GOP power play irks county Dems

Some Democratic county commissioners morbidly joked that southeastern Oakland County and Pontiac should secede from the

county and Pontiac should secede from the county.

Their jokes came after the board of commissioners' Republican majority had reduced the Democrats' say on important board committees and had made many importants totally Republican.

The Republicans hold a 16-11 majority on the board of commissioners. Many of the board's Democrats come from southern Oakland County and Pontiac.

The board's powerful finance committee is controlled by an 8-4 Republican majority, and the Republicans hold 6-3 majorities on the general government and personnel committees. Republicans also were given all leadership roles.

DESPITE DEMOCRATIC opposition every step of the way, the GOP commissioners tipped the scales and committee structures in their fa-

Repeated pleas for cooperation went unanswered.

Commissioner Dennis Aaron (D-Oak Park) said, "If you want to move Oakland County forward, we will have to work together. You can't want to commissioners. You need 27. "To work to commissioners. You need 27. "To work to the cooperation of the advisory on need the cooperation of the minority party is needed," he said.

Aaron predicted initiatives of the Republicandominated board of commissioners would be doomed in the Democratic-controlled state legislature and Congress.

Later in a meeling of the general government committee when the committee structure was formally adopted on a party-line vote, Aaron asked, "its there any logical rationale for this committee surcture".

IN ADDITION TO insuring Republican control of county government, the GOP majority went ahead with plans to replace Democratic Commissioner Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) in the county's three-man delegation to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

(SEMCOG).

With the appointment of Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy, the Oakland delegation is entirely Republican.

Murphy's appointment also met stiff resistence from Democrats.

Some commissioners complained that it was inappropriate to appoint Murphy's, whose responsibility is to administer the board's policies, to a policy-making body such as SEMCOG.

Commissioner Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield) sald the board was 'eroding whatever responsibility it has."

"I'm advising you," he said, "to put Murphy back in the position where he belongs—carrying out your policies."

Murphy, who said he did not solicit the appointment, said he was elected "to represent the people of Oakland County." Becuase he is representing the people, he said, it is not inapmaking interpovernmental council.

Moreover, he said, because the mayor of the City of Detroit is a member of SEMCOG's assembly, Oakland County should be equally represented.

OU prof is union delegate

David W. Shantz, asso-ciate professor and act-ing chairperson, Oakland University-department of psychology, has been elected to the Council of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

of University Professors (AAUP).
Shantz will begin a three-year term on June 10. The council determines policies and programs for the 80,000 member uhion.

L'ecture date for diabetics is scheduled

If you are a diabetic, take note...

The North Oakland County Diabetes Associa-County Diabetes Association, in conjunction with
Crittenton Hospital, will
sponsor an education program entitled "Diabetic
Medication and You" at
7.30 p.m. Jan. 18. The
program will be held in
the Avon Township hospital's cafeteria, 1101 W.
University.
Sandra Carone, a Crittenton pharmacist, will
be the guest speaker.

Sandra Carone, a Crit-tenton pharmacist, will be the guest speaker. 'The program should be of particular interest to diabetics and their fami-

lies.

It will provide information about the various drugs available to control diabetes and its related conditions, the side effects of these medications and the signs of possible interactions with other medications, such as decongestants.

This instructional class

This instructional class is open to the public.

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License plate delivery backed up part of a \$168 million tax package designed to pump new funds into the state's road building program and public transportation.

Don't despair if you haven't received your 1978 auto license plates weeks after sending your check to the Secretary of State's office in Lansting. "Were running behind, but we're hopeful of catching up," said Peter F. Bommarito, spokesman for the Secretary of State. "It's generally taking five to six weeks," he said. Printed instructions in your license plate applications say to expect a three-week delivery time.

TWO THINGS are causing the delay,

Bommarito said.

One is the "tax situation." Auto license fees are up this year, but two state senators are leading a petition

drive to put the matter on the ballot. If their petitions are adequate, the increased fees will not go into effect as scheduled, and motorists will be charged last year's fees. If that happens, the st?ate will send you a check for the difference between your 1979 check and what you owed under the old fee schedule, Bommarito said. The check will be sent in a separate letter, not with your license plates. Meanwhile, defenders of the fuel tax and license fee increases are going to

Meanwhile, defenders of the fuel tax and license fee increases are going to court to challenge the petition drive. That is absorbing some staff time, the Secretary of State spokesman said. THE OTHER thing causing the de-lay is lack of manpower, Bommarito

in abunter operation, we pick up people here and there."

Last week, Gov. William G. Millikes signed SB 1737 requiring the Secretary of State to refund a portion of the license plate fee if the referendum petitions are found to be proper and survive a court challenge.

For most motorists, the fee increase about 30 per cent.

The law has no effect, however, on the two-cents a gallon gasoline tax increase which went into effect Jan. 1 and which is also being challenged.

The fee and fuel tax increases were

Cohen said the purpose is to inform the public about Chinese politics, for-eign relations and culture. Although MSU is center of the China Council, programs will be conducted in various locations around the state.

People mover

goes on stage

An open house and forum on the proposed downtown Detroit "people mover" will be conducted Thursday, Jan. 25 by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

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School on China trade launched Dr. Warren I. Cohen, MSU professor of history and an authority on U.S.-China relations.

Is China a market for your firm now that the U.S. has established diplomatic relations?

Special

relations?
What problems will you run into if your bank wants to aid a customer firm dealing with China?
Michigan State University has established a "Michigan Caina Council," one of 12 in the country, to conduct a conference for businesspeople on trade Mid-Winter

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The conference is scheduled for April 6 in MSU's Management Educa-tion Center at 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy.

No registration details are yet available.

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