed on sale at GTW ticket offices on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Future plans of the railfans call for two steam locomotive excursions on Canadian National Railways in Ontario the weekend of September 21-22 and a diesel-powered special train (also on CN) to Niagara Falls early in February, 1964.

The Michigan Railroad Club meets regularly the third Wednesday of July and August and first and third Wednesdays of other months in the conference room of Michigan Central Terminal, Detroit, at 8:00 p.m.

The Birmingham Eccentric Classified pages offer you a fine opportunity to sell your unwanted household goods.

Frosh Get Pretaste of Campus Life

New Birmingham freshmen at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, are getting a pretaste of campus life in a two-day exposure as the special orientation program is in full swing.

Some 2,000 students are expected to take part in the program of counseling, testing and advance registration. University residence halls are opened for them, with new groups registering on four days of each week. A social program is also planned.

WITH THIS part of beginning college out of the way, students pay their fees by mail and report for the beginning of classes Sept. 17.

Among those participating in the orientation program from Birmingham are Michael Stanton, Herbert Hohl III, Robert Holmquist, Peter Rydell, Margaret Evans, Pamela Farlow, Richard Packham, Lois McMullen and William Roemer.

Civil Defense Progress Slow

Civil Defense efforts throughout the state are progressing, but not nearly as fast as State Police Captain Richard L. Nicolen had hoped.

Nicolen, named deputy director of the Civil Defense division when it was put under the State Police, is urging a speeding in the licensing agreements with building owners for public fallout shelters.

Under a recent decision in Washington, building owners who sign license agreements permitting use of their structures for public shelters receive certificates of commendation from the U. S. Office of Civil Defense.

ABOUT 2,000 properties designed to accommodate more than one million persons are now under licensing agreements, Nicolen said. Another 1,700 buildings have been approved for licensing, but agreements are yet to be signed.

Each building considered for public shelter use is inspected by one of architects and engineers under the direction of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Nicolen said the number of building owners participating in the program was encouraging, but the program is not progressing as rapidly as it should be.

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