Birmingham shop owners who deal in silver and gold coins are concerned about a new proposal that would restrict the selling of the coins.

Patterson's plan called 'no gem'

By SUZIE ROLLINS

Totally unreasonable is how area gold and silver dealers assess Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patter-son's ideas for strict controls on preci-

ous metal.

Dealers and jewelers were responding to Patterson's announcement push-Dealers and jewelers were responding to Patterson's announcement pushing to Patterson's announcement pushing for legislation which would require
them to wait 30 days before smelting
purchased silver and gold items. In addition, Patterson wants the legislation
to require dealers to obtain identification from gold and silver sellers.
Patterson made his statement Tuesday, saying it was prompted by, the cent rash of gold and silver thefts. He
said his 30-day requirement would allow enough time for police to determine if the items were stolen.
"He's got to be crazy," said Bill
Hitchcock of The Diamond Mine on Dequindre. "If I buy someone's gold when

quindre. "If I buy someone's gold when it's \$800 an ounce and 30 days later it's down to \$500 an ounce,-I lose my

shirt."

In order to have enough cash to continuisly buy the precious metals,

Hitchcock said he must smelt his pur-

Hitchcock said he must smelt his pur-chased wares daily.

"I pay out \$50,000 a day for gold and silver and I have to melt it down and sell it right away, otherwise I wouldn't be able to do business the rest of the month if my money is tied up," he add-oth

RICHARD ROSENBAUM, owner of Birmingham Stamps and Coins on Woodward, agreed with Hitchcock.

woonward, agreed with Hitchcock.
"I don't see how any precious metal dealer can hold gold, silver or platinum for any length of time because they don't know what the price would be when they sell it." he said.
"How could I tie up several million dollars of inventory like that? It would also be a tremendous security problem."

lem. "The principal is on the right track but I don't know if it would be feasi-ble," added Clark Bunting, vice presi-dent of Kimberley Jewelers on Big Beaver.

"I'll do anything to cooperate with w enforcement authorities but I want

legislation that's sensible," Rosenbaum

argued.

All the procious metal dealers surveyed said they agreed with Patterson's plan for seller identification. In fact, they said they currently demand identification from all their sellers and won't accept gold and silver from young or suspicious people.

young or suspicious people.

"I won't buy from anyone under 21
unless they're with a parent or guardian. We have all the people we deal with
sign papers before we buy their merchandise." Hichcock said.

"Anybody that looks young at all has
to produce identification. This has been
our policy a long time. I did this voluntarily to help the Birmingham and
Bloomfield Township police."

One dealer who doesn't onnose the

coomnied i ownship police.

One dealer who desn't oppose the 30-day holding period is Sheldon Weinstein, owner of Weinstein's Jewellers in West Bloomfield. He said refineries are now backed up about eight months, so it is not a problem to hold onto the gold and silver.

SOME AREA POLICE agree with

has a good plan.
"Something has to be done. The idea overall is good. But it's kind of hard to ask these guys to hold onto goods for 30 days with the market changing. It's a difficult situation.

difficult situation.

"The honest guy has no worries. The dishonest guys are going to come up with some phoney ID," responded West Bloomfield Police Chief Al McGhee.

Bloomfield Police Chief Al McGhee.
Southfield Police Captain James
Barvey worries about enforcing the
legislative idea.
"I'd go along with the program. It
would help buy time to check for suspicious deals and keep gold and silver
dealers from melting down jewelry
which might be stolen. It would create
a hell of a manpower problem for our
deparament, but I'm sure we could find

Board outlines closings

About the only surprise in Tuesday night's Bir-mingham Board of Education meeting was a one-year delay in the closing of Torry Elementary School. Even that had seemed a possibility after several

Even that had seemed a possibility after several board members pry-Pembroke combination (required if Torry closed) next fall would take Pembroke to capacity. None of the other decisions made in the four hour needing were unexpected. Approximately 400 people attended the long-awaited adoption of a long-range plan for the dis-

And as a result of 15 proposals and close to 20 amendments offered by board members Tuesday, life is slipping slowly away from five elementary schools.

schools.

Adams and Franklin will close this year and Evergreen, Westchester and Torry will close next year.

THE ADAMS and Franklin decisions bring the board and the school district back to the same position they were in one year ago. Both schools had been named to close in 1979 but the decision was

delayed for one year.

Several members of the audience Tuesday night and at least two board members continued to plead for further delays in closings until the final vote was taken.

was taken.
Trustees Dorothy Eicker and William Frever voted against the total long-range plan. Trustees Imogene Angell, Jerold Scheel, Wade Crane, Sylvia

Whitmer and Board President Bruce Van Deusen approved the plan.

In the plan, Adams children will be sent to Harlan, Franklin children to Meadow Lake, Torry children to Pembroke, Evergreen children to Bingham Farms and Westchester children to Guardon and Meadow will be considered to the Charlon and Court of the Cour

is reasonable to do so" — approved 6-1 with Frever opposed.

• Open enrollment maintained where possible with students currently enrolled in a school other than their own to be given first priority to continue — approved 6-1 with Mrs. Whitmer opposed.

• Any money realized from the sale of buildings or real estate allocated to the debt retirement fund and any remaining funds to be allocated by the board — approved 5-2 with Van Deusen and Mrs. Angell opposed.

• The board's exploration of the sale of the administration building and the feasibility of moving the administrative central offices to an elementary school — approved unanimously.

• The board's commitment to not enter into any contract for the disposition of either Adams or Franklin schools until after June 20, 1980 — approved 6-1 with Mrs. Whitmer opposed.

Whitmer and Board President Bruce Van Deusen



Wanted: German Russians

Mrs. Hoffman, 30, believes that the hard life the Germans had in Russia is something her grandfather didn't want to remember. So he didn't space it to his family. But his memories and her interest in history have opened up some of the story of the Germans' experiences in Russia.

They were the focus of prejudice from native Russians and mainly kept to their own towns and their own customs, according to Mrs. Hoffman. As a group the Germans didn't assimilate into Russian culture. They kept their language, their customs, their religion.

russiant custure. Iney kept their language, their customs, their religion.
"It was like a whole town in Germany packed up and moved to Russia," said Mrs. Hoffman.
They settled around the Black Sea in Bessarabia and the Ukraine.

THEY LEARNED to speak Russian but some were driven out of the country by persecution. Those who didn't leave were resettled in other regions of the country by the Russian government. "They confiscated property. My grandfather's family lost their far," said Mrs. Hoffman. Families were allowed to take what they could move on their own. Family members were separated from each other and relocated in different areas. Mrs. Hoffman credits her history major from Western Michigan University with helping her visualize what has hoppened to her family. She is looking now for other descendants of Germans from Russia who are interested in their history. The group will meet at 8 p.m. March 20 in Lawrence Institute of Technology's Science Building in Southfield.

County school chief

(Continued from Page 3A)

adult high school graduation.
"There's nothing more fun than
teaching adults who have been out "There's nothing more teaching adults who have been out of school 10 or 20 years," explains Keane, who teaches at Eastern Michigan and Wayne State universities

ties.

Another special program gives all elementary school youngsters violin

elementary school youngsters voin ilessons. "So many of our children would never have the opportunity to try their skills on an instrument," says the father of three. "But music is so important; it's one of the things that make us human." But the past nine years have also brought disappointment, leading Keane to reflect that the district has been through "bad times and worse times;" never good times." There haye been school closings, millage defeats and program cut-hacks. One big reget is that Berkley has been unable to build an audictium for performing arts.

ley has been unable to build an audi-torium for performing arts.
"We worked hard, hard, hard get federal funding," says Keane sadly. "I think children are disad-vantaged when they don't have a place to practice. But I think the community will try again."

ONE INTEREST he has cam-paigned for in Lansing is to get-"more equity" into school funding. He believes the state aid formula works against districts like Berkley with falling enrollment and less tax

money. "Children who go to school in dis-tricts like Berkley just aren't get-ting fair treatment," he insists. Although now devoted to school administration, Keane admits being a superintendent today is "very hard."

hard."
"Most people today know how to organize politically and each group

is out for its own interests," says the educator. "If we had the money we could do it all. But it's getting harder of the same that it's getting harder of the same harder of the most highly regarded institutions in the country."

WHEN ASKED if he plans changes, he answers that "Oakland Schools does many of the things we mant it to do."

He will, though, look into computerizing bussing for special education, the possibility of a repair service for school audio visual materials and a feam to examine education, the problems are seen selection of the problems are seen selection. problems across discipline

tion problems across across lines.

"The county is organized along relatively traditional lines, like English and social studies. I'd like to find ways to research things like long range planning that don't fit into those neat compartments."

into those neat compartments."

One goal is getting more parent input into the agency in areas where it is not state mandated.
And if anything scares Keane about his new job, it's being farther away from the classroom setting he loved.

He has kept his office in a school and visits classrooms and attends as more stated by the compared to the class of the

and visits classrooms and attends as many school events as possible.
"It has been a great satisfaction to see what happens to children. I'd like to visit schools often — for my benefit, not theirs."







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