

Few big issues at Dem parley

By MAXINE BRÓDSKY
Special writer

to appoint road commissioners to three-year terms rather than the present six-year terms.

THE PARTY opposed calling a U.S. Constitutional Convention, advocated in some Republican circles as a method of requiring a balanced federal budget.

Allen Sipher, Farmington Hills liberal of long standing, argued for opposition to a U.S. con-con on the basis it would endanger the Bill of Rights.

A resolution urging repeal of the 21-year-old drinking age was passed. Mark Lichterman, 19, a University of Michigan student from Farmington Hills, spoke in favor of repealing the 1978 amendment to the Michigan Constitution raising the drinking age to 21.

Lichterman, whose surname is familiar because a cousin is active in Republican politics, argued that "an 18-year-old driver is as responsible as a 45-year-old. You might as well raise the drinking age to 85."

THE DEMOCRATS, in one of their longest resolutions, branded as "excessive, unreasonable, unjustified and unfair to the majority" a proposal by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to raise many fees, including hunting and fishing licenses.

They urged the governor and legislature to reject DNR's proposals.

Vicki Lange, chairperson of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club, gave the keynote speech in debate on a resolution urging support of 50 editorial department women's class action suit against The Detroit News.

It charged road commissions fail to carry out "public will." One idea discussed, though not put in writing, was



Vicki Lange, Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club chairwoman, took the state convention floor microphone to urge support of a women's class action lawsuit against The Detroit News. (Staff photo)

Mrs. Lange said, "Women are still not given equal opportunity to cover the most significant stories of the day, and the majority of women reporters on The Detroit News are still primarily concentrated in the traditional female enclaves — food, fashion and entertainment."

Another Democratic resolution urged support of The Newspaper Guild's five-month strike against the weekly Mellus Newspapers in southwest Wayne County. The Mellus group's owner, Panax Corp., continues to publish.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS approved at the convention called for:

• Senior citizen property tax relief in the form of a deduction at the time a tax is due rather than an income tax rebate later.

• A "truth in utility cost" law urging that utility bills for the last two years be disclosed when an existing building is sold or rented, as well as projected fuel and water consumption for a new structure.

• A "truth in billing" law requiring hospitals to itemize rather than package all charges for services.

Carter lauds county budget

Oakland County's "inflation-fighting" 1979 budget won commendation from Washington D.C. recently. Oakland's '79 budget, totaling \$78.6 million, represents a 5.2 percent increase over the previous year's spending. The 1978 inflation rate, however, topped nine percent.

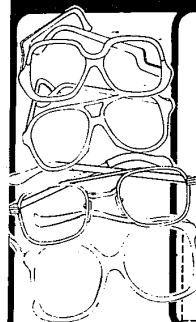
The steps Oakland County government has taken to combat inflation are highly commendable," said Jack H. Watson, President Jimmy Carter's as-

stant for intergovernmental relations. "To effectively resolve it, we must all work together, and your cooperation and support for the President's initiatives are sincerely appreciated." Watson wrote in a letter to Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

The 1979 budget allowed seven percent wage increases for non-union county employees, and elected officials were given six percent increases.

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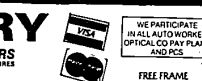
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