

Here's GOP reply to 'politics' charge

Editor's Note: Because of a mechanical error, the Republicans' response to a story in last Thursday's edition about appointments to Oakland County boards and commissions was omitted. The story focused on charges by Democratic commissioners that Republicans were trying to gain control of county operations by giving few appointments to Democrats. Here are the paragraphs which were dropped:

Republicans on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners believe it's just practical politics to give most appointments to members of their own party.

"It looks like we're stacking all the committees," admitted Commissioner John J. McDonald, R-Farmington Hills. "I guess that's just political reality."

Commissioner John Olsen, R-Huntington Woods, argued the "suggestion that we can't be fair because we're not appointing Democrats is blatantly a political statement."

Responding to charges that he swayed Republican commissioners

during the appointment process, Oakland County Executive Daniel R. Murphy said: "I have a lot of influence when it comes to recommending to the board how they should spend money. But when it comes to appointments, that's their business and I stay out of it."

"That partisan argument comes up every year when appointments are made," Murphy said. "I can sit and laugh because if Republicans were in the minority, they'd be making the same arguments the Democrats are making now."

Joe Knollenberg, former Oakland County Republican party chairman, added: "We're going to exercise whatever power we have. That's just practical politics." Knollenberg attended many Republican caucus meetings last year, including the one where leadership positions were doled out.

"When Democrats were in power, they had a slim (14-13) edge," he said. "Now, Republicans have a 17-10 advantage. There are more Republicans to find positions for."

Not Blanchard's style

Senators see death of 'Quadrant'

By Tim Richard
staff writer

There is an organization chart. Then there's the way a group really operates.

One of the most potent groups in state government from about 1975 to 1982 was known as the Quadrant — or the two Bills and two Bobs.

In 1983 the Quadrant may be dead — "at least I hope it is," in the words of one senator.

Meeting with Gov. William G. Milliken, the Quadrant consisted of Senate Majority Leader William Faust of Westland, Senate Minority Leader Robert VanderLaan of Kentwood, House Speaker Bobby Crim of Davison and House Minority Leader William Bryant of Grosse Pointe.

Of the five, only Faust sought reelection. He is again Senate majority leader.

Governor and Quadrant put together

compromises on such legislation as public transportation, workers compensation, tax proposals and other highly controversial matters that deeply divided state politics.

"A LOT OF us were resentful that these things were arrived at without full participation," said Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Southfield, who hopes the Quadrant process is dead.

Sen. John Engler, R-Mt. Pleasant, who replaced VanderLaan as minority leader, also dislikes the Quadrant, even though he now would be a member.

"It circumvented the legislative committee process," said Engler, serving his second term in the Senate after four terms in the House.

Engler found Quadrant compromises were so detailed that it was impossible to make worthy amendments on the floor of either house. Typically, a Quadrant proposal was pushed through in just a couple of days before the end of a session, or in the face of some other deadline. Thus, it was impossible to amend Quadrant proposals because the matter would have to be sent back to

the other chamber for concurrence in the amendments.

Engler said the Quadrant process also gave too much power to lobbyists who drafted them. The last persons to find out what the Quadrant had agreed to were lawmakers on the affected committees, and they were prevented from using their knowledge, he said.

Engler was interviewed in Detroit recently as he attended the inauguration of Wayne County Executive William Lucas.

FAXON SAID James Blanchard's style as governor will be to consult many legislators rather than deal with

only a handful at the highest level.

"Milliken never met with more than a few people. He had the lowest level of contact of all the governors," said Faxon.

Faxon based that remark on his own 18 years in the Legislature and service in the 1961-62 Constitutional Convention, where he got to know Govs. John B. Swainson, George W. Romney and Milliken.

"And I've visited other states," said Faxon, saying lawmakers elsewhere had much more access to their governors than Michigan legislators had to Milliken.

K-12 students may take OCC short classes

Short-term classes for kindergartners through 12th graders and academically gifted and talented students will be offered beginning this month at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

Some classes began Saturday, while others start in March.

Courses include cartooning, introduction to computers and computer pro-

gramming for children and teenagers, TV and radio advertising, mime and clowning, speed reading and building a radio.

Beginning ballet, jazz and tap, modern dance and tumbling also are available.

For registration information, call the Orchard Ridge campus at 471-7555 or 471-7567.

Bike tours session Feb. 5

A seminar designed to assist local communities in developing their own bicycle and pedestrian tours is planned at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 5 at St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

Sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the seminar is entitled "Feet First."

Registration information is available from the SEMCOG BikeTrans Program at 861-4268.

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