

Dem gubernatorial candidates say no to legalized wiretapping, 3-1

By TIM RICHARD

Although a bill to allow some wire tapping is being pushed vigorously by a Democratic legislator, three of four candidates for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination oppose wiretaps.

The measure has passed the house under the prodding of State Rep. Paul Rosenbaum (D-Battle Creek), who is expected to seek his party's U.S. Senate nomination this year. It would allow some wiretaps in efforts to get at heroin dealers.

Only State Sen. Patrick McCullough (D-Deerborn) among the gubernatorial candidates backed it when they appeared recently before the Farmington and Southfield Democratic clubs.

Zelton Ferency and William Ralls were opposed. State Sen. William Fitzgerald (D-Detroit) was wary of the bill in its original form. Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen arrived late and didn't get to respond.

"NARCOTICS are a cancer eating at our young people," said Fitzgerald. "Tough measures enjoy wide support in the legislature."

"But I'm very nervous—we don't have to tread on the right to privacy. Wiretapping is very dangerous. It's already allowed by federal courts."

"And to give 83 county prosecutors authority... I'm afraid enough of Brooks Patterson," he said, referring to the Oakland County prosecutor.

and Senate hopeful who takes tough stands on crime.

"I CHASTISE Paul Rosenbaum for even suggesting such legislation," Ferency almost shouted.

The professor of criminal justice at Michigan State University denounced "the myth of the pusher" as a "political code word."

Ferency said organized crime is behind narcotics because "it pays. We should take narcotics out of the criminal justice system and put it in the social-medical system."

"Look to the addict," he added. "We don't teach police what to do with drug addicts except to lock them up."

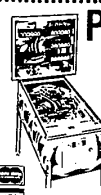
RALLS SAID, "We can't take a shortcut. The right to privacy is at stake."

"We need to have the toughness to appropriate enough money for prisons. Our prisons are overcrowded."

A spokesman for Sen. McCullough (D-Deerborn) said he was working with Rosenbaum for senate passage.

"He's floor-managing the bill," said McCullough's aide.

Rosenbaum's package of bills, including the wiretap measure, has passed the house twice but remains bottled up in the senate, where judiciary committee Chairman Basil Brown (D-Highland Park) is adamantly opposed to it.



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Early release repeal to ballot

Michigan voters can expect to see a Nov. 7 ballot proposal to prohibit the release of prisoners before they have served their minimum sentences.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson said Wednesday he had more than the required 212,000 petition signatures to force a statewide vote.

Patterson opposes the so-called "good time" law, which allows prisoners to be released on parole before serving the entire minimum sentences. He argues that many violent crimes have been committed by paroled prisoners.

If the state legislature declines to act on a petition, the proposal can be put on the ballot.

Patterson's proposal, strongly backed in Republican circles, has prompted an argument over whether state prisons have enough capacity to hold all the prisoners required by the repeal of "good time."

In particular, State Rep. Paul Rosenbaum (D-Battle Creek), who like Patterson is interested in the U.S. Senate, has been highly critical on this point.

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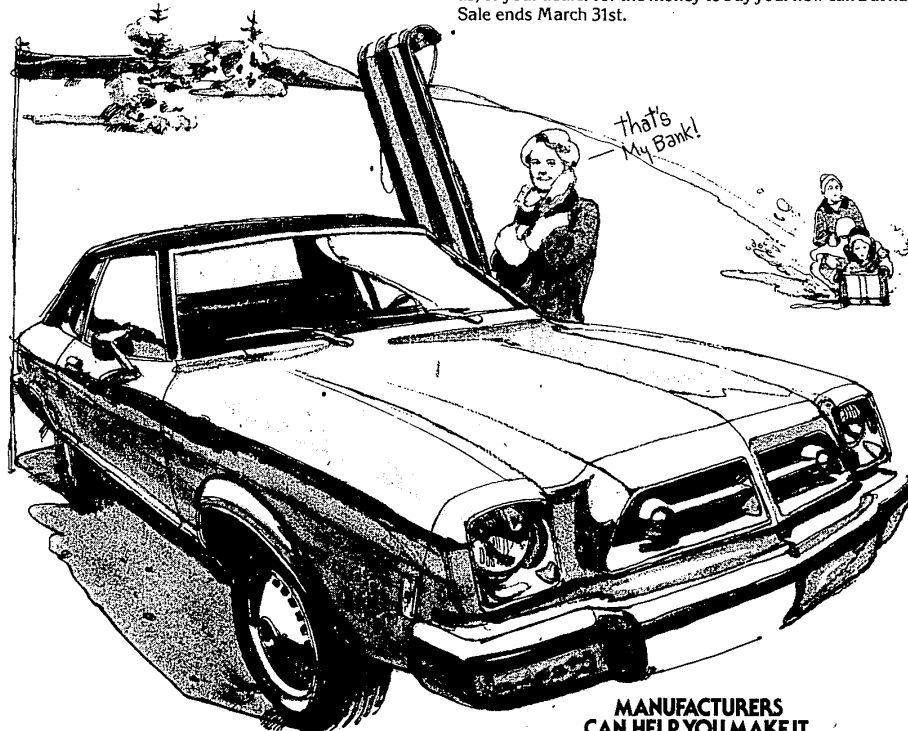
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