

Livonia Solon Ramrodding Action On House Measures

By DON HOENSHELL
Of Panax Newspapers

LANSING — Rep. Marvin R. Stempien (D-Livonia) has taken over the majority floor leadership in the House to ramrod action on a bumper crop of bills.

He took over after a week in which the House voted on 30 bills and stepped up production to 131 in five days.

Montgomery Candidate

Stempien filled the leadership vacuum on the floor after Rep. George F. Montgomery (D-Detroit) became a Democratic candidate for Governor.

Jacobetti To Push NMU Legislation

LANSING — Rep. Dominic J. Jacobetti (D-Negaunee) moved quickly to get a House vote on a bill giving Northern Michigan University ordinance-making powers to keep order on the campus.

The move came shortly after President John X. Jamrich ordered student fire arms banned from the campus.

Jacobetti's bill, which now meets state police objections, was deep down in a logjam of bills on the House calendar waiting to go on the debate schedule.

"I'm going to get it moved up for quicker action now that the need has been made so clear," Jacobetti said.

It originally was drafted at the request of Jamrich and the Northern Michigan board as a means of enforcing no-smoking rules in buildings and of setting up a checkout system for hunting rifles.

Gov. Milliken backed Jamrich's order, describing it as "sound." He described Northern Michigan's concern as a rarity — located in a hunting area where it is common for students to carry hunting arms.

Approval Expected
Backers of the bill in the House said they expected some debate but little trouble in getting the 56 votes needed to send it to the Senate.

Acting Lt. Gov. Thomas F. Schweigert (D-Potosky), whose Senate district covers part of the U. P., said he would support the bill when it came to the Senate.

"I don't see why the board shouldn't have the authority to make rules and regulations for the campus," Schweigert said.

"Without it they couldn't even control traffic, parking and speeding." It seems to me that they should have that authority, I assumed they already had it."

Jacobetti said the bill would also be operative as a means to impose penalty for any damage to public buildings perpetrated by students.

Speaker William A. Ryan (D-Detroit) has his hands full with other duties.

It was learned that the Democratic caucus turned over the floor job to Stempien without changing his title from assistant floor leader to jar loose the logjam and get the House moving.

"It's a real job and I love it," Stempien said.

"I wasn't able to do it until our majority floor leader (Montgomery) became a candidate. As his assistant it became obvious that he wouldn't have time to do the job he wants to do."

Budget Up For Debate

As floor leader, Stempien rounds up the strays at roll-call, makes certain sponsors are ready to talk on their bills and jacks up committees to act on legislation and get it to the floor.

Stempien has scheduled the massive \$1,724,000,000 executive budget for floor debate this week. The first bill hit the floor Monday night and everything will be ready for action later this week.

But can the House keep up a schedule to clear the calendar and wind up its business in time for the June 26 date for adjournment?

100 Bills A Week
"I think we can," Stempien said. "We'll have to average 100 bills a week.

The time approach to scheduling is that it has human beings we're dealing with. Some members have outside obligations, some are older and need rest, others have problems that require them to get away from the Legislature."

"I've developed a scheduling process that tries to meet these human needs. We'll have time now without wearing the members to a frazzle."

"You can't run a Legislature on the basis of what is humanly possible."

Procedure Up To Him

The caucus has given Stempien carte blanche on procedure. He said it is a device to cut down on long floor debates over when to recess and other time-consuming matters.

"They've given me the benefit of the doubt on procedure," Stempien said. "I feel that I have their confidence, that they know I will consider their own needs."

As long as I keep producing and as long as I keep their confidence, I'll keep the 56 votes (needed for passage). That's the key."

The result, he said, is that members stay in their seats through the debates. They know the calendar is moving and so long as it does they'll maintain their interest.

101 In Seats Within Minutes
Stempien sent out the call on one day when a quorum was lacking and within minutes 101 members were in their seats with nine absentees, a near record during debate.

"Sometimes we have to go get 'em," he said.

And Stempien has learned about the whimsies and the personal problems of the membership, both Republicans and Democrats.

One representative is an insomniac so Stempien holds his bills until after 4 p.m. when he is at his best. Some tend to wander, unable to sit for hours of session. Stempien keeps track of these votes.

Tease 'Whips' Help Him
Others have offices near the floor and disappear during a dull moment to get other work done. Stempien knows where they are and how to get them in to press their voting button on time.

Helping Stempien are three majority whips, Reps. James E. O'Neil (D-Saginaw), Warren Goemaere (D-Roseville), and Raymond W. Hood (D-Detroit).

"Each of them has a sector and each makes certain their members are ready for debate and for the votes," Stempien said.

"Efficiency Obvious"
Montgomery retains his title, but will not be back next year as a legislator, unless he changes his mind about running for Governor. He said: "I want to commend Stempien for ramrodding the work on the floor. The important



Arnold Bellis, as Dionysus, is exalted and worshipped by the chorus in a scene from Northern Michigan University production of "The Bacchae," which opens at 8:15 p.m. tonight in Forest

Roberts Theater. The production will run through Sat (NMU photo)

Euripides' 'The Bacchae' Opens Tonight At Northern

Northern Michigan University's presentation of Euripides' "The Bacchae," opening at 8:15 tonight, with curtain times at the same time through Saturday in the Forest Roberts Theater, will mark the final production of the 1969-70 drama season.

"This Greek masterpiece, with its unmatched dramatic turbulence and power, defies general commentary and must be experienced to be understood and appreciated, according to Director Jerome Cushman.

Again Relevant
With the tragic events evidenced throughout the world

being is to get the work done and get out of here. His efficiency is obvious."

Stempien now keeps a log on legislation, a running status of bills, and schedules them for debate, rounding up the sponsors — and keeping the wheels going.

"He's moving the calendar," Montgomery said.

Stempien, a Livonia lawyer, came to the Legislature in 1965, was defeated by former Rep. Louis Schmidt, a Republican, who served the next two years, then came back in 1969 or the present session.

Too Busy To Talk Politics

His performance during the waning weeks of the current session will be weighed when the next session chooses a speaker. Stempien is squelching all talk of that job now.

"Up to this time, there have been no Democratic candidates announcing against him in the primary. There have been rumbles that former Mayor Harvey Moelke will run as a Republican.

Stempien chooses not to talk politics now.

He's the new ramrod of the House of Representatives and he's too busy.

during the past few years, Greek tragedy has again become relevant and necessary. "The Bacchae" has been one of the most popular of the old Greek plays to receive adaptation and updating for production on film and in professional and college theaters across the nation.

The relevant issues, with which this play can be identified are many — polluted, civilized order versus the eruptive force of nature; tyranny versus anarchy; conservative versus liberal; male versus female; and the straight-laced versus the hippie.

But most important, the play deals with the tragedy of the over-reaction of both extremes and the Greek contention that moderation is best in all things. However, the play is not suggesting apathy, but rather, understanding.

White And Bellis

In "The Bacchae," the extremes are symbolized — Pentheus, played by Jim White, graduate student from Troy, as the over-reacting conservative young king of Thebes, and the young god of ecstasy and re-birth, Dionysus, played by Arnold Bellis, New York Freshman.

The Bacchae are the band of young followers of the

orgiastic god. These followers are the main characters in the tragedy, and it is their experiences and the audience's which brings the play to its full realization.

Tickets for this production may be purchased at the box office of Forest Roberts Theater. Reserved tickets will sell for \$1.50 each and student tickets for 50 cents. Reservations may be made by phone by calling 227-3553.

Kiwanians Hear Talk Wednesday By DeGabriele

ISHPEMING — In observance of Livelhood Day of Michigan Week, Jerry DeGabriele, manager of the Ishpeming office of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, will speak at the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club luncheon Wednesday in the Mather Inn.

The club also sponsors Livelhood Day poster with the winning post on display in the Mip National Bank & T lobby. Winners were Champion, National Y place; Timothy O'Brice, second place, and one, National Min place.

Wesley Wentela is Livelhood Day program.

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