

Road commission spars with county board

With its political tongue in cheek, the Oakland County Road Commission has proposed a "sweeping referendum" to abolish some 15 appointed boards, commissions and authorities and seven elected county offices.

The road commission's whymy is intended to counter an effort by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to hold a Nov. 3 referendum on abolishing the road commission.

A road commission spokesman said the county board has no legal authority to hold a referendum on abolishing the road unit. The road spokesman said it is questionable whether the county board can even put such a proposal on the ballot as an advisory question.

WHAT STARTED the rash of election proposals was the county board's action of July 8 to ask voters whether they wish to

abolish the road commission, assigning its administrative duties to the county executive and its policy-making duties to the county board.

"If this is another instance of pre-emptive foot-dragging," said road commissioner William M. Richards, "we can play that game too."

To begin with, the road commission has proposed asking voters to decide whether to abolish the posts of county prosecutor, sheriff, clerk, registrar, treasurer, drain commissioner and board of canvassers. The joke is that these offices are mentioned in the Michigan Constitution and cannot be abolished, even by act of the legislature.

THE ROAD COMMISSION'S whymy goes on to propose that voters decide on abolition of the appointment commission, support among board of appeals, boards of determination for drainage districts, civil service commission, drainage board, concealed weapons board, election commission, jury commission, library com-

mission, parks and recreation commission, social services board, hospital board, inter-county drainage board, and any building authority—along with the road commission.

The joke here, according to the road commission spokesman, is that the state law which allows counties to set up a county executive (Act 128) specifically protects the continued existence of those boards.

THE ROAD COMMISSION spokesman added that the county board's power to place an advisory question on the ballot is also in doubt.

State Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley is being asked whether the Wayne County board may place an advisory question on legal-aid gambling on the ballot. The opinion, being sought by gambling proponent State Rep. Caesar Ogonowski (D-Detroit), is expected any day and could apply to Oakland County.

Richards, a former chairman of the county board before his appointment to the road commission, turned his own barbs at his former county board colleagues.

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Your ears ringing? You're the topic of talk

A few weeks ago, this column listed some popular superstitions. Yes, my readers, responded by sending me some of your old favorites, and here they are.

A cricket in the house is a sign of prosperity. Ladybugs always foretell good things to come.

If you drop a knife, a fork, a pair of scissors or a dish cloth, it is a sure sign there is company coming.

If your right ear rings, someone is speaking well of you. If your left ear rings, someone is saying bad things about you. If you run through a list of your friends and acquaintances, the ringing will stop when you name the person who is speaking.

THERE ARE many superstitions about nail-clipping. Some say that if you cut your nails on Sunday, the devil will chase you all week. A little verse of Irish origin puts it this way:

A man had better never been born.
Than have his nails on Sunday
short.
Cut them on Monday, cut them for health.
Cut them on Tuesday, cut them for wealth.
Cut them on Wednesday, cut them for news.
Cut them on Thursday for a pair of new shoes.
Cut them on Friday, cut them for sorrow.
Cut them on Saturday, see your sweetheart tomorrow.

If a young girl gets her dress wet while washing dishes, it is a sure sign that she will marry a drunk.

If you take the last slice of meat from the platter, you will die an old maid.

TO SIGN at the table is very bad luck. If two people dry their hands on the same towel at the same time, it means they will soon have a bad quarrel.



When walking with another person, if something comes between you, such as a post, a tree or some other object, it means you will have a quarrel. This can be avoided, however, by saying, "Bread and butter, but each other," and each person lightly tapping the other.

Birthdays, of course, are always special. I'm sure you have heard this old rhyme: Monday's child is a fair of face.
Tuesday's child is full of grace.
Wednesday's child is full of woe.
Thursday's child has far to go.
Friday's child is loving and giving.
Saturday's child works hard for a living.

But the child that's born on the Sabbath day,
Is handsome and wise, and loving and gay.

Next week: Superstitions about sneezes.

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