Political activitists and local government clerks are on a collision course. Their battleground will be the Michigan Legislature. At issue the clerks' power to depute the state of the collision course. The collision course is a collision course. At issue the clerks' power to depute the collision course. At issue the clerks' power to depute the collision course, and the collision course the collision collision course the colision course the collision course the collision course the collis

"WE FOUND clerks who were unwilling to deputize non-residents. It is wholly impractical to staff a booth at a county fair with 20 or more depu-ties," said McAninch.

The LWV, a non-partisan group, and such special-interest groups as the NAACP and Christian fundamentalists NAME and Universitian fundamentalists conducted heavy voter registration drives during the 1984 election. Many columnists observed the Reagan-Mondale battleground was not debates or rallies but the efforts of politically active groups to register like-thinking people to vote. Gene Thornton, lobbyist for the Michigan Townships Association, cited a news report where a deputy clerk paid persons \$1 each to register. 'That's why clerks are reluctant to deputize,' he

The LWV's McAninch had other com-

The LWV's McAninch had other compilaints:

The Taylor clerk refused to supplied the work of the tendency of th

THERE WERE plenty of officials with dim views of deputiting, however. An Engler alde pointed out reported instances where volunteer deputy clerks falled to turn in their cards, casting a public cloud over the honesty of special-interest groups who would register only persons friendly to their causes.

Engler, who is also Senate majority leader, agreed that was a real danger.

Gene Thornton, lobbyist for the

Focus on America's

Future

Michigan Townships Association, cited a news report where a deputy clerk paid persons \$1 each to register. "That's why clerks are reluctant to deputing," he said.
"I would hate to mandate to a clerk that they must deputire," Thornton went on."I would like to see (deputites required to have) some training."
Elaine Starritt, Millord Township clerk, said the Michigan system provides ample opportunities for persons to register — with their local clerk, at Secretary of State branch offices and even at high school principals' offices.
"I have never encountered anyone who couldn't register to vote," said Skarritt, testifying she had personally driven to residents' houses to register them when they couldn't come to her office during business hours.

SEN. POLLACK said the cruz of the

problem is "biased" registrations.
A liberal, Pollack bad no objection to
"some fundamentalist Christian
churches" being deputized to register NOW 2 Beautiful

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ocation in the franklin Office Building (next to the Vineyard's Restaurant) corner of

unemployment lines" also are deputized.

"The only thing you and I need to worry about," she told MTA's Thornton, is that everybody has an equal shot at it."

She objected to giving clerks discretion about whom to deputize and whether to deputize non-residents. "The clerks are taking on too much power to decide who is deputized," she said.

said.

ANOTHER ISSUE is whether to register retarded persons.

Marian McQueen of Benzie County said, "When they cannot make an informed decision, it is terrible to register them." The mother of a 29-year-old woman with an IQ of 20, McQueen said five retarded persons in her daughter's group home were registered, an absentee hallost were even sought for them. Pollack replied that raising the question of the retarded also raises the question of the retarded also raises the question of the propile who appear to be incompetent.

tims any powers.

Competent."

Pollack's big question was who is to judge whether a person is mentally incompetent to vote. "I don't want the doctor judging whether I can vote or one of the power in t

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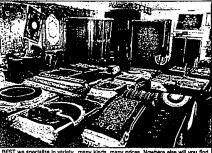
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