Dems charge partisan politics in pair of appeals board changes

Overriding objections by several Democratic commissioners that Republicans are 'playing partisan politics,' the Oakland County Board of Commissioners appointed two Republicans to the Personnet Appeals Board. The vote was 17-10 along straight narty lines.

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"I consider this as abuse of power," asid Democratic Commissioner James Doyso of Madison Heights, "For over a decade, we've had bipartisan (representation) on this board.

Republicans Thursday chose Commissioners Anne M. Hobart, R.-Pontiac, and Nancy McConnell, R.-Bloomfield Hills, for the appeals panel.

Hills, for the appeals panel.

Challman, a very care, Charles T. Whitlock, R.-Clariston, was the other

'This is an attempt to emasculate the protections of our employees. We've got some hot potatoes to handle in the next two months that involve the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner James Doyon

representative to the panel until he re-algued in November. He was succeeded by John P. Calandro, R-Northville.

"THIS IS AN attempt to emasculate e protections of our employees," Doy-"This w. the protections of our emproyon charged.
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the Sheriff's Department. I wonder if

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Without a Democrat on appeals board, members of the sheriff's department may feel they're not getting a fair bearing. Doyon said. Sheriff Johannes Spreen is a Democrat.

The five-member appeals board represents the last step in the county employee grievance procedure. It is comprised of two members elected by county employees, two members a leed by the Board of Commissioners and a member-at-large.

Doyon said the action destroys safe-guards built into the system. He added that the panel would suffer because neither Hobart nor McConnell has a working knowledge of the merit system. That system is a set of rules which govern city employees.

COMMISSIONER Lawrence R. Per-

COMMISSIONER Lawrence R. Per-nick, D-Southfield, added, "we'll be los-ing the ability to speak on behalf of

Oakland County government without any politics, prejudice or blas."

Pernick said county government will be unable to say to employees, "We've reviewed your case and are going to make a judgment strictly on-its mer-its."

Commissioner Hubert Price Jr., D-Pontiac, and the appointments came as a surprise to Democrats. His at-tempts to have the matter referred to legal counsel falled.

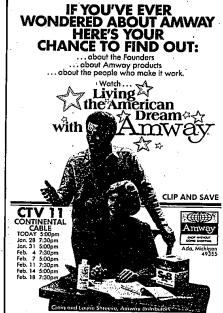
"At no point, in public meetings of e Republican caucus, has it ever been sted there would be any change with gard to a decade-old practice," he

said,
"Not one word was whispered with regard to this possibility until we heard it in the ahadows of the hallways of this Board of Communissioners auditorium

DEFENDING the appointments, Commissioner John E. Olsen, R.-Huntington Woods, said, "Our objective is to appoint two good, competent people regardless, of party.

"I'm disappointed that he (Doyon) feels he might be the only one competent to serve on that board," Olsen added.

ed.
"The suggestion that the process can't be fair unless there is representation from both parties indicates that it's truly in the political arena."



No major changes in Oakland chairs

Board of Commissioners this year.
Commissioner John E. Oisen, RHuntington Woods, who will continue
as Republican caucus chairman, will
also serve as chairman of the General
Government Committee.
That chairmanship was formerly
held by Wallace F. Gabler, R.Royal
Oak, who didn't seek re-election last
November.

November.

Leadership positions were formally approved by the board at Thursday's meeting. Republicans hold a 17-10 ad-

Only one new face will be among the caderahip posts on the Oakand County soard of Commissioner this year.

Commissioner Lohn E. Olsen, R. Cortonville, and vice chairwamn Lillar of Republican caucus chairman, will so serve as chairman of the General Newtoner Commistee.

That chairmanship was formerly covernment Committee.

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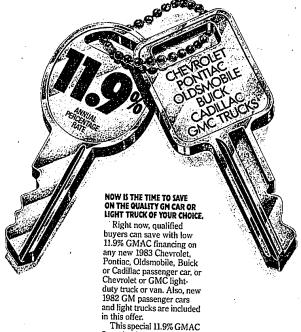
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