

## \$67,000 deficit budgeted

# New county court will show big loss

It will cost Oakland County nearly \$100,000 in November and December to operate the newly-acquired fourth division of 53d District Court.

The fourth division is composed of the old Troy and Clawson municipal courts. A 1977 state law requires the county to incorporate the courts into the 53d District Nov. 1.

While the county is expecting to spend more than \$97,500 on staffing,

equipment, rent and other judicial expenses, it expects to recover only \$30,000 in court revenues over the same period of time.

**EVEN THOUGH** The two-month budget was approved by the full Oakland County Board of Commissioners 17-8, some board members saw the fourth division as a white elephant that the county should avoid.

"Nobody would ever give the county a profit-making court," warned Commissioner Alexander Pernoff (D-Southfield). "We've bought a bag of nothing and we're gonna pay for it and pay for it and pay for it."

He advised the board to refuse the budget and send the problem back to the state legislature "where it rightfully belongs."

Other commissioners and members of County Executive Daniel T. Murphy's administration, however, argued that the state legislature had already acted and the financial ball was now in the county's court.

"I guess whether or not we want it, we got it," said Commissioner Henry W. Host (R-Bloomfield Township).

"Right now," he said, "we have every reason to believe it (the fourth division) will operate at a break-even point."

Commissioners voting to approve the two-month budget included: Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills), John McDonald (R-Farmington), Lillian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield Township), Joseph Montante (R-Orchard Lake), Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Dennis Murphy (R-Novi), Robert Page (R-Birmingham), John Peterson (R-Rochester), and Host.

Commissioners voting against the budget included: Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) and Pernoff.

## Small Cadillac motors may roll from Livonia

Cadillac Division of General Motors Corp. is thinking about putting a new engine plant next to its machining plant in Livonia.

The firm's intentions surfaced last week when a formal request was made to the Livonia City Council for a property tax break on the new plant. The council gave an identical tax break to Ford Motor Co. for plant expansion last year.

Cadillac spokesman were discomfited about the proposed building, saying only that Livonia is being considered among other sites, although the division refused to say what the other sites were.

But sources said that the division is planning to build a new facility in Livonia for its new small engines for the downsized Cadillacs to be built in the next few years to meet federal gasoline economy standards.

The division has only one engine assembly plant, on Detroit's southwest side, where the division also has its division headquarters and other engineering and manufacturing activities.

The Livonia plant of nearly 350,000 square feet currently does the machining for the Cadillac engines with the parts sent to the Detroit site for final assembly.

Sources said that the division plans a slightly smaller engine—from 420 cubic inches to 400—for the 1980 model year. But the big change will come forth a 1983 model which will have a 300 cubic inch engine, one that is completely redesigned from the current one.

The source said that Cadillac is asking Livonia and Detroit for a property tax break which will help the division "sell upper management" on the project because the tax break will enable Cadillac to reduce its overall costs of the expansion.

The 1983 engines could be handled at either the Livonia or Detroit facility, the source said.

At present, the expansion details haven't been made final and that the budget details are being put together now for corporation approval.

## Milliken offers companion to Headlee's tax proposal

Gov. William G. Milliken says his proposal for allowing a local option to shift away from property taxes would make "an ideal ballot companion" for the Headlee Tax Limitation proposal.


Milliken's proposal, Resolution JJ, is a constitutional amendment providing taxpayers with the local option of shifting a portion of local school support from the property tax to a local income tax.

Milliken said he would support the Headlee proposal "now that we have identified means of dealing with its implications," including the fact that it does not directly address the issue of property tax relief.

Richard Headlee, chairman of Taxpayers United for Tax Limitation, told Milliken his group would support legislative adoption of Resolution JJ.

Milliken's proposed amendment would allow K-12 school districts to replace 22 mills of their local property taxes on residential property and agricultural homesteads with a two percent local personal income tax. It would not affect businesses and commercial property. Under the amendment, each district would decide whether it wanted to make the change through a vote of residents of the district.

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