Providence versus Beaumont

EMS politics based on geography

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Thy MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI
The controversy over a county-wide
effergency medical services (EMS)
The controversy medical services (IOAEMS), have
been involved in a fierce battle for the
designation as the county's EMS complantations and medical control centics.

ter. "There was a lot of politicking going on Everyone got calls ahead of time." said Dr. Joseph L. Shirle, vice president for medical affairs at Pontiac General Hospital and chairman of OAKEMS' executive committee.

AKEMS executive committee.
County commissioners also confirmed that a number of city councils, including those of Southfield. Royal Cak and Troy, have been actively campaigning for either Providence or Recurrent.

THE COMMISSIONERS, who mus altimately approve any plan for tounty-wide EMS services, and mem-bers of OAKEMS, the 60-member advi-

This is the first clear cut issue where southeastern Oakland County will be against the rest of the county.

-County Commissioner James Doyon

Southfield) and Lillian Moffit (R-Bloomfield Township)—are all in the

IT WAS Mrs. Moffit's actions several weeks ago which threw the matter of the resource hospital into an uproar. At a board public services committee meeting, she revealed that the vote which the OAKEMS executive

council took in recommending Beau-mont as the county's resource hospital was taken on a secret ballot. This, she said, was illegal. Robert P. Allen, civil counsel for the

sory body to the board, agreed that the EMS issue had broken down along

EMS issue had broken down along geographic lines.
"That's a sage observation, 'Commissioner Robert Page solemally.
"This," said Commissioner James Dayon (R-Royal Oak." is the first clear cut issue where southeastern Oakland County will be against the rest of the county."

"YOU CAN TELL which commissioners are from which districts." said Dr. Merle F. Rydeski, chief of Providence's emergency department. "You can tell the Southfield boys from the Pontiac boys and the Troy boys." he could

said.
Commissioners from the Royal Oak-Troy area have lined up almost solidly behind Beaumont, and representatives from the Southfield area are support-

ing Providence's bid.
Commissioners representing parts of
the City of Southfield—Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield), Alex Perinoff (D-

county, confirmed the secret ballot's illegality.

illegality.

Mrs. Mofit also pointed out that four members the OAKEMS executive committee were employed by hospitals under consideration for the resource hospital appointment. This, she said, was a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Mofit laso pointed out that two other members of the executive council may have been in conflict of interest when they voted. Bloomfield Township)—are all in the Providence camp.
Pernick has been an outspoken-Providence supporter throughout the controversy. He has consistently championed the Providence argument by pointing to Providence's five-year record of success operating an advanced life support EMS program in Southfield.
Mrs. Moffit, though not in the forefront, is considered a Providence backer.

Pernick and Mrs. Moffit found an unexpected ally in Commissioner Dennis Murphy (R-Novi).

Murphy, last week in a board finance committee meeting, led the way in postponing any immediate action by that committee concerning the resource hospital appointment. Finance committee action was needed to accept a \$151,000 grant to help finance the county-wide EMS system.

Other finance committee members, including James Lanni (R-Royal Oak). Henry W. Hoot (R-Troy) and Robert Page (R-Birmingham), all early Beaumons supporters, wanted to routinely send the Beaumont recommendation to the full board of commissioners for action.



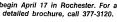
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