

6/28/09

To Paul Roney

Paul, I hope you saw my letter to the editor today. But what I am writing about is what I found today in a book of newspaper clippings I compiled in the early 1990s, at the time of Lansing's infamous early retirement, when Mayor McKane and other officials took a bonus to retire. I was a member of the group "Concerned Citizens to Save Lansing" that supported Ken Vaughan's lawsuit against the City.

What I found is a 12/20/92 letter to the editor from you pointing out the additional injustice that those pensions would not be subject to the state income tax. You said that if government pensions were taxed at the same rate as private pensions, the state would gain \$130 million in revenue. You were ahead of me on this issue by about 15 years.

Too bad the Legislature corrected the inequity in 1974 by extending the exemption to private pensions.

I have a new website: steveharrypublicpolicy.com.

Steve