Dems turn economic office into an '84 election issue

Democrats have staked out a major issue in the Democrats have staked out a major issue in the 184 election — County Executive Daniel T. Murphy's establishment of an Economic Development (Toup. "Will increasing these salaries, giving grandiose titled; help economic development?" Commissioner Dennis Aaron, D-Oak Park, asked rhetorically. "You tell me if anyone in this group has got the smarts to bring in business," added Commissioner Alex Periodi, D-Southfield. "It's absolutely non-sensical. You've created a monater here again." On almost a party line vote, the Oakhand County-Board of Commissioners gave 15-9 approval Thursday to Murphy's plan to reorganize the economic development division into a separate group, fand it for leyen months for 12436,000, add two jobs and increates some salaries.

increases some salaries.

IBMOCRATS JIBED at Republicans for refusing so debate the measure. "All the decisions are made upstains of behind closed doors," Aaron said. "Republicans Igoored the charge. Commissioner Lillips Moffitt, R-Bioomfield, said, "Oh, he just warns someone to debate him. I'm tired of that. We've gone over this as a board and in committee." Refitty oblited to the board's April decisions to approve the concept by a 21-1 vote and to establish the organization by a 21-1 vote. The personnel committee recommended increasing the number of positions to il from mine in a 8-1 vote.

Joining cight Democrats in voting against the measure was Republican Rajby Nelson of Rochester. Two commissioners were absent.

THE DEPARTMENT will be headed by Joseph D. Joichim at an annual salary of \$50,348. A finirkeling and research division will be managed by Gf Skrubb at \$51,150. A business development division will be managed by Jeffrey Kambarek at \$35,677.

Karmarek at \$38,677.
The group was created from the former Advanced Program Group and Economic Development Division.
Ropibilicans contend 89,000 new jobs will be needed by 1990 to employ Onkland's growing popu-

'He just wants someone to debate him. I'm tired of that. We've gone over this as a board and in committee.

Lillian Moffitt, Bloomfield Republican

Will increasing these salaries, giving grandiose titles, help economic development?

Dennis Asron Oak Park Domocrat

lation. They say a central location for information and assistance will improve industry-hunting pros-

and assistance will improve mouses, process.

The department will be a fourth arm in Oak-land's economic development effort which includes a fledgling industrial park, a center for financial assistance and job training programs.

"This has been needed for a long time," said Commissioner John Clsen, H-Huntington Woods.

DEMOCRATS criticized it.
Commissioner Larry Pernick, D-Southfield, said an economic development department isn't mandated by state law. He said the money could be better spent on health and police protection. "The state and communities have their own economic development departments," Pernick added. Pointing to the salaries, Commissioner James Doyon, D-Madisoo Riejdis, said. "If this were private enterprise, we'd have had a different position."

vate enterprise, we'd have had a different posi-tion."

Commissioner Betty Fortino, D-Waterford, said the department is "a fine concept... But the fact we were able to keep it tabled in finance commit-tee for a few weeks indicates there are reservations among a few fleepublicanj commissioners."

"A boondoggle. It could have been done within the framework of the Advanced Program Group," said Perinoff.

ONE OTHER issue became partisan — Lynn Allen's request to raise fees in his County Clerk/Register of Deeds office for various sized documents from \$1-1 to \$1.80-3.

It passed on a 20-4 vote but not before Aaron citclexed the philosophy behind it.

"I notice a very disturbing thing. There hasn't been a meeting recently where we're not asked to increase a fee. Some of us (meaning the Republicans) think there should be a fee for everything. I object as a taspayer," he said.

He was joined by three other Democrats, including Fernick.

ing Pernick.
The new fees take effect July 1.

IN OTHER business, the county board, in one of its four-times-a-year evening meetings:

• Approved renewal of a contract to operate the city of Southfield's 35-cell detention facility for two years. Cost per officer will be \$36,467 the first year

and \$35,548 the second. The sheriff was directed to make written quarterly reports on inmate population. Southfield will maintain the facility while the county will provide up to 16 corrections personnel.

• Volced 18-7 opposition to House Bill 3453 which would allow persons to register to vote on election day, charging it would overwork elections personnel and lead to possible franc Minority Democrats said it would make voting easier.

• Gave 23-0 support to flouse Bill 3429, which would remove the maddate that counties publish would remove the maddate that counties publish election results in newspapers. The resolution said ample, multi-media news coverage removed the need for requiring the county to spend \$1,000 on regular election results and \$500 on special elections.

**Section Institute of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency not to impose as quality sanctions against Oakland County because the county has attempted to persuade the Michigan Legislature to fund a vohicle exhaust tealing program. The vote was 25-6. EPA plans to impose the sanctions — cutting off bighway funds and limiting industrial expansion — in mid-July.

**Gave 25-0 approval for an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$15,000 to rehabilitate reotal housing. About 25 percent of all housing units in Oakland are renter occupied.



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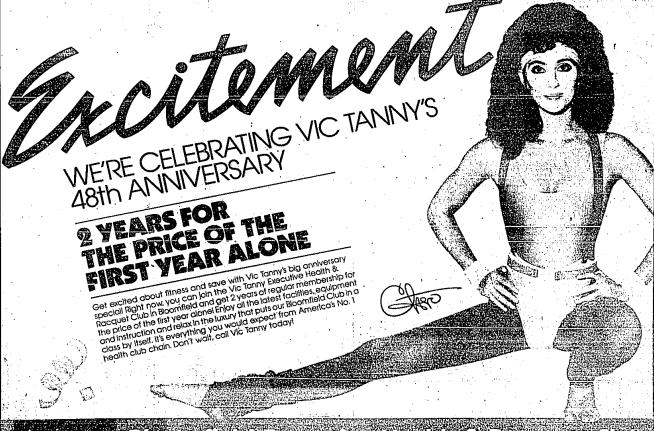
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