

'C' would hurt school's quality — Runkel

Public schools in the tri-county area would lose nearly \$200 million in revenue if Proposal C is approved Nov. 6, the state's top school official contends.

Phillip E. Runkel, state superintendent of public instruction, said the 86 school districts in this area could lose \$197.7 million in state school aid and local tax revenues this year and next if "Voter's Choice" passes.

"Those revenue cuts would have a significant impact on the quality of education in our state," Runkel said.

At news conferences Monday and Tuesday at the intermediate school district offices in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, Runkel estimated the negative impact on all state districts would be nearly \$500 million in the 1984-85 and 1985-86 school years.

"I'm not telling people how to vote,

but I think they should know what the facts are," said Runkel, who was supported at the press conferences by representatives of the Michigan Education Association and Michigan Federation of Teachers.

PROPOSAL C WOULD amend the state constitution to roll back all taxes passed since the end of 1981 but not approved by the voters. It would require voter approval for new taxes, increases and shifts; limit city non-resident income taxes to 0.5 percent; and require a four-fifths vote of a legislative body to increase such fees as tuition.

Its backers say Proposal C would help schools by requiring that funds raised for education go for education.

They contend the Michigan Legislature's appropriations for education have declined as a share of the state budget.

The twin results, according to C's backers: higher property taxes at the local level and higher tuitions for college students.

But Runkel said passage of the amendment would result in the layoff of more than 10,000 classroom teachers. He said in the period 1974-85, the state has reduced its number of teachers from 94,000 to 74,000.

The educator said Michigan is now third in the nation in pupil-teacher ratio. "If this is passed, we would have the worst pupil-teacher ratio in the na-

tion because we'd be laying off teachers to balance the budget."

RUNKEL SAID proposal would cut sales tax revenue earmarked for school aid. It also would affect school districts' ability to provide education by rolling back all Truth in Taxation property-tax millages approved by school boards since 1981, he explained.

He predicted a "greater shift to property tax and less support for equity. The poorer districts will get poorer and there will be less opportunities for young people."

"Anyone who thinks Proposal C would be good for the public education doesn't know what they're talking about," said Runkel. "Proposal C would

cause terrible cuts in education."

The state school superintendent said reductions in both state school aid and property tax revenue for area schools would be the following if Proposal C passes:

- Oakland — \$10,821,700 in 1984-85, \$53,602,900 in 1985-86.
- Macomb — \$7,305,400 in 1984-85, \$30,851,200.
- Wayne — \$23,141,600 in 1984-85, \$71,964,700.

ALSO CONCERNED about a shift to more reliance on the property tax is William Keane, superintendent of Oakland Schools. As head of the Oakland Intermediate School District, he works with 28 districts in the county — some

of which rely on state aid to operate their schools.

"We don't want the burden of supporting schools placed on property tax," he said.

"We would revert back to primordial times when districts that are poor were discriminated against. Citizens can give it back at the polls, but I don't see how that would happen."

WAYNE COUNTY Intermediate District Superintendent William Simmons said the proposal would affect all services — from schools to libraries. And he's concerned about that.

"Our schools don't function well without good municipal services. This is a total turnabout in our way of providing services," he added.

Wayne County enters Vista overcharge lawsuit

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Splitting along racial lines, the Wayne County Commission last week took the first step toward joining Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn's federal court suit to recover triple damages against Detroit's Water and Sewer Department.

"This suit ought to be pursued for the benefit of all users, including those in the city of Detroit — not just western Wayne customers," said Commissioner Mary Dumas, R-Livonia, who proposed joining the suit.

But the suburbanite was unable to convince black commissioners from Detroit. One, Arthur Carter, denounced the suit as "just another attempt to usurp the responsibilities of the city of Detroit," likening the Oakland suit to "invading Saudi Arabia to take its oil."

DUMAS' RESOLUTION was passed 9-4 by the commission sitting as a committee of the whole. One member was absent and one abstained.

Seven suburban commissioners — including Richard Manning, D-Redford, Kay Beard, D-Inkster, Milton Mack, D-Wayne, and Dumas — were joined by John Hertel, D-Harper Woods, whose district is two-thirds in Detroit, and Stanley Rozyccki, whose district is entirely in Detroit.

Kuhn, who did not attend the meeting, said in a telephone interview he was "tremendously pleased" that Wayne County was joining the effort. "We now have 98 percent (of suburban

'This suit ought to be pursued for the benefit of all users, including those in the city of Detroit — not just western Wayne customers.'

— Mary Dumas,
county commissioner

customers) lined up to join the suit."

Detroit has made 17 contracts to treat wastewater of communities in three counties. As Oakland drain commissioner, Kuhn administers four of them, with 39 percent of the wastewater flow.

Wayne County has two contracts on behalf of suburban communities on the Middle Rouge River and the northeast suburbs. They provide more than 33 percent of the flow. A few individual communities, including Redford Township, have their own contracts and are expected to join the suit.

Philip G. Tannian, heading a battery of five attorneys for the plaintiffs, said the U.S. District Court would prefer to see all customers of Detroit join a single suit. "There are 17 contracts out there. Should you try to litigate this 17 times or just once?" Tannian asked rhetorically, indicating the court would rather try it once.

THE CASE grew out of the celebrat-

ed Vista Disposal case, in which Detroit Water and Sewer Department Director Charles Beckham and several disposal company figures were convicted under federal bribery and racketeering laws.

Without citing an exact dollar figure, Kuhn seeks to recover the amount of Vista's overcharges for sludge hauling under conditions of no competitive bidding. Kuhn charges Beckham and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young passed the overcharges onto suburban customers.

Involved are 3,000 tons daily of sewage treatment plant wastes known as "sludge," Tannian said. With 365 days in a year, that amounts to nearly 1.1 million tons annually. The alleged

abuses occurred over 5 1/2 years, according to Tannian's court complaint. That multiplies to out more than six million tons.

If Vista overcharged by \$38 per ton, as alleged by Commissioner Hertel, something like \$230 million in overcharges could be involved.

Suing under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Kuhn is asking triple damages be paid to all the plaintiff customers — up to \$690 million.

BLACK COMMISSIONERS asked that a decision on joining the suit be delayed until Detroit officials have had a chance to respond.

Plymouth-Canton drops from top 10

Two Wayne County suburbs — Livonia and Melvindale — were among the 10 hottest spots for new housing construction in southeastern Michigan during the first half of 1984.

It was the first time since the middle 1970s that Livonia had been in the top 10. Such previous leaders as Canton and Plymouth townships showed some activity but weren't among the regional leaders.

Combined, the local governments of seven metropolitan counties issued permits for 5,971 housing units — a 57 percent increase over the first half of 1983.

But it was still only half the peak of

13,560 permits in the first half of 1978, after which the bottom dropped out of the housing market.

FIGURES ON building permits for single-family and multiple residences, offset by demolitions, were compiled by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments from reports of local building authorities.

Detroit continued to be a big loser, with 10 new permits and 1,515 demolitions for a net loss of 1,505 housing units.

Top 10 communities in southeastern Michigan in terms of issuance of building permits were:

- Rochester Hills (formerly Avon Township), 538;
- Sterling Heights, 455;
- Wixom, 443; Farmington Hills, 350;
- Waterford Township, 321.
- Novi, 246;
- Clinton Township, 243;
- Troy, 230;
- Livonia, 203;
- and Melvindale, 200.

The top 10 issued more than 54 percent of all the building permits in the region. Of the communities, six are in Oakland County, two in Macomb and two in Wayne.

WAYNE COUNTY suburbs reported:

Canton Township — 102 single-family units, two multiples, two demolitions, net of 102 units.

Garden City — one single-family unit, one demolition, net of zero.

Livonia — 167 single-family units, 36 multiples, four demolitions, net of 199 new units.

City of Plymouth — three single-family units, six multiples, one demolition, net of nine units.

Plymouth Township — 50 single-family units.

Redford Township — four single-family units.

City of Westland — 16 single-family units, eight multiples, net of 24 units.

neighbors on cable

Channel 15
MONDAY (Oct. 29)

- 1 p.m. . . . Total Fitness — Jackie Starr demonstrates aerobics.
- 1:30 p.m. . . . Hamtramck Sports Talk — Part I of Chuck Spieser, former pro boxer.
- 2 p.m. . . . Cooking With Cas — Cas prepares "Enraged Pasta."
- 2:30 p.m. . . . Prescription For Health — Host Betty Jean Rivkin.
- 3 p.m. . . . Hamtramck Rotary Presents.
- 3:30 p.m. . . . Beat of the City.
- 4 p.m. . . . MESC Job Show — "Energy Assurance" information on the various programs offered by the utility companies to the unemployed and low income. Also a brief demonstration of products to help reduce energy use and local job listings with Jeff Tressler.
- 4:30 p.m. . . . Sandy Show — Host Sandy Preblich gets a perm when she visits the Plymouth-Canton School of Hair Design.
- 5 p.m. . . . Marching Band Competition — Andover and Dondero perform at last year's state marching band competition at Plymouth Centennial Educational Park (CEP).
- 5:30 p.m. . . . Human Images — Discussion of anorexia and how guest Mary Conklin overcame it. Hosted by CEP Psychology Club.
- 6:30 p.m. . . . Perspective — Interview with physician poet.
- 7 p.m. . . . Canton Eagle Presents — A debate featuring candidates for Canton Township Supervisor.
- 7:30 p.m. . . . Get On Board.
- 8 p.m. . . . 1st Presbyterian Church of Northville Presents "A Celebration."
- 9 p.m. . . . Friends & Neighbors — Storyteller with "The Haunting of Sam Tarver" and "The Black Toe."
- 9:30 p.m. . . . Plymouth/Canton Isshinryu — Part II of the ninth AOKA Isshinryu Grand Nationals at Plymouth Canton High School with commentary by Sam Santilli.

TUESDAY (Oct. 30)

- 1 p.m. . . . School Daze.
- 1:30 p.m. . . . Psychic Sciences — Guest Sol Lewis, director of the Michigan Metaphysical Society, talks about psychometry.
- 2 p.m. . . . League of Women Voters (LWV) Debate — Candidates for the 2nd Congressional District lead off this program followed by candidates for Wayne County Commission.
- 3:30 p.m. . . . Omnicon Game of the Week — Women's varsity basketball action featuring Plymouth Salem Rocks vs. Plymouth Canton Chiefs. Play-by-play by WSDP's Doug Grannon and John Sodelman.
- 5 p.m. . . . LWV Debate — Candidates for 35th District Judge and for 36th House District express their views.
- 7 p.m. . . . LWV Debate — Candidates for Canton Township offices debate issues followed by candidates for 37th District of Michigan House.
- 9:30 p.m. . . . Youth View — Don Faber of the Ann Arbor News talks about his recent trip to the USSR. Christian music videos.

WEDNESDAY (Oct. 31)

- 1 p.m. . . . Human Images.

- 2 p.m. . . . Perspective.
- 2:30 p.m. . . . Canton Eagle Presents: Canton Supervisor Debates.
- 3 p.m. . . . Get on Board.
- 3:30 p.m. . . . 1st Presbyterian Church of Northville Presents "A Celebration."
- 4:30 p.m. . . . Friends & Neighbors.
- 5 p.m. . . . Plymouth/Canton Isshinryu.
- 5:30 p.m. . . . Total Fitness.
- 6 p.m. . . . Hamtramck Sports Talk.
- 6:30 p.m. . . . Cooking With Cas.
- 7 p.m. . . . Prescription for Health.
- 7:30 p.m. . . . Hamtramck Rotary Presents.
- 8 p.m. . . . Beat of the City.
- 8:30 p.m. . . . MESC Job Show.
- 9 p.m. . . . Sandy Show.
- 9:30 p.m. . . . Marching Band Competition.

CHANNEL 8

MONDAY (Oct. 29)

- 6 p.m. . . . It's A Woman's World — Connie Smigelski from Connie's Old Village Sausage Shop in Old Village of Plymouth, and Dr. Carol Geake, a veterinarian, are guests.
- 6:30 p.m. . . . Psychologically Speaking — Dr. Robert Goodwin talks with guest Joyce Gall about psychic uses in counseling.
- 7 p.m. . . . Tell Me A Story — Gina talks about houses and where things live and reads two Dr. Seuss stories.
- 7:30 p.m. . . . The Razor's Edge — A special program about the currently released movie by the same title.
- 8 p.m. . . . Healthcize — Margaret Jenner discusses health with Joan Rose of Rose Chiropractic Center in Ann Arbor. Also more exercise with Joan Akey.
- 9 p.m. . . . Spotlight on You — Personal Living: Medical self-help store guest Mary Jane Dillon; Home Living: Christmas decorating with Dian Smith, owner of Dian's Fabric & Quilts; Concepts of Living: Christmas shopping with guest Don Bush of Busher Jewelers in Plymouth.
- 9:30 p.m. . . . Single Touch LIVE — Information for and about singles in the Plymouth-Canton area on this live call-in show with J.P. McCarthy and special guest host.

TUESDAY (Oct. 30)

- 7 p.m. . . . Cinematique — Johnny Midnight reviews the following movies on Family Home Theater this month: "A Star is Born," "It's in the Bag" and "Swing Hi, Swing Lo."
- 7:30 p.m. . . . The Oasis — Comedy variety with special guest Tom Fredricks.
- 8 p.m. . . . The Food Chain — Debi Silverman discusses issues on health, nutrition and fitness.
- 8:30 p.m. . . . Belleville BPW Presents — A representative from the League of Women Voters discusses the ballot proposals voters will see on Nov. 6. Also, Dorothy Haener, a member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, speaks to the club.
- 9:30 p.m. . . . Single Touch — J.P. McCarthy and Dana Vonweber talk with Frankie Alessandrini and Jocelyn Carpenter. Footage from Frankie's Nightclub in Livonia.

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