

Showdown Tuesday

Spreen friend vs. opponent in GOP primary

By TOM LONERGAN

Although Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen won't face an opponent until November, there is speculation that Tuesday's Republican primary for sheriff may be key for the only countywide elected Democratic official.

Seeking the Republican nomination are Huntington Woods Police Chief James Y. Stewart and sheriff's department Capt. Lewis Doyle Jr. of Orchard Lake.

Stewart said he believes Spreen, who lives in Farmington Hills, asked Doyle to run in the GOP primary. Winner of the primary will face Spreen in the general election Nov. 4.

Doyle said he approached Spreen about running. "We haven't discussed it to any length since I've filed," he said.

Both primary candidates were interviewed this week.

IN A STATEMENT released June 3, the final date for filing for the Aug. 5 primary, Doyle said he was running for sheriff "to ensure a stable continuity of leadership within the department, should the incumbent sheriff (Spreen) be defeated."

A former Keego Harbor mayor, the 40-year-old Doyle said, "I'd like to have the job. I don't feel Jim (Stewart) has the qualifications and management skills it takes to run a department of this size." The department has an \$11 million budget and more than 400 employees.

Stewart, 54, president of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the South Oakland Chiefs of Police, has promised more cooperation between local police officials and the sheriff's department.

"I don't think any person in a public office can operate with other members of the law enforce-

ment community by calling them names and not cooperating with them," Stewart said.

The south Oakland County Republican is banking on the local chiefs' differences with Spreen, which reached a peak more than three years ago during the Oakland County child killer investigation. Spreen had criticized the handling of the search ultimately headed by the Michigan State Police.

DOYLE SAYS the cooperation issue "could be more a personality problem than anything else. Is he (Stewart) running for office or are all the other police chiefs running?"

A former Keego Harbor mayor, the 40-year-old Doyle (right), insists, 'I'd like to have the job. I don't think Jim (Stewart) has the qualifications and management skills it takes to run a department of this size.'



LEWIS DOYLE



JAMES Y. STEWART

Stewart, 54, (above, far right) president of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the South Oakland Chiefs of Police, has promised more cooperation between the local police and the sheriff's department.

of the county. Stewart said. These include a holding station for arrested persons waiting for a ride to Pontiac and quicker assistance in investigations, particularly with polygraph (lie detector) tests.

STEWART IS treasurer of Citizens for Capital Punishment, a group organized by Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson to put a death penalty referendum on the November 1982 ballot. One piece of his campaign literature leads off by saying, "The present sheriff is against capital punishment."

The death penalty is "a little bit of an issue," Stewart admitted. He said people should have the chance

to vote on capital punishment, a position he said he would take even if he were against the penalty.

Doyle said he's "not saying anything" on the issue.

Regarding the prosecutor's controversial Organized Crime Strike Force, which Spreen has refused to participate in, Doyle said he favors continuing the special unit, but with investigators from the sheriff's department, or state and local police forces.

Stewart, who is vice chairman of the county organized crime advisory council, said Spreen's refusal to join the strike force board of directors is "detrimental to all of us in law enforcement."

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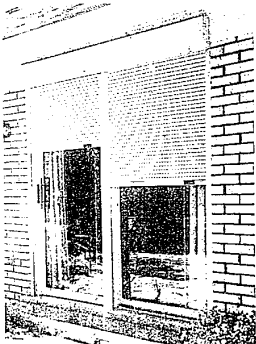
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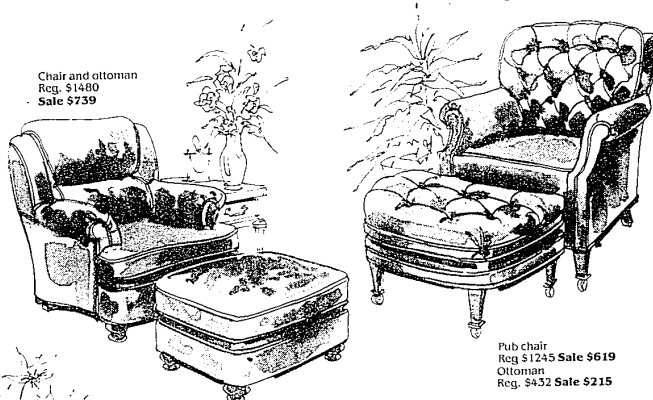
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