Judge's opinion cited

Oakland Strike Force legality upheld

By MICHAEL MATHSZEWSKY

Oakland County's Organized Crime Strike Force is legal and need not be disbanded.

Corporation Counsel Robert Allen, chief lawyer for the board of commissioners, this week reversed his earlier opinion that Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson lacked authori-ty to set up the elite, undercover unit.

cent ruling by Oakland County Cir-cuit Judge Richard Kuhn, Kuhn's ruling said Patterson's investigatory unit was legal.

Speaking before the public services committee of the county board of commissioners, Patterson said he was happy the legality of the strike force had been upheld and pledged that during the next two years the

THE ISSUE of the strike force's THE ISSUE of the strike force's legality arose when several commission Democrats. most notably Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield), challenged Patterson's right to set up a "private police force" within its department.

They contended that Patterson's unit could only prosecute, not "ferret out," criminals.

Allén, in a preliminary opinion re-leased Jan. 11, agreed with those challenging the prosecutor's investi-gatory powers. He further recom-mended that the board of commis-sioners seek a declaratory judgment from Oakland Circuit Court.

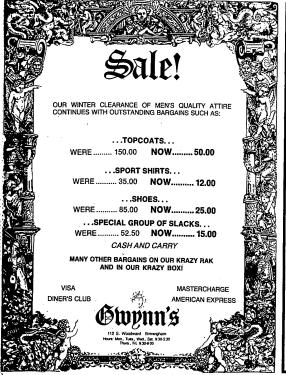
Patterson and several strike force assistant prosecutors called Allen's draft opinion "shallow," "narrow," and "baloney."

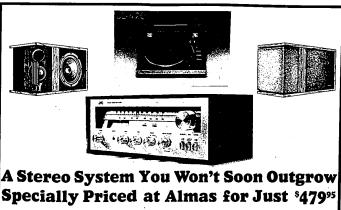
EVEN IN THE face of Allen's 180 degree turn and Judge Kuhr's 180 degree turn and Judge Kuhr's Tuling, some Democratic commissioners wanted to seek the declaratory judgment. However, Commissioner Henry Cotto, Chairman of the public services committee which would lirst have to approve that move, said the question of the strike of Selegality has been settled and of Selegality has been settled and of Selegality has been settled and contact the strike that the sought.



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