

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 L. Brooks Patterson during 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 said 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 "annihilate the taxpayer."

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 to limit itself," Patterson said.

A petition drive led by a Farmington insurance company president is expected to offer voters a tax freeze proposition 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.

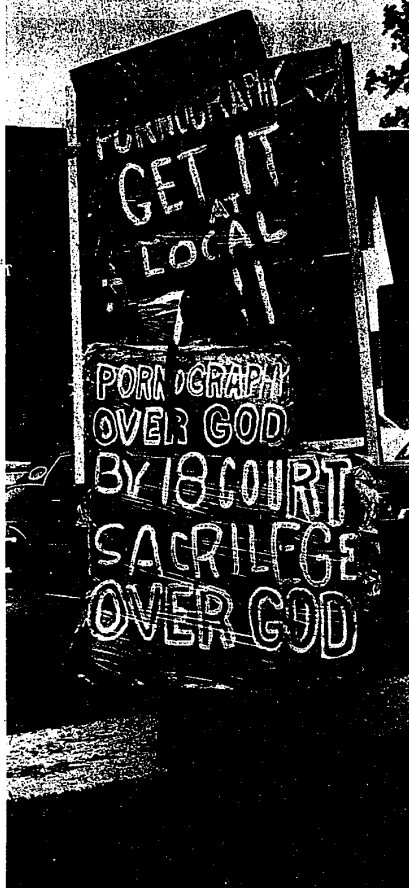
Patterson criticized the federal government as being too big and expensive and "over-regulating."

He mentioned a more ambitious tax cut proposal in California which voters will cast ballots on Tuesday. That proposal, known as the Jarvis-Gann initiative would reduce government revenues at all levels by \$7 billion.

"Public officials are screaming

(about the loss of funds)—the only cheaters are the taxpayers," Patterson said.

The prosecutor also said that his one-year-old campaign to require convicted felons to serve their minimum sentence before being eligible for parole has reached its goal of 252,000, more than enough to put the proposal on the Nov. 7 ballot.



Frontal and rear protest

Stephen Chismar thinks his six-month sentence for disturbing the peace outside a Canton party store is a sin, so he has taken to daily protests outside Westland's 18th District Court. Chismar got into trouble over the store's sale of Hustler magazine. (Staff photo by Art Emmanuel)

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 3.36 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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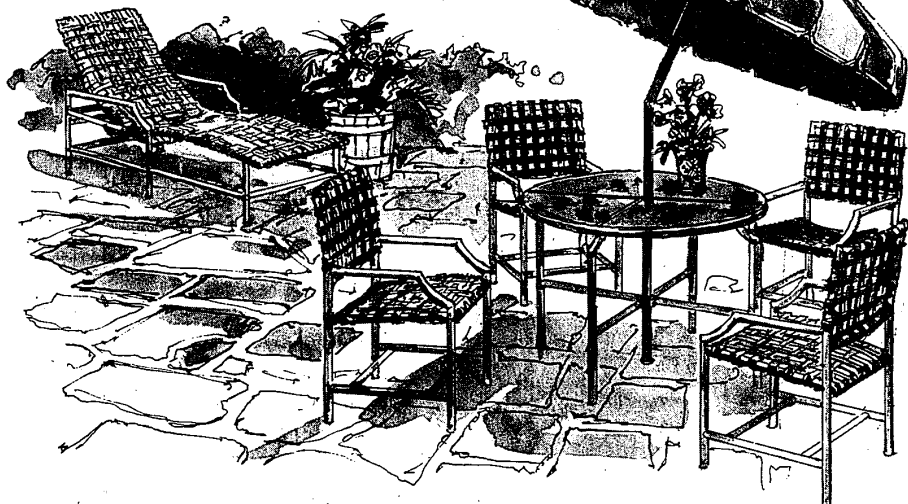
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