

Oakland transit ballot questions invalid — Beer

By TOM LONERGAN

Four public transportation advisory questions have been ordered off the Nov. 4 Oakland County ballot.

Circuit Judge William Beer Wednesday granted the order requested by the Detroit Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters.

"The (county board of) commissioners had no legal authority . . . in putting these questions on the ballot," Beer said.

"They should have refrained from having the counsily comfort of having this matter go before the electorate."

LIBBY RICHARDS, president of the metropolitan area league, said the group was "very pleased" by Beer's decision. "Having them off is more important than keeping such confusing questions on," she said.

The four questions addressed were funding of a regional transportation system as proposed by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA); creation of a county-operated transit system; and the county's continued membership in SEMTA, a seven-county regional authority.

The league, represented by attorney Tom Downs of Lansing, filed suit late last week seeking removal of the advisory questions which the county board had placed on the ballot in May.

"There's no place in the law that says

the commissioners can ask for an advisory opinion," Downs said in his closing argument before Beer.

Three of the four questions, said Downs, were written in "confusing" language, and one question asked the voters to give an opinion on three different issues.

THE QUESTIONS were drafted by two county commissioners opposed to SEMTA — John Peterson, R-Rochester, and Anne Hobart, R-Waterford Township, chairwoman of the county board Republican caucus.

The two commissioners earlier this year gathered an estimated 5,000 petition signatures in making their case that the referendums belonged on the ballot.

The county board's attorney, Robert Allen, who had to defend the referendums in court Wednesday, earlier had advised commissioners they lacked authority to put the questions on the ballot.

Regarding the first advisory question, Mrs. Richards testified that there were three issues a voter could give his opinion on — a tax for regional public transportation, support of a regional plan and the Detroit subway.

"It's very unclear what interpretation you can draw," she said, "because of the number of issues in that question."

Most service resumes

SEMTA mechanics ratify wage pact

SEMTA buses were expected back on the streets today as 160 maintenance workers agreed Wednesday to a three-year contract.

Details of the settlement were not available at press time late Wednesday afternoon.

The mechanics represented by UAW Local 417 voted 110-21 to accept the contract. They had previously rejected two offers by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

Before the new contract, the average maintenance worker earned \$9.17 per hour, according to a SEMTA representative.

The strike idled 320 major line buses in the metropolitan area and forced about 45,000 daily riders to find other transportation.

MEANWHILE, SOME SEMTA small bus service in Wayne and Oakland counties remained idled by a strike by more than 100 drivers and reservation clerks, represented by Teamsters Local 1247.

The strike, which began Oct. 3, has halted service for an estimated 1,200 daily users of the Wayne and Oakland County Advance Reservation Transit System.

Dial-A-Ride service has not been affected by the strike. The Nankin Transportation Commission which serves several western Wayne County com-

munities is also not effected by the strike.

A meeting today was scheduled with a federal mediator in the strike by drivers and clerks. The strike is against Transit Management Inc., a private firm which operates the small bus service under a SEMTA contract.

IN THE SMALL bus strike, both Teamsters and Transit Management representatives agreed Tuesday they were far apart on wages.

The drivers are now paid \$4.05 an hour and work a 47-hour week, according to Ron Barnes, general manager of Transit Management of Wayne and Oakland County.

The company — which also operates small bus systems in Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Arizona — took over the small bus operation July 1.

Thursday's meeting was the first between both sides since the strike began two weeks ago.

The small bus systems primarily serve the elderly and handicapped. Expanded fringe benefits and working conditions remain unresolved, besides wages, Barnes said.

He said Transit Management has offered to pay the drivers and clerks \$5.11 an hour for the first year of a three-year pact, with raises of 8 percent and 7 percent the following years.

The union's initial wage demand was \$8 an hour, according to Barnes.

Followed? Illegal state cop files will be pried open

Thousands of metropolitan area residents who believe they were the targets of illegal Michigan State Police spying during the past 30 years will soon be able to obtain their police files.

A six-year-old continuing law suit, filed on behalf of about a dozen Detroit-area consumer, civil rights, anti-Vietnam war and welfare rights activists, could lead to the release of an estimated 38,000 individual files and 400 organization files kept by a state police special investigation unit since the early 1950s.

The unit, commonly referred to as the "Red Squad," was found unconstitutional in separate circuit court opinions in Ingham County in 1976 and Wayne County in 1977.

ATTORNEYS WHO won the class action lawsuit have negotiated for a year and a half with the state attorney general's office over a file release procedure, which was announced last week.

"Sometime in October," according to Pat Murphy, a spokesman for the attorney general's office, letters will be sent to those individuals whom files were kept on.

The letters will tell the person how he or she can obtain the file from the state police. In order to get the file, a request must be made. Murphy said ads will be placed in the two major De-

troit daily newspapers notifying the public of the release of the files and public service announcement time will be requested from television stations.

The state won't charge for the files, Murphy said.

RICHARD SOBLE, co-counsel for the plaintiffs, said the state will check addresses with the latest Secretary of State's office driver's license records.

Names of informers and police officers will be deleted from the files, Soble said, as well as "any information of a highly personal nature regarding third parties."

Murphy said "information pertinent to an on-going criminal investigation" would also be deleted.

The lawsuit is continuing, Soble said, to force a similar release of the Detroit police department's political files.

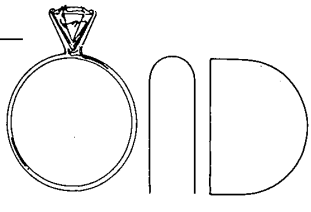
Soble said the state's surveillance of political activists dates back to the 1950s while the city's dates back to "the early 1900s." He estimates the city has between 50,000 and 100,000 political surveillance files.

Laws passed in the 1950s which created the state police red squad were repealed by the Michigan Legislature after the laws were found unconstitutional.

Soble, president of the Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, said the Guild will assist area residents in obtaining their files.

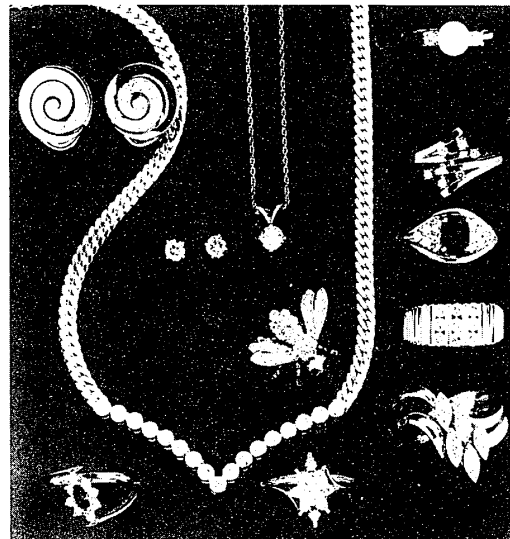
hudson's

SEMI-ANNUAL DIAMOND SALE



Save 10% to 50% on every diamond and precious stone in our sparkling collection

Your number one choice in fine jewelry—gorgeous, scintillating diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds. Perfect for gifts, because they reflect your sentiments for a long time. And now's your chance, during Hudson's Semi-Annual Diamond Sale, to save 10% to 50% on our multi-million dollar collection. Including earrings, rings, pendants, bracelets, charms, solitaires, engagement rings and men's rings. Also select rubies, emeralds and sapphires, all beautifully set in 14K or 18K gold. Come in to take advantage of these very special prices before November 1, in Hudson's Fine Jewelry. And remember another way to buy: trade in any diamond you own for a new one. Ask about our convenient credit plans when you make a purchase.



Save 50%

on a lustrous collection of precious stone jewelry. Hurry in, because the prices are so low these beautiful pieces won't be around for long. Yours to collect: rings, pendants, pins, earrings and more, reg \$200 to \$1000, sale \$100 to \$500.*

*Selection will vary by store

You are invited to attend a special Downtown Diamond Show, Sunday, October 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Hudson's Downtown Store only. Designer diamonds will be on display as well as precious stones. Select from the designers' unique collections or start with our stones and mountings to create your own one-of-a-kind styles. Plus at this event only:

- Any designer diamond selection you make will be an additional 5% less
- Register for our exciting diamond giveaway
- Bring in your own diamonds or precious stones (limit 2 pieces please) for appraisals at no charge
- Enjoy refreshments
- Complimentary valet parking (use Farmer Street entrance)

Come view our unique collection at our Diamond Sale trunk shows. Our designers will be on hand to advise you while you see their sample collections. It's all taking place in Hudson's Fine Jewelry, at the stores below.

	Downtown	Northland	Eastland	Pontiac	Westland	Oakland	Southland	Birmingham	Fairlane	Twelve Oaks	Lakeside
Sunday, Oct. 19	11-5										
Monday, Oct. 20		11-8	11-8			4-8					
Tuesday, Oct. 21		11-8	4-8			11-8	11-8				
Wednesday, Oct. 22		4-8				11-8				11-8	
Thursday, Oct. 23							11-8				
Friday, Oct. 24					11-8						
Saturday, Oct. 25			11-8								
Sunday, Oct. 26									12-5		
Monday, Oct. 27					4-8	11-8					
Tuesday, Oct. 28										4-8	11-8
Wednesday, Oct. 29		11-8		11-8		4-8					
Thursday, Oct. 30		11-8	11-8						11-8		
Friday, Oct. 31		11-8	11-8							11-8	
Saturday, Nov. 1						11-8			11-8		11-8

Open Monday through Saturday: Northland, Eastland, Pontiac, Westland, Oakland, Southland and Twelve Oaks 9:30 till 9; Lakeside, Fairlane and Ann Arbor 9:30 till 9:30; Flint 10 till 9:30. Downtown open 9:30 till 5:45.