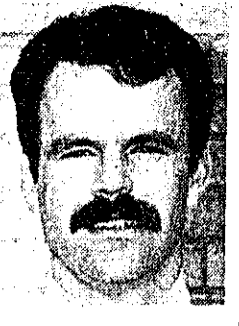


PEDALING AROUND

Yes, no and maybe

By Mike Eliasohn



My mind is numb and my eyes are blurry as I write this.

No, I have not been drinking. I have been reading a 28-page analysis of the seven statewide ballot proposals.

It was as exciting as reading the telephone book and after reading the descriptions of the three major tax proposals, I still only have a hazy idea of what they mean.

Unless I change my mind, I plan to vote against all three, if for no other reason than because I don't believe in voting for something I don't understand.

Our present tax system as its faults, but compared to other states, it apparently isn't that bad. A 1978 national study rated Michigan's system as second best in the nation in terms of fairness and equity.

Property tax relief is built into the system, for those whose property taxes exceed a certain percentage of their income, including farmers whose land is enrolled in the Public Act 116 program.

Thus I wonder if the three tax proposals -- Tisch, Smith-Bullard and coalition plan -- are examples of fixing something that isn't broken, that is, that the solutions may be worse than the problems they are designed to cure.

I find it hard to conceive of passage of the Tisch Amendment (Proposal D) will mean closing of all state universities except the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University, as Gov. Milliken has predicted, but I do feel the repercussions on the state and local level would still be disastrous.

I prefer to leave it up to my elected representatives to decide when to raise marriage license, parking meter and building inspection fees. By defining all such fees as a tax and requiring voter approval of all taxes, it means voters would have to go to the polls in order to raise parking meter fees from 5 cents per hour to a dime.

It is conceded that passage of Proposal D will mean a large increase in college tuition in order for state colleges and universities to stay in business. This can be interpreted to mean that increases in college tuition, and for that

matter, dormitory room and board, as it is a "user fee," would have to be approved by public referendum.

Smith-Bullard (Proposal A) moves in what I feel is a preferable direction, less dependence on property taxes for support of schools and more equitable funding for the education of all school children, regardless of where they live.

However, the proposal seems so complicated, I fear the consequences of the unknown. There is also the possibility of increased taxes on business. If Michigan is going to attract and create more jobs, it does not need more taxes on business.

The coalition plan (Proposal C) also apparently will increase the tax burden on businesses, or at least it will not share in the benefits. I may change my mind by election day, but as of now, why rock the boat?

I do favor the fourth tax proposal, to increase the state income tax from 4.6 to 4.7 percent for five years to finance new prison construction and some related items (Proposal E).

The vote by Michiganders two years ago to require serving of minimum sentences has contributed to our prisons being 10 percent overcrowded. Two prisons are more than 90 years old and need to be replaced.

From a personal standpoint, I lived in an apartment building in Monroe whose tenants, in addition to some nice elderly ladies, included two men who were sent to Jackson prison, a woman who was sentenced to the state women's prison, a man on probation for selling heroin with a wife on probation for using it and two roommates arrested for growing marijuana. I would hate to think of any of those people walking the streets because there wasn't room in a prison for a judge to send them.

It may seem like coddling prisoners to build them new prisons, but remember, the average prison term is only 32 months. Better to not have them come out mad at society after 32 months of sleeping on a mattress on a floor.

U.S. farmers' total tax bill in 1979 was \$9.5 billion on real estate, personal property, federal and state income and purchases.



KINGSTON HOMECOMING -- Members of the homecoming court at Kingston High School Friday were, front row, from left, Bill Miracle, Wendy Cooper, crowned queen, Ted Teets, Ginny Engler, Jamie Silvernail, crowned king, and Lori Parker. Back row, from left, Jill Newton, Dave Wright, Shari Walker, crowned princess, Paul Galubenski, crowned prince, Lisa Roberson and Gary Cooper. It wasn't the best of homecomings as the Cardinals lost to North Huron, 20-0. (Kingston H.S. photo).

Millington men receive prison terms for rape

Two Millington men found guilty Sept. 12 of the rape of a Richville woman were both sentenced Monday by Circuit Judge Martin E. Clements to the State Prison of Southern Michigan at Jackson.

James J. Paquette, 20, of 10269 Sheridan Road, was sentenced to 12-20 years. Alvin E. Thrasher, 22, of 10370 Oak Road was sentenced to 6-10 years. Each was credited with one day served.

Clements said at the sentencing that he was giving Paquette the longer term because he was the instigator of the attack and, unlike Thrasher, had a prior criminal record.

The jury, at the conclusion of the four-day trial, found both guilty of criminal sexual conduct (1st degree).

The woman, who was 4-5 months pregnant, had run out of gas March 28, north of Millington. She testified the pair picked her up, drove her into Vassar to buy a container of gasoline, then drove south into Arbol township, where they assaulted her.

In other court cases Monday:

Terry E. Brock, 20, of Sebewang, was sentenced to one year in the county jail for absconding while on

bond. He was credited with 98 days served.

Tuesday before Circuit Judge Patrick R. Joslyn, Brock was sentenced to six months in the county jail, concurrent with the other sentence, with credit given for 99 days served, for joy riding.

He was also placed on three years' probation, fined \$200, assessed \$200 court costs and ordered to pay restitution. He pleaded guilty Sept. 2 to the joy riding charge, for having driven away a truck-tractor June 10, 1979, in Indianfields township.

He was originally charged with unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle in connection with that incident but failed to appear for his trial Jan. 30. He was apprehended in Texas in July and waived extradition to Michigan.

Robert L. Trisch, 44, of 2633 W. Deckerville Road, Caro, stood mute to a charge of criminal sexual conduct. A plea of innocent was entered by Judge Clements, who scheduled a pretrial hearing Nov. 3. Bond was continued.

Trisch is charged in connection with a reported incident July 29 in Almer township involving a teenage girl.

Sara J. Sprague, 25, of Bay Port, stood mute to a charge of no account - check. A plea of innocent was entered, with pretrial hearing scheduled Nov. 3.

She is charged with cashing her personal check June 9 for \$35 at Bigelow's Hardware in Cass City, but not having a bank account.

William A. Enos, 24, of 427 Fremont Street, Caro, pleaded guilty to forgery. His plea was accepted and sentencing scheduled tentatively Dec. 1. Bond was continued.

He was charged with forging a check June 21, for \$100, paid to Barriger's Travel Stop at M-46 and M-24, south of Caro.

Keith A. Basherian, 22, no available address, was placed on two years' probation for joy riding. He was also sentenced to 60 days in the county jail, with credit for 26 days served, fined \$200, assessed \$200 and ordered to pay restitution of \$3,500.

He was charged with driving away a 1980 car from Fred Jones Chevrolet in Vassar.

Lenn G. Doyle, 22, of O'Brien Road, Mayville, was sentenced to one year in the county jail for breaking and entering a motor vehicle and unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle. He was credited with 10 days served.

The first charge involved entering a Juniata Baptist church bus Jan. 17; the second, driving away a van belonging to the church.

The sentence is concurrent with one he received Oct. 14 from Circuit Judge Norman A. Baguley of one year in jail for delivery of marijuana.

Michael E. Phelps, 22, of 2760 Phelps Lake Road, Mayville, stood mute to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and possession of a firearm in com-

mission of a felony. A plea of innocent was entered and pretrial hearing scheduled Nov. 3. Bond was continued.

He is charged with an assault Sept. 27 on James Harmon in Dayton Township.

William R. Vandenbergueury, 18, of Roseville, was sentenced to one year in the county jail for receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100. He was credited with 32 days served.

He pleaded guilty to the charge Oct. 6, of possessing some stolen motorcycle parts July 23 in Vassar township.

Business women have calendars

Twenty-three members attended the Oct. 15 meeting of the Cass City Business and Professional Women's Club.

President Antoinette Stachura called the business meeting to order, which opened with the pledge to the flag.

Gloria Hartwick, calendar chairperson, distributed the 1981 calendars to members with the request that they have distribution and collection completed by the November meeting.

The president discussed

the proposals on the Nov. 4 ballot. Leota Anthes reported on the district meeting held Oct. 13.

Nina Davis, activities chairperson, showed bibs which members will be making for Provincial House patients.

Oct. 19-25 is Business and Professional Women's Week and the local club has a display this week in the Clothes Closet window.

The meeting adjourned with the emblem benediction.

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