Refurbishing old county jail draws fire

the former Cakland County otlac for less than \$1 million.

County and Pontiac city officials, were and Pontiac city officials, where, are dead set against the idea, sying it will cost the county "many tillious more" and isn't worth it.
"I'm representing the tarpayers. I ent over a week in the old jail (study-sil), and my intent is to be practical, it political about this," Parmeter id.

id.

"The jail is a secure, beautiful old lilding that's too expensive to tear wn and needs to be used as a jail," he ded

ARMETER RECENTLY presented case to the Oakland County Jail dy Committee and the board of amissioners' Public Services Com-

But his efforts met opposition from others around the county who have studied the jail.

"When the decision was made 15 years ago to build the new jail (the current one in the county complex), it was decided that the old jail be torn down. Deputy County Executive William Spinelli said. "He offers are no work release."

"The building has had three or four owners, but it has not had heat in it for years," Spinelli said. "He plumbing was shot before the building closed.

"The civil is dead of executive with the spine of the property of the same of work release."

"A new jail for 85 persons co. "A pew jail for 85 persons co. "The civil is dead of executive with the spine of the property of the pro

"The city is dead set against refurbishing it. He (Parmeter) said he had all his trades people in there, and that he can fix it up at an economically feasible price. But there are a lot of other people who don't agree," said Spineill.

Because Parmeter's request got a 6-2 support vote from the public services committee, it will be studied more thoroughly by the county facilities and engineering department.

"There are a lot of its," Parmeter sald. "It could be done for that price — if it's minimum security, if it's a laddes' prison, if it has 86 immates, if it has a self-sufficient kitchen, and if 50 trus-ties are on work release.

. "A new jail for 86 persons costs 845,000-\$50,000 per bed," Parmeter es-timated. "Refurbishing the old jail is \$15,000 per bed."

Parmeter's presentation has been met with mixed emotions from commissioners. The two Democrats from Pontiac wanted to quash the idea, contending that Pontiac city officials aren't interested in liting up the jail at a high cost. They say it's an unsafe

building which needs too much work.

If think the opposition is pretty clear. When we built the new iell in 1972, everyone wanted that jail torn down," Commissioner Hubert Price, D. Pontiac, said.

COMMISSIONER Susan Kuhn, R-Clawson, disagreed and asked that the state Department of Corrections be contacted for its opinion. Spinelli added, "after the proposal is reviewed and the Department of Cor-rections is contacted, we'll find out if the cells are even up to code size and what clae has to be brought up to code."

The idea of refurbishing the old jail was born as county officials cast around for more jail space in the wake of a fedral court ruling that the new jail is overcrowded.

ifs. It could be done for that price - If Il'a minimus security, if it's a iadies' prison, if it has 88 inmates, if it has a self-aufficient kitchen, and if 50 trustles are on work

- John Parmeter retired contractor

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Michigan Technology Council

Headlee has new ax petition drive

Fitchard Headlee has returned to the solid eye, this time beading a petition frive supporting voter approval for new lares, tax increases or tax shifts. Calling his petition the "Voter'a Calling his petition the "Voter'a Castor" petition, the Farmington Hills insurance secutive and 1932 Republi-nan hopes to garner 304,000 valid sig-natires by June 1934 to put his plan on the November 36 hallot.

would allow voters to decide her they want the power to ap-s or deny tax-hike requests.



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Persons wishing to obtain petitions should write to Voter's Choice for '84, P.O. Box 484, Armada, Mich. 48003-044.
Headlee's petition drive is in retailation to Gov. James Blanchard's 33-percent Income tax increase approved by the legislature last month.
In a recent interview with the Observer & Eccentric, Headlee said he was confident the Voter's Choice proposal would get enough votes to be put on the ballot and be approved by voters.

Headiee has had success with getting constitutional amendments approved. The Farmington Hills resident apearbeaded the most recent successful Michigan constitutional amendment drive in 1973.

The Headiee amendment limited the growth of the state budget by fixing the ratio between the budget for fiscal year 1974.79 and the total personal in-come in Michigan for the calendar year 1977.

1977.

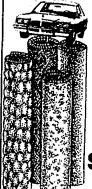
It also provides for a reduction of property tax miliage rates when the increase in community state equalized property valuations exceeds the increase in the consumer price index for the providing team.

the previous year.

In addition, the ratio between state and local spending cannot fall below 41 percent of state spending going to local governments.

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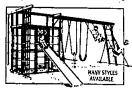
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