

Taxpayer's Suit Puts Freeze on Funds for Community College

Plans for the YU operated Mahoning County Community College hit a snag last week with the announcement by the State Board of Regents that a freeze has been put on all capital improvements for state-assisted higher education.

The action was taken as a result of a taxpayer's suit which questions the constitutionality of the \$250,000,000 state bond issue passed last November.

When the bill was passed it was left open to the Director of Finance to decide if it was necessary

to continue the penny per pack cigarette tax or to allocate interest from bonds in order to provide the revenue to support the capital improvements.

The taxpayer's suit charges "unlawful delegation of authority." A hearing scheduled for the Ohio Supreme Court on April 29 must decide whether this taxing authority can be placed on an individual rather than placed, exactly worded, to the electorate.

The freeze has halted building programs on all state university campuses. It has not affected Youngstown University to such a degree as yet because plans here

have not reached the stage where any of the allocated \$5,000,000 is necessary.

The recently elected board of directors for the community college has received \$1,200 in gifts to enable it to continue preliminary planning. The Marvin Itts Foundation donated \$500; the United Steelworkers Revolving Fund donated \$100 and Hutch Manufacturing Co. contributed \$500.

The board emphasized that it will continue to meet and develop the present planning stage. James Griffin, chairman of the board, has scheduled a meeting with University officials Monday.

They hope to formulate ideas on the basic facts about a community college's needs and requirements.