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Court waits for dealers to surrender

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Although arrest warrants were issued in November for two local auto dealers charged with stealing electricity and natural gas from Detroit Edison Co. and Consumers Power Co., both have yet to be arrested.

Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair issued arrest warrants on Oct. 26 and Nov. 14 for Robert (Saks) Mechigian, owner of Bob Saks Oldsmobile and Toyota in Farmington Hills and Robert Gillow, owner of Action Olds in Livonia. Both are charged with conspiring to defraud and defrauding Detroit Edison and Consumers Power, said Charles Marr, spokesman for the county prosecutor's office.

"I don't know when state police served them," Marr said. "That is something we have no control over." But Michigan State Police Intelligence Bureau Investigators in Livonia say both Mechigian and Gillow have failed to turn themselves over to authorities for arraignment in 16th District Court in Livonia.

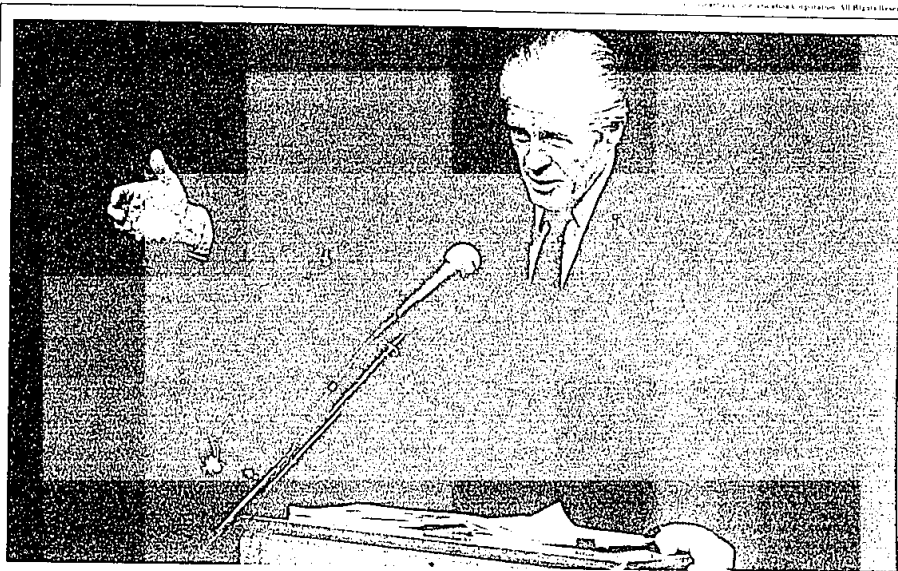
"They are supposed to turn them-

selves in," said a state police spokesman, adding that by Friday morning Gillow and Mechigian had not yet been arrested.

MECHIGIAN SAID he could not comment on the warrant for his arrest. Gillow could not be reached for comment.

Saying much of their investigation centered in Oakland County, state police say they are also waiting for the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office to take action. State police contacted Oakland County last summer with the evidence they had collected in the utilities tampering case. Officials in the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, however, failed to return telephone calls from the Observer & Eccentric newspapers regarding the case.

The state police spokesman also indicated that William Jones of Taylor, who pleaded guilty to tampering with meters last summer, is named as a co-conspirator with Mechigian and Gillow but was not charged. Last year, Jones was promised immunity from further prosecution in exchange for cooperating with investigators.



Former Governor George Romney tells students at Orchard Ridge campus his concept of rebuilding the nation's economy.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Reforms needed Romney tells OCC business class

By Tom Baer
staff writer

George Romney and Walter Reuther were discussing labor relations one day back in 1960.

"This policy of more and more for less and less is a dead-end street," Reuther, prominent labor leader and president of the United Auto Workers, was said to have told Romney, patron of the free-enterprise system and president of American Motors Corporation.

Out of those informal discussions 23 years ago came some enlightened labor relations, including an AMC profit-sharing program "to end this business of more and more for less and less," according to Romney, who left the private sector for Republican politics shortly thereafter.

George Romney — three-term governor of Michigan, one-time presidential candidate, secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Nixon cabinet and longtime resident of Bloomfield Hills — delivered that bit of labor history last Thursday when he addressed a business class at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

About 65 people, including the students in Harvey Bronstein's Introduction to business class, attended the talk. "I'm going to talk about this country and where it's going," said Romney, who turned 76 last July 8, before the address, which was held in the new Wallace Smith Performing Arts Theatre. "It's an extremely important subject."

automobile industry today — especially with respect to its competition from Japan — Romney, an early advocate of the small, energy-efficient car, called for "needed reforms involving national policy."

He said the reforms were needed to cut back on "excessive federal spending" and to eliminate special-interest groups, which "tend to dominate the Congress and federal government."

"The primary lesson I've learned from my participation in society is that we can't develop needed reforms without some kind of catastrophe happening first," Romney said. "Such reforms don't come easily."

Asked after the talk if he thought the reforms could be made, Romney said, "You can make me down as hopeful, but not optimistic."

Preaching the doctrines of "an economy based on competition" and "the ultimate power lays with the people instead of the government," Romney said that people today expect too much from politicians and political parties.

"We took off economically because our economy was based on competition," he said. "That was true until the 1930s."

But then, Franklin D. Roosevelt, faced with an economic depression, fostered "needed reforms in the area of collective bargaining," according to Romney.

"The reforms were needed, but unfortunately they led to sort of a monopoly of power for both management and labor."

CIRCUMCILING THE ills of the U.S.

Please turn to Page 10

Chamber chief speaks



JAMES BARRETT

Michigan Chamber of Commerce President James Barrett will be the featured speaker at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber luncheon at noon on Dec. 15 in the Botsford Inn.

Luncheon cost is \$10. Reservations can be made by calling Joann Soronen at 474-4440.

This is the chamber's Christmas luncheon.

Barrett has been with the State Chamber since 1971 and serves on the U.S. Chamber committee as an adviser on policy programs and publications.

Cable orientation set for residents

If you are interested in producing your own cable TV program, the first step is to attend one of two orientation meetings Dec. 12 in the MetroVision cable firm's studio.

The orientation program will be offered at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. and is open on a first-come, first-served basis, said Lark Samouelian, executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. Because only 50 seats are available, residents should call either Samouelian at 474-5500 or

MetroVision at 553-7300 for reservations.

SWOCC and MetroVision are coordinating both the orientation program as well as the workshops which residents may sign up for at the Dec. 12 meeting, Samouelian said.

During the orientation, Samouelian said, cable officials will describe and explain the TV studio's set-up, TV equipment and "the role of MetroVi-

business office.

Please turn to Page 8



An attentive students listen to former Governor George Romney talk about labor/management relationships

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Shift in district boundaries settled by state authorities

The state Board of Education will consider an appeal this week of a decision from the 1982 Oakland Intermediate School Board that denied the transfer of Walled Lake School District property to Farmington Hills.

Raymond Godmer, state hearing officer, recommends that Section 6 of Farmington Hills be transferred from Walled Lake to the Farmington School District.

The state board is expected to hear the appeal Tuesday and Wednesday. If

the eight-member state board reverses the county decision, then the Walled Lake district will have 70 days to respond to the action.

Transfer of the property to Farmington Hills would mean an annual tax revenue loss of about \$200,000, according to the Walled Lake schools' business office.

IN AN AUGUST letter to William Ralls, attorney for the Farmington

Hills' residents who requested the property transfer and subsequent appeal, Godmer said: "The geographic location of the area indicates that the transfer would enhance the socio-economic, educational interests of the petitioners and their children by being placed in the (Farmington Hills) district."

In 1981, University of Michigan professor Curtis Van Voorhees was asked by a Section 6 home developer to review the two districts to prove children

in Section 6 would receive a better education in the Farmington School District. However, the professor reported he could not prove Farmington schools were better than Walled Lake schools.

"When I consider my general observations, I found Walled Lake schools to be more exciting, more interested in positive change and more interested in children and the community," Van Voorhees said. "Each school (district) has its strengths and weaknesses."

what's inside

Calendar	6B
Editorials	7B
Inside Angles	3A
Obituaries	8A
Shopping Cart	Section B
Sports	Section C
Suburban Life	4, 5, 6B

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