CURTISS: TISCH A "MEAT AXE" TAX SOLUTION

Charles B. Curtiss pays one of the highest residential tax bills in Bay City. He's the type of voter Robert Tisch is trying to attract with his proposal D on the November ballot.

But Curtiss, who has studied all aspects of the Tisch proposal carefully, has concluded that proposal D takes a "meat axe" approach to stemming the tide of high property taxes.

And because he's also chairman of the SVSC Board of Control, Curtiss is worried that taxpayers, desperate for any solution to ever-skyrocketing taxes, could cripple or even endanger vital state services such as higher education if they vote for proposal D.

"Tisch would cut 62% of the state general fund money available for things like mental health, public health, corrections, the judiciary system, social services and higher education. Many people have told me they want to cut the cost of things like welfare and ADC, but proposal D simply isn't a rational way to send that message to legislatures and state officials."

"I think we'd be throwing out the baby with the bathwater by enacting Tisch, which would leave only $1.2 billion in state general fund discretionary money versus the present $3.2 billion."

According to him, our next decision would be which services to axe in order to balance the budget with two billion fewer dollars.

"Obviously such things as corrections can't be cut much or we'd have prisoners out in the streets. The lean state economy has already pared any fat from budgets this past year, so we couldn't take much from corrections or mental health, the state police or other vital services."

"There's always social services, where the state spent $1.07 billion in direct aid this past year. Even if we eliminated all Medicaid, general assistance, ADC and other social services costs, which some people would prefer to do, we'd only be cutting out half of what Tisch would require from the state budget."

"Another problem is that $870 million of that $1.07 billion for social services is matched on a one-to-one basis by the federal government. Thus Michigan would actually be losing twice as much money in those categories as we'd be cutting from social services," Curtiss points out.

One misnomer Tisch has caused is his statement that the $2 billion cut proposal D would bring is "only 20% of the state budget." Curtiss emphasizes that while the total budget is $10.3 billion, $2.5 billion of that is federal aid, not general revenue sharing, and is earmarked for special purposes such as transportation and roads.

"The federal government would not allow Michigan to take 20% of the road money and use it in public health. The state has no discretion on federal or other mandated funds."

That leaves $7.8 billion, which is all of the revenue collected by the state from all sources. The 1978 Headlee Amendment to the constitution dictates that 41.6% of this total state money must go to local units of government, including K-12 education, community colleges, cities, villages, townships and counties. That subtracts $3.1 billion, leaving $4.5. "But state employee and school teacher pensions, debt service for such things as the Vietnam veterans' bonus fund and other constitutionally mandated items like the gas tax must be subtracted from the $4.5 billion, leaving a grand total of $3.2 billion."
"The reimbursement to local units required by Tisch would total just over $2 billion, leaving just $1.2 billion for 18 state government departments. That's a 60% reduction, and for higher education, the result would be a loss of more than 50% of all revenue to the institutions."

Curtiss also cautions that because the intent of Tisch is to prohibit increases in user fees such as tuition without 60% approval of the state-wide electorate, colleges like SVSC would be hamstring in their attempt to make up the monies lost if proposal D passes.

"In the case of SVSC, we estimate tuition would have to increase from the present $30.50 to about $89 per credit, assuming that enrollment stayed at current levels. But with an increase like that, many students would be priced out of the market and enrollment would probably drop markedly, forcing a need for even higher tuition. The college, however, could not do this without that 60% voter approval state wide."

The Tisch proposal D would reduce property tax assessments by one-half, from 50% to 25% of true cash value and would also roll back property values to 1978 levels. For the future, annual increases in home and farm property values would be limited to 2%, which Curtiss says is "extremely unrealistic" when considering recent inflation levels. Because there would be no replacement revenues for state or local services and the state would be forced to give up more than $2 billion of its current budget to local units, the result would be "catastrophic," Curtiss contends.

A joint statement recently issued by the Presidents Council of State Colleges and Universities and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Michigan says that "the Tisch proposal, if adopted, would be devastating for all of Michigan's colleges and universities."

While Curtiss would like to see his property taxes reduced, he doesn't feel that proposal D is the way to do it. "The current state budget is already in trouble because of reduced state revenues caused by the economic recession. This past year the "rainy day" budget stabilization fund and $100 million in late cuts kept the budget balanced. For the next budget year, though, no "rainy day" money is left. The budget will have to be at least $60 million less than current spending, and some Lansing insiders are talking about more than a $200 million cut. This will be the first time since 1939 that the total actual dollar budget for the coming year is smaller than that of the current year."

"Add to that the 15% inflation rate, and you'll see that there's already a $600-$700 million cut in real programs in next year's budget. Michigan won't have enough money even to keep up with inflation. In fact, it won't be able to keep up with last year's budget."

Because Curtiss has seen SVSC grow more than 11% in head count again this year, he feels this growth plus inflation make necessary a substantial budget increase rather than a 60% or greater cut. That's why he'll be voting against proposal D, even though it would save him more money than almost any other residential taxpayer in Bay City.

JAZZ IT UP WITH MAYNARD FERGUSON!

Master of trumpet, Ferguson and his band will be in concert at SVSC on Sunday, October 5. Tickets for the 8:00 p.m. performance are $7. Phone orders will be accepted until October 3 with tickets available at the door. Call SVSC campus activities at ext. 4260 for information or reservations.

Be at the SVSC Cardinal gymnasium at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, October 5 for Ferguson-brand jazz!

NEW DIRECTORY - NEW LOOK

By now, you should have received your copy of the 1980-81 SVSC faculty & staff directory. Several new features have been added to this edition, so it can serve as a quick reference for college policies and procedures as well as providing names and phone numbers of SVSC personnel.

Included is information about our adverse weather policy, instructions for use of the Dimension phone system, a listing of college administrators and department chairmen, and
an organizational chart. The last two pages contain an academic calendar for the 1980-81 year (including scheduled holidays) and a listing of forms which are used on campus. While it is not comprehensive, the forms list should help to point you in the right direction if you have work to process.

Please check the directory for accuracy and report any changes, updates or suggestions to the office of information services. We will note corrections and additions in the Interior throughout the year, and include them in next year's directory. If your directory hasn't been received or your office needs additional copies, please phone the Mail Room at ext. 4278 or Information Services at ext. 4054.

LEE NAMED SPECIAL ASSISTANT

Guy M. Lee, Jr. has been named special assistant to the president and director of affirmative action. His promotion, announced recently by president Jack M. Ryder, will increase Lee's responsibilities in areas of federal relations.

He will also coordinate SVSC's efforts in local governmental relations and in special projects assigned by the president.

Lee, who has been with SVSC since 1970, will continue to play a major role in assuring compliance with affirmative action, title IX and sections 503 and 504 for the handicapped.

Lee is a native of East Chicago, Indiana, and earned a doctor of education degree in administration and supervision from Ball State University, after earlier graduating from Roosevelt and Indiana universities. He was a teacher and administrator in the Gary, Indiana, school system for 14 years before coming here.

He is a professor of education and teaches graduate courses in educational administration and supervision. Previously he has been director of student teaching, acting director of personnel, associate dean of the school of education and administrative assistant to the president. In addition, he serves on the president's executive committee. Lee and his wife Gertrude are Saginaw residents.

NEW PUBLICATIONS REQUEST FORMS AVAILABLE

A new publications request form is available from the office of information services for publications such as brochures, posters, flyers and other printed items which are for off-campus distribution. College policy states that all publications which represent SVSC to the public or have an off-campus audience be ordered through the office of information services, which handles arrangements with area commercial printers.

If you are preparing a publication which will be printed on-campus at the graphics center but involves a complicated lay-out, you may submit a publications request form for help in producing the original type or art work. It is not necessary to contact the office of information services (or submit a publications request) if you prepare your own original master. Simply submit your master and a graphics center job ticket to the graphics center. Please note that the office of information services is not a typing service and internal publications of a routine nature should be prepared by the individual office or department and sent directly to the graphics center.

A new automated copy center machine with 80-bin collator has just been placed in operation at the graphics center for faster and higher quality service on 8-1/2 x 11 printing of one or more pages and 10 or more copies. Call Lindy Babcock, publications designer, at ext. 4056 for copies of the publication request form, for information about off-campus printing or with technical questions about preparing on-campus printing jobs. Please phone the graphics center at ext. 4492 about the new copy center service.

ALL-SPORTS PASSES STILL AVAILABLE

All-sports passes for SVSC employees are still available for pickup in the business services office between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Each full-time SVSC employee is entitled to one free pass, which covers admission to all home sports events during fall semester. Home football games are scheduled for September 27, October 4, October 18, October 25 and November 15.
CAMPUS NOTES --

--Again this fall, Davis road will be closed to north-south through traffic going past the SVSC campus during college football games. To insure spectator safety as persons cross Davis road from SVSC's parking lot to Cardinal football stadium, the road will be closed from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays when home football games are played.

Barricades will be set up at Pierce road and College drive east, and motorists will have to detour west of the football area through the campus. Dates when Davis road will be closed are Saturday, September 27, October 4, 18 and 25 and November 15.

--Professor of art Barron Hirsch currently has a one-man exhibit at the Alma College Art Gallery. The show, which will run through October 15, is composed of mixed media drawings using intaglio plates, transfer prints, graphite and collage. During recent months, Hirsch has had displays at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Flint Institute, Midland Center for the Arts and the Kalamazoo Art Institute.

--All college personnel with calendar requests for 1981 are asked to contact the Business Services office at ext. 4101 to place orders for daily calendar and appointment books. All such orders must be received by Oct. 15.

--Physicians, therapists, nurses, technicians, dietitians, and social workers will be meeting here on campus Friday, Oct. 10 for a seminar on treatment of cystic fibrosis. Health professionals will be shown how the patient benefits if they combine efforts as a health care team in treating CF, a terminal lung disease. Continuing education credit will be granted by SVSC or MSU. Health professionals seeking more information may contact Dr. Evelyn Gilbert, program coordinator, at 793-8383.

PERSONNEL

GRAPHIC ARTS SUPERVISOR - Full-time, permanent (replacement). Salary negotiable.

SENIOR BOOKSTORE ASSISTANT - Part-time, permanent (replacement). $4.05 per hour.

These positions will be open to members of the campus community for one week. Interested persons should contact the Personnel Office at ext. 4108.

SVSC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and is non-discriminatory in its policies and practices.