

Let public vote, say DSO strikers

Striking Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians propose to set a democratic theme to music.

They propose a referendum to decide how the final selection of a conductor shall be made — the major bone of contention in the week-old strike.

At a news conference Wednesday, musicians union spokesman Douglas Cornelisen proposed this plan for determining the musicians' role in the selection process:

Season ticket holders for the current season and 1982 contributors on record at a given date would vote by ballot for either the management's or musician's side. Ballots would be from the American Arbitration Association.

nelsen said management has focused on the conductor clause, saying they could "settle the rest of the contract once this were out of the way."

While the referendum could stretch over a long period before results were in, Cornelisen said the musicians would be willing to return to work once management agreed to the poll and would abide by the results.

LETTERS WRITTEN by Walter J. McCarthy Jr., DSO board chairman, to the musicians and donors in which he refers to the board being responsible to the Detroit community, provided the impetus for the referendum idea.

The musicians reason that if the authority for the orchestra comes from the community, then the decision on how to choose a conductor should also rest there. The musicians want the right to submit a list of acceptable candidates for the position of permanent conductor and have the choice made from that list.

Management agrees the musicians should have input into the selection, but reserves the right to make the final decision, no strings attached.

DSO TODAY is scheduled to announce whether it will cancel performances of the Tchaikovsky ballet "The Nutcracker" scheduled to start Dec. 22.

Plan would save 17 deputies' jobs

By Suzie Rollins Singer, staff writer

Sheriff Johannes Spreen himself may stymie chances of his soon-to-be laid-off Oakland County deputies being recalled.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy told a news conference Wednesday he has a proposal to reinstate 17 deputies scheduled to be laid off Jan. 1.

"I'd like to present this proposal to the Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting tomorrow," Murphy said. "At that time they can vote to accept it or deny it, but this is my part in trying to save jobs."

The board on Dec. 2 voted to cut the

1983 budget and eliminate 27 sheriff's road patrol positions. The net effect, after vacancies are abolished and private contracts filled, would be 17 layoffs.

BUT SPREEN refused to sign the agreement, saying he has reservations about several points. Murphy signed it.

Murphy noted that if action is not taken at today's board meeting, the deputies' jobs will be terminated.

The agreement calls for:

- The sheriff to urge the command officers and patrol officers unions to accept a 6-percent wage increase for 1982 and no increase for 1983. This is identical to other non-union county employees.
- The county safety division to accept the same terms.
- The sheriff to allocate \$400,000 of his budget for overtime payments. No more overtime is allowed unless authorized by the county executive and the chairman of the Board of Commissioners.
- No new sheriff's programs can be created and no changes in existing programs to be made without approval from the Board of Commissioners or the county executive.
- The sheriff to respond to the 1982 staffing questionnaire submitted to him last year by the Oakland County Personnel Committee.
- The county's computer services

division to keep track of jail inmate population and report to the county executive. Presently, sheriff's department personnel do the record keeping.

WHEN THE agreement is signed, Murphy will ask the board to restore the 27 sheriff's department positions eliminated from the 1983 budget for up to 30 days after Jan. 1.

The restoration of the deputies is estimated to cost about \$770,000. The board will be asked to contribute \$150,000 from its budget, and the sheriff and county executive's budget can make up the remainder, Murphy said.

Murphy and Spreen said they spent many hours drafting the proposal.

"WE ARE convinced that this proposal, if accepted by management, would provide the quickest return to the bargaining table and to music making," Cornelisen said.

"There's nothing we'd like better than to go back and play 'The Nutcracker' this week," he added. "We can do it if management will sit down with us this afternoon."

The statement was read to a management representative by phone just before it was released to the public, but no reaction was given at that time.

Saying that the other two issues — pension and the four-week cancellation clause — "are just as important," Cor-



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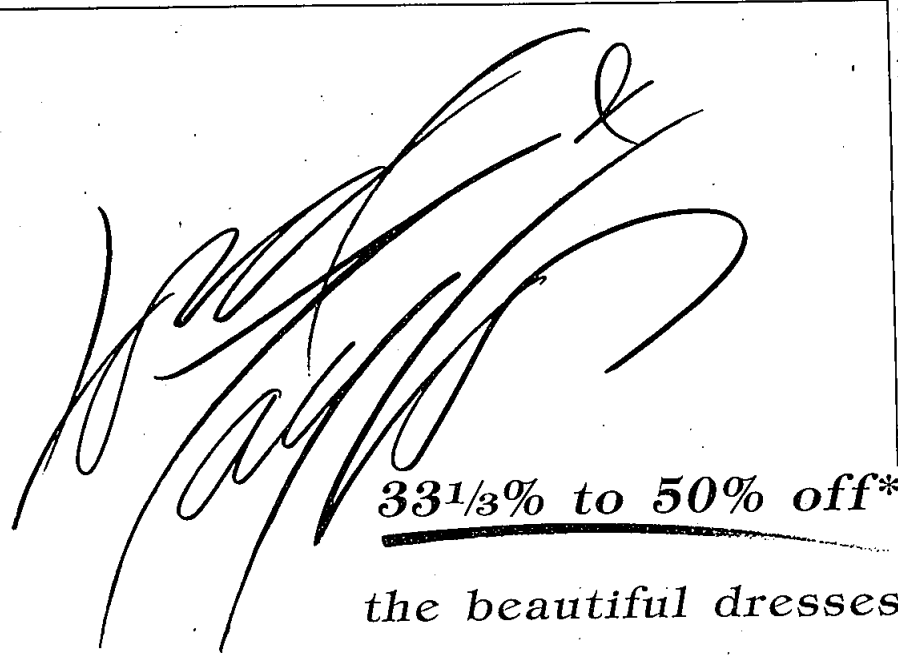


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