County commissioners petition Lansing

Curtains for road commission?

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI
The Oakland County Board of Commissioners, in the words of one county
official, seria a "strong message" to
the state legislature by approving resclusions to abolish the independent
county road commission and the
parts and recreation commission.
The action came at the Board meetman was a strong to the state of the county of

"The ordinary citizens have been speaking up. They've been saying damn it, do some-

-Michael Niemann

able to get together and agree on that idea."
"The ordinary citizens have been speaking up. They've been saying damn it, do something," he added.

Commissioner Dennis M. Aaron (D-Oak Park) said, "The voters of this county voted for a unified form of government where all functions are carried on from one point." He added, "The voters . . want policy set by us (the commissioners) and the county executive."

commissioner Henry Hoot (R-Troy), however, disagreed, "Not one other county has adopted the unified county governent." He said it was weak in that it gave the county execu-tive more power than the county com-missioners.

"WE NEED balanced government," he said.

Moments following the approval of the suggestion to do away with the road commission, the board supported a move to do the same to the parks and recreation commission. One commissioner supported the motion saying reads and parks are two things which affect everyone in some way and as such should be accountable to the people.

The two proposed amendments to Public Act 139 would put the elected county executive in charge of each area. The suggested amendment passed the board by a 17-9 vote.

THE TWO VOTES LED to a direct TAB: TWO VOTES LED to a direct confrontation between the courty executive, Murphy, and a number of commissioners who felt he was assuming to much power. Commissioner Richard Wilcox (R-Brandon Township) even introduced a resolution to do away with the county executive altogether. That vote failed 18-8.

gener. Inst. vote taiget 18-8.
Commissioner Lawrence R. Pemick
(D-Southfield) and Hoot however, introduced resolutions cutting back Murphy's veto power. Section 11 of Public
Act 138 gives the county executive the
power to veto any ordinance or resolution approved by the board of commissioners. The board may override the
veto with a two-thirds vote of all the
members, however.

Pernick said, "The people of Oak-land County have been well served by the board of supervisors and the board of commissioners." He added, "As long as we're sending a message to Lansing let's tell' em the way it really is."

The board rejected Pernick's resolu-tion, 22-4. Only Commissioners Pa-trick K. Daly (D-Waterford), Betty Fortino (D-Waterford) and Kenneth Roth (D-Berkley) supported the mo-tion.

Moments later, however, Hoot introduced a watered-down version of the resolution. His version allowed the countly executive the power to veto any ordinance and any line-tiem appropriations. He opposed allowing the executive veto any resolution passed by the board. That motion was defeated in a 15-13 tie.

PERNICK CONTINUED to speak out against the concentration of any more power in Murphy's hands, though.

"The county executive feels he would do a better job than the independent mads and parks system. While in theory it may be true, everything he's touched has cost us more money." he said.

money." he said.

An Oakland County study revealed, however, that about \$500,000 could be instantly saved if the roads commission was abolished and their functions brought under the county executive, Niemann countered.

Permick also charged that Murphy's presence at this board of commissioners meeting affected a number of votes. Even though there was crossparty voting Permick said, "In the case of some Republicans, if the executive fand not been there, they would have voted differently."

"There's no balance of power be-tween the executive and legislative bodies when he's there and demon-strates he's going to use his political clout," he continued.

ciout," he continued.

Pernick said the system under which the board operates was bad. He said that even though the President and the governor may use their influence, they do not go on the floor of Congress or the state legisature.

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Village

Fire chiefs endorse home smoke detectors

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The devices sell for between \$30 and All the devices sell for between \$40 and All the devices sell for between \$40 and All the first bea

\$40. Before you purchase a unit, the chiefs' association suggests a few buy-

chiefs' association suggests a few buying tips:

Consider the type of battery in battery-powered units. Purchase a unit
that uses a readily available battery.

If the unit is the type that requires
wiring into a bouseabled current, have
a licensed electrician do the job.

Consider an ionization type model
which will react to fires that originate

tested by a reliable testing agency.

After you install your detector don't forget to test the unit periodically as recommended by the manufacturer.

And inform your local fire department if the unit operates for any rea

ment if the timit operates for any rea-son. The chief's association also advises everyone to devise an evacuation plan, which includes two ways out of all areas of the home, and a pre-ar-ranged meeting place outside to ac-count for all family members.

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For further informa-tion, contact Shaw's ad-missions office, 7351 Woodward, or call 873-7920.

Students, Aug. 20, to acquaint prospective due some with the programs and activities.

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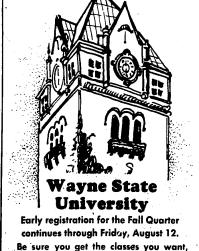
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