

## Government in 1975 - And Highlights of Local News

In November 1974 the people of Michigan voted to repeal the Sales Tax Law on food and drugs beginning January 1, 1975. All food and drugs purchased for on premise consumption, such as from vending machines, restaurants, etc., is taxable.

To make up for the loss of revenue the State must Derive this tax from another source. A .7% increase in State income tax became law May 1, 1975.

On February 17, 1975 a Legislative breakfast was held at the Holiday Inn with a record attendance.

Sen. Derezinski, Rep. Cawthorne, Rep. Geerlings and Rep. Hasper represented the panel. Each gave a five minute talk before a question and answer period. Many subjects were discussed such as lottery, money, education, taxation and unemployment. An excellent meeting with Legislators.

The first of the year the automotive companies started laying off thousands of employees for lack of sales which then created mass unemployment in Michigan. The news media and people in general discussed the situation at length, but Mr. Harry Hall, President of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce wrote an editorial in February saying that everything was not doom and gloom as 85 million people are still employed and 3.5 million of them in Michigan. "Start acclaiming our advantages" he says.

On February 24, 1975 Representative Cawthorne charged some state lawmakers with "complacency" in a call for internal reform of the state legislature this year.

On March 26, 1975 the Michigan Legislature gave final approval to a bill making permanent the 55 miles per hour maximum speed limit. The State must adopt the permanent 55 m.p.h. by June 20th or lose \$200 Million in Federal highway funds.

One Sunday in April our one and only 8-story Occidental Hotel met its end with 480# of dynamite to make way for progress and the new Mall. Its location at 3rd & Clay has since been paved and is being used for a parking lot.

On May 14th our City Manager, Mr. Frederick, spoke at Women's Division meeting about the progress of our downtown Mall. He said, as of that day, everything was on schedule and that the Mall's final completion date is March 15, 1976. 80% of the smaller stores are rented at this time and everything is in good shape he said. Needless to say everyone was elated.

On May 14, 1975 the Muskegon City Commission voted and granted to the North Star Steel Mill the permits it needed from the City to build a \$50 Million mini steel mill in Lakeside. The building of the Mill did not materialize however, and because of the controversy involved and the time lag to get permits from the State for off-shore fill, the North Star Steel Mill Company declined the invitation to locate in Muskegon. It, therefore, later became the top news item in Muskegon for 1975.

As of June 1, 1975 the Muskegon Bank & Trust Company elected to their Board of Directors the first woman ever to become a Bank Director in this area - Dora Peterson - a Women's Division member.