

# Politicos' statements revealed

## Murphy tops field in expense funds

By Mike Scanlon  
staff writer

But while different, the funds tend to be related.

Politics may not be what most would call a sanitized profession, but at least it sounds cleaner since the fever of post-Watergate reforms.

One reform was Public Act 388 of 1976. That's the state law which turned what used to be called slush funds into Officeholder Expense Funds (OEF).

The OEF law requires elected officials to file a public record of how much cash they raise and spend while holding their jobs. OEFs are different from Campaign Finance Statements, which are public records of what was spent to get the jobs in the first place.

**OAKLAND COUNTY** Executive Daniel T. Murphy's OEF, for example, last year received donations of \$4,500 from his campaign committee, including a \$2,000 donation in September.

The practice of shifting money from campaign committees to officeholder accounts is common. But two months after the \$2,000 gift, at the close of the fall general-election campaign, Murphy's campaign committee was heavily in debt. One debt was a \$15,000 bank loan received in the campaign's closing days.

Murphy doesn't have to run again un-

til 1984, but last week his campaign committee staged a \$50-a-ticket reception designed, an aide explained, to help pay off last fall's debt. Appearing at Murphy's fund-raiser was Robert Griffin, whose unsuccessful 1978 campaign for re-election to the U.S. Senate remains a reported \$120,000 in debt.

**IN OAKLAND County**, few elected politicians maintain such OEF funds. County clerk records show only three of the 27 elected county commissioners, for example, maintain such funds. (See related story.)

The practice appears more common locally with office holders other than legislators, including Murphy, county

Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn, county Clerk Lynn Allen and county Treasurer C. Hugh Dohany.

Patterson maintains the thickest file among county officials — three pages longer than Murphy's — although about \$1,000 less lucrative last year.

In his report, Patterson lists \$3,500 in donations to his OEF in 1980. He spent almost all of it, ending the year with a balance of \$6.75. But that included a \$500 loan to the campaign of Commissioner Paul Kasper, R-Bloomfield Hills, a loan which county clerk employees say was returned after Kasper's campaign.

All the reported income to Patter-



Daniel Murphy raised \$4,500

Executive, prosecutor raise funds for their officeholder accounts



Brooks Patterson had \$3,500

son's OEF came in seven separate payments from another Patterson fund, the L. Brooks Patterson Candidate Committee.

The reported expenditures — including the later-returned loan — were about equally divided between the \$1,949 in expenses incurred by Patterson directly and the \$1,777 donated to other candidates.

among other things, money spent by a politician sometimes reveals a lot about the politician. Patterson spent \$25, for instance, on a July luncheon for "Phyllis Schlafly" (sic). Mrs. Schlafly is the creator and chairwoman of "Stop ERA," a group which opposes adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

OEFs ARE VALUABLE because,

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