

# Faust gets second term as state Senate leader



WILLIAM FAUST

An unprecedented open caucus Thursday night re-elected State Sen. William Faust (D-Westland) to another year as the senate's majority leader.

Victories came in triplicate that night for Faust, whose district includes Garden City and Canton Townships.

Earlier that day, the state senate had voted to approve one of the senate reform measures, which Faust had wanted for some time. That vote gave the senate majority leader the power to appoint committee members and chairmen. They formerly were appointed by a committee of nine.

In a compromise move, the senate agreed that the majority leader would listen to recommendations from a seven-member advisory committee.

The minority leader of the State Senate also will submit recommendations for committee appointments.

The senate majority leader, however, will retain final decision-making power over who gets the appointments. Those assignments are expected to be reallocated in some cases.

Faust has long urged that the senate's rules, some of which are more than 100 years old, be revised. Senate observers believe more changes are

possible this year, particularly in light of Faust's unanimous re-election as majority leader.

"It's not a question of whether the reforms will come, now it's just a question of when," said Tim Hughes, a member of the central staff for senate Democrats.

The second victory for Faust came with the caucus vote to open the election of new leaders to the public. "Senate Democrats have shown their commitment to open the legisla-

tive process by conducting caucus business in an open session available for public inspection," commented Faust, who supported the move.

Faust's re-election as majority leader, his third victory of the day, is likely to mean additional reforms.

"I'm gratified by the expression of support for my leadership, and I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues for continuing progressive reform of the Michigan Senate," said Faust.

Other senators elected to positions during the open caucus are: Gary Corbin of Clio as assistant majority leader, Jack Faxon of Detroit as president pro tem, Jackie Vaughn III of Detroit as assistant president pro tem, David Plawicki of Dearborn Heights as majority floor leader and Michael O'Brien of Detroit as assistant majority floor leader.

Senator-elect John Kelly of Detroit was elected as majority whip. Others elected are John Heriel of Detroit, assistant majority whip, Carey Kanner of Pontiac, caucus chairman, and David Holmes of Detroit, assistant caucus chairman.

The majority whip's function is to get votes in line for passage or rejection of major legislation. The floor leader sets priorities on the order in which legislative proposals are considered, decides when to adjourn and handles parliamentary procedural items. That position could be strengthened if additional senate reforms are approved, according to Hughes.

## Problems are not bite size for county computer division

Changes are in the offing for Oakland County's Computer Services Division.

Three top computer division managers—Ken Patterson, Don Lumsder and John Wilbur—were on their way to positions outside the computer division, according to county sources.

As expected, the board of commissioners last week authorized County Executive Daniel T. Murphy to negotiate a six-month contract with System Computer Technology (SCT) of West Chester, Pa. The vote was 18-5.

Observer & Eccentric area commissioners voting to bring in the private firm included Henry Hoot (R-Troy), John McDonald (R-Farmington), Lilian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield Township), Joseph Montane (R-Orchard Lake), Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Dennis Murphy (R-Novi), Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) and John Peterson (R-Rochester).

Those voting against it included Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills) and Robert Page (R-Birmingham).

Commissioners Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills) and Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield) were absent.

PROBLEMS in the computer services division, according to commissioners and a \$40,000 analysis, have been rampant for several years.

"This is not a new problem," Per-

nick said. "I've been around for close to 10 years. That department's grown from an annual budget of about \$500,000 to \$3.5 million."

"And we are now in a positive position to straighten out a situation that's been around for a long time," he said. "Rather than say we're going to go out on our own and find a messiah who's going to come in and clear up this situation, what we need," Pernick suggested, "is an instant infusion of talent."

TALENT AND expertise is what SCT promises to solve the computer division's problems. Those problems include a serious lack of managerial talent, a lack of accountability, declining morale among the rest of the staff and serious delays in servicing the division's many users.

"If done properly," said Novis Murphy, "SCT will bring in a team of qualified computer management personnel and support to review our total system." That team could include as many as 16 people.

While the county executive is busy negotiating a six-month contract with the West Chester, Pa. corporation, commissioners predicted they would be moving to create a new director's position for the computer center. The center has never had been under the direction of a single person respon-

sible for its total operation.

Murphy said the infusion of SCT talent immediately was important before a new director could be brought on board.

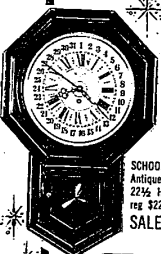
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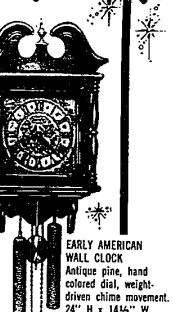


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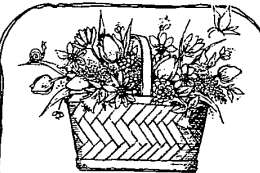
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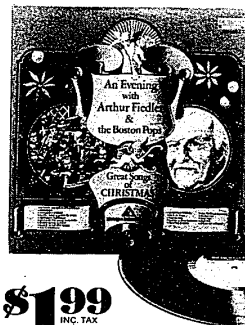


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