

Nichols seeking full state funding for local courts

By Tim Richard
staff writer

There's no change but a lot of effort on the state court funding scene, according to Sen. Rudy Nichols, R-Waterford.

"I've been attempting to encourage the Senate appropriations subcommittee to keep \$25 million in the budget for court funding," said Nichols, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"To be honest with you, I fell flat on my face."

But the second-term senator said he'll keep plugging on the issue of getting the state to fund all county circuit and probate courts, along with local district courts.

After the 1983 state constitution was adopted, the state began paying a large portion of judges' salaries, leaving county and local units to pay the rest.

This led to differences in judges' and court personnel salaries. Sometimes judges have wound up in fights with county boards and city councils over court funding. Occasionally, judges threatened local legislators with jail for refusing to vote the kinds of budgets judges wanted.

In 1979 the state embarked on a program of 100 percent financing of those courts. The program began with Wayne County courts and Detroit Recorder's Court.

And there it ended. The recession of the early '80s forced budget cuts. Early this year, Milton Zaagman, former senator who lobbies for the

Michigan Judges Association, said the other 82 counties could become resentful that only Wayne and Detroit courts are fully state funded.

In testimony before Nichols' committee, Zaagman asked the cost of full state funding at \$150 million to \$225 million.

"IN MAY or June, I was in contact with (Sen. William) Sederburg's appropriations subcommittee," Nichols said. Sederburg, R-East Lansing, heads the general government subcommittee.

The Oakland senator's goal: state payment of judges' fees, witness fees and attorney fees for indigent defendants.

In the summer budget crunch, that \$25 million item was dropped.

"I set up an appointment with (Senate Majority Leader John) Engler and brought up two points," Nichols went on.

"First, the state constitution doesn't mandate state funding of courts, but it does mandate it through the words 'one court of justice.'" Nichols found Engler receptive on that point.

"Second, I asked to serve on the conference committee on judicial appropriations. But I didn't get a commitment from John."

IN HIS FIRST term, Nichols won a seat on the full Senate Appropriations Committee.

But after his 1986 re-election from his northern Oakland district that includes Rochester, Nichols was awarded the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Members of legislative appropriations committees rarely serve on other panels because the budget work is so time-consuming.

Lippitt's court to be first

State OKs videocamera recording tests

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Oakland Circuit Judge Norman Lippitt will be one of the first in Michigan to have his court records videotaped.

"We hope it will start within the month of October," said Joan Young, circuit court administrator, in announcing that the Michigan Supreme Court had granted permission for the experiment.

"It's a matter of when the equipment can be installed," she said.

THE SUPREME COURT, which recently said it will lift its ban on cameras in the courtroom next Feb. 1, authorized the Oakland and Kalamazoo circuit courts to keep records on videotape.

"Judge Lippitt made the presentation at the judicial conference at Shanty Creek," Young said, referring to the Aug. 26 meeting where the high court said it will ease its rule against cameras.

The videotape system, now used in Kentucky, will allow courts to do away with stenographers, audio recordings and transcripts. Highly sensitive, voice-activated videocameras will photograph and record all proceedings.

If fully implemented, it is possible — at least in theory — that broadcasters can copy the court's recording, removing the necessity for having commercial TV cameras in the courtroom. The Michigan Supreme Court rule provides, however, that witnesses can refuse to be photographed by the news media, though not by the court camera.

Besides giving an appeals court the facial expressions and voices of witnesses, the system will be cheap-

er than the current \$60,000 annual cost of a stenographer's wages, benefits and equipment.

The video system would be turned on and off by the judge.

THE HIGH COURT'S order relaxes the code of judicial ethics, which currently prohibits such recording in the Oakland and Kalamazoo circuits.

It provides: "At least two videotape recordings, constituted simultaneously, shall constitute part of the original record in the case. One videotape shall be

retained by the clerk of the court to be forwarded, if an appeal is taken, to the Court of Appeals. . . . The other shall be stored off the court premises. . . ."

The Supreme Court order charges the judge with ensuring that a qualified person routinely checks the equipment.

JUSTICE MICHAEL Cavanagh concurred in the order but added: "I would approve of experimenting with videotaping trial court proceedings for the purpose suggested only in addition to the current re-

quirements for reporting trial court proceedings."

In the Kentucky system, five cameras cover people in the courtroom — the judge, witness stand, plaintiffs and defense lawyers, etc.

"Bench conferences" — whispered conversations between the judge and lawyers over procedural matters — also are recorded but are not an official part of the proceedings.

In addition, Young said, some Kentucky judges have cameras to record conversations in their chambers although these, too, aren't part of the official record.

Class to cover IBM computer

Extra time in class for practice under supervision is provided in the Beginners IBM personal computer class offered by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education.

The class runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 3-24.

Instructor is Bret Moeller, assistant to the university president. It will cover the fundamentals of operating the IBM personal computer, including use of floppy disk and printer, word processing, PC-File III data base manager and Lotus 1-2-3. Tuition of \$115 includes take-home reference materials.

For registration information, call the Continuing Education office, 370-3120, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays.

Futures forum open at OCC

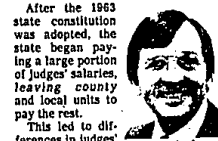
The Oakland Community College Futures Institute will present a lecture on "The Five Radical Uniqueness of Our Time" at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6.

The program is free and open to the public in the Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-696, Farmington Hills.

Speaker will be Dr. Jean Houston, a pioneer in the exploration and development of human potentiality. She will explore new themes related to globalism, technology, physics, women and spiritual thought.

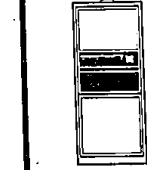
An internationally-known author Houston was elected "distinguished educator of the year" in 1985 by the National Teacher-Education Association.

Her teaching experiences in the behavioral sciences have taken her to Egypt, Greece, China and India and throughout Europe and the United States. She has taught at Columbia University, Hunter College, the New School for Social Research, Marymount College and the University of California.



Sen. Nichols

FUELISH OFFER



FREE GAS FOR 2 MONTHS WITH EVERY LONG-LIVED BRYANT FURNACE WE INSTALL BEFORE JANUARY 31.

Now's a bargain time to get a new deluxe model Plus 90 furnace with up to 97.3% energy efficiency. Because we'll pay you back for your two highest monthly gas bills of the season after installation. And our easy-term financing makes the best equipment available even more affordable. Offer valid only from participating dealers from now until January 31, 1988. Call today for details.

- Free Estimates**
- 1. CLEAN AND CHECK HEAT EXCHANGER**
- 2. CHECK ALL SAFETY CONTROLS**
- 3. CHECK GAS VALVE AND BURNERS**
- 4. CHECK OIL BEARINGS AND MOTORS**
- 5. CHECK FLUE & VENT DRAFT**
- 6. CHECK ELECTRICAL WIRING**
- 7. CHECK BELTS**
- 8. CHECK THERMOSTAT**
- 9. CHECK FILTERS**
- 10. START-UP AND TEST FOR PROPER OPERATION**

1987 —

Free Estimates

1. CLEAN AND CHECK HEAT EXCHANGER

2. CHECK ALL SAFETY CONTROLS

3. CHECK GAS VALVE AND BURNERS

4. CHECK OIL BEARINGS AND MOTORS

5. CHECK FLUE & VENT DRAFT

6. CHECK ELECTRICAL WIRING

7. CHECK BELTS

8. CHECK THERMOSTAT

9. CHECK FILTERS

10. START-UP AND TEST FOR PROPER OPERATION

O&E sports... your guide to local scores

RE-SELL-IT

ESTATE SALES SPECTACULAR SAVINGS ON THE BEST IN ESTATE FURNITURE AND DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES

All furniture and accessories must meet our high standards before we put them on display in our showroom for your inspection.

THE LARGEST SELECTION IN MICHIGAN

LAY-A-WAYS AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE

RE-SELL-IT ESTATE SALES

34769 Grand River, World Wide Center Farmington - Between Farmington and Drake Roads

478-7355

MON, TUE, WED, THUR, FRI, SAT, 10-6 PM
SUN, 11-5 PM
OPEN SUNDAY 12-4 PM

ADDING A ROOM? DORMER - KITCHEN - ADDITION

We're the only builder that will save you thousands of \$ by:

- ★ Custom Designing Your Project
- ★ Doing the Heavy Rough Work
- ★ Furnish a Custom Outline so you can Contract the Finished Project
- ★ Furnish Our Skilled Tradesmen

UNITED BUILDERS

474-3888

MASTER DESIGNERS

MATTHEW RABINOWICZ, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Specializing in
PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY & ADULT EYE MUSCLE DISORDERS

is pleased to announce the opening of his Southfield office

25811 W. TWELVE MILE ROAD SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034
(bet. Telegraph & Northwestern)
PHONE: 357-5050

Fellow, Royal College of Surgeons
Fellow, American Board of Ophthalmology
Former Pediatric Ophthalmologist, Kresge Eye Institute
Former Chief of Ophthalmology, Childrens Hospital, Detroit

EVING & WEEKEND HOURS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF OUR PATIENTS

FALL SALE

30-50% off on all wall coverings

35% off on all fabrics

55% off on Kirsch blinds

Ash SHOWROOM

2374 Franklin Road
Bloomfield Hills
850-7010

Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon. - Sat.
10:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sun.

Diamond Remount Savings

3 Reasons Why You Save

- Diamond Brokers
- Importers
- Jewelry Manufacturers

Now is the time to update your out-of-style, worn-out jewelry. Connolly's designs and manufactures everything at our own facilities. Therefore tremendous savings are passed on to you. Choose from hundreds of styles. Also save on loose diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones.

CONNOLLY'S

Jewelers & Silversmiths Since 1910

DETROIT — Fisher Bldg. 672-3361
BIRMINGHAM — Downtown, 280 N. Woodward Ave. 642-7167
ROCHESTER — Meadowbrook Village Mall 375-5100

ILLUSTRATED OPERA LECTURES

Presented by
DR. JACK C. DuBOIS

MONDAYS AT SOMERSET
1:00 to 2:30 PM

October 5 - FALSTAFF
October 12 - IL TROVATORE
October 19 - LA BOHEME

Open to the Public
Free of Charge

SOMERSET — THE MALL
Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy

MONDAYS AT SOMERSET
1:00 to 2:30 PM

October 5 - FALSTAFF
October 12 - IL TROVATORE
October 19 - LA BOHEME

Open to the Public
Free of Charge

SOMERSET — THE MALL
Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy