

# Patterson says nationalized health insurance would bankrupt taxpayer

Opposition to national health insurance and support for a drive for a constitutional limit on state and local taxes were the main themes for U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Patterson in a recent campaign speech before a suburban civic club.

Patterson, a Republican who is in his second term as Oakland County Prosecutor, wants to prevent Sen. Robert Griffin from being renominated for a third six-year term.

He told the Livonia Optimist Club that he is "unalterably opposed" to nationalized health insurance because the country "can't afford it—it would bankrupt us."

Patterson said the proposal would "eliminate the tax base."

He said the current system (of private insurance companies providing coverage) is still much better than a proposal for nationalized coverage

administered by the federal government although the existing system still needs tighter cost controls.

In supporting limits on state and federal government spending, Patterson said that "it's not the nature of government that's itself." Patterson

and a petition drive led by a Farmington insurance company president is expected to offer voters a tax freeze proposal the November ballot.

The proposal would amend the state constitution to limit taxes to a fixed percentage of the state's gross personal income.

Patterson also expressed support for a proposed U.S. constitutional amendment which would allow voters to initiate federal constitutional amendments on their own. At present, only Congress can initiate moves to amend the constitution.

## Nation's traffic deaths up

Last year, 49,200 people died in traffic crashes in the U.S., an increase of 2,500 over 1976, according to the Highway Users Federation.

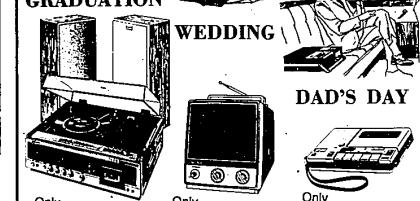
The number of deaths per mile driven also edged upward, reversing a downward trend in the fatality rate.

measured in deaths per 100 million miles driven. The death rate increased from 3.31 fatalities in 1976 to 3.35 in 1977.

The federation's death rate figures

were based on the number of miles driven last year in the U.S.

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