

It's back to business

No post-election blues for Murphy

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

It was another day on the job Friday for Oakland County Executive Dan Murphy. First, there was a meeting to discuss where they could build another jail and how they would pay for it. Then there was a meeting with the roads people to plan highways in and out of the new technological park. Then there was a meeting to discuss with the proposed working agreement between Volvo and General Motors would affect the people and economy of Pontiac.

Another, another thousand things to do, or so it seemed. Already last week's decisive and disappointing loss in the Republican gubernatorial primary seemed far away.

IF THERE was any residual disappointment in the loss — in getting trounced even in his home county — it didn't show in Murphy's actions, his words or in his voice, which was firm and quick. Quick? He fires off words the way an Uzi fires off bullets. They're coming at you but it's hard to tell where one stops and the next begins.

Like this he talks and you better listen like this if you want to keep up.

Or, better yet, take shorthand. "Not many people can keep up with me," he said, with a laugh, to a reporter struggling to get it all down on paper.

MURPHY ADMITTED he was surprised by his big loss in Oakland County. On Murphy's home turf, William Lucas won with 36,420 votes; Dick Chrysler was second with 22,887; and there was Murphy lagging back in third with 18,350.

But his big loss statewide — he finished fourth, behind Colleen Engler, with just 11 percent of the vote — came as no shock.



'An election is an election. When it's over, it's over. I didn't reflect on it or procrastinate. I went on. And I kept busy. I haven't given myself time to get depressed.'

— Daniel Murphy
county executive

"I guess I wasn't surprised," he said. "The last week there were indications that some things were turning. People like to go with a winner. People have, up till now, gone with Murphy. It was by his reelection his 10th political campaign and his first loss. Murphy says it was a bit of philosophy he decided upon in 1956, on the eve of his first election (as registrar of deeds) that got him through this race without any post-election blues.

"The first time I ran for office, I thought 'What else can you do if you lose?'" said Murphy. "If you can do other things, then you don't worry about it. If you can't do anything but feed at the public trough, then you worry."

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"If I had a debt, then I might worry about that. I'd have to think about fund raising and how in the world I was going to pay it off. But we don't have a debt. We're going to be just about even on the nose."

MURPHY SAID he allowed himself the luxury of a few rounds of golf following his defeat, then began catching up on some of the county and personal business that he had let go.

Some critics have said his hard-hitting radio ads may have turned off some voters. Murphy disagrees. "Given the same set of circumstances, I wouldn't have changed a thing," he said, with his customary tenaciousness.

As for the ads, "That's what our consultant said to do and we did it. The only flak we got was from the supporters of the other candidates and from some of the hierarchy in the Republican Party."

"Well, if you can't rock the boat in a campaign, what's the point of having one?"

Murphy is 63; his term of office expires in 1988. Except for planning a vacation with his wife, Carolyn, he says he will limit his thinking about the future. Though he says he probably will run for re-election — "I don't have any reason not to" — it is too soon to talk politics.

"We'll be here at the office most of the time," he said, getting back to business.

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6.35% Annual Percentage Rate	6.53% Annual Percentage Rate	6.45% Annual Percentage Rate
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A lot of the staff works for free. And most provide their own cars and gasoline so the operators can still offer home delivery. And, as it's always been over the years, they've never once made a red cent to show for it all.

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