Three prosecutor hopefuls hit Thompson

Richard Thompson, chief assistant prosecutor, may be the front runner in the race to succeed retiring L. Brooks Patterson as Oakland County

prosecutor.

Three rivals for the Republican nomination in the Aug.2 primary — John McDonald, Jeffrey Leib and Richard Fessler — all took hard shots Monday at the man who has been at Patterson's right hand for 16 wears.

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"We're all gonna say we're tough on crime," said McDonald in a debate sponsored by the Birmingham Women's Republican Club in the Board of Commissioners' auditorium

in Pontiac.

The trio adopted Leib's theme that
"the prosecutor's office should be
earned, not inherited."

THOMPSON, 51, repeated his own theme: Prior to Patterson's election in 1972, "virtually every (drug) case was plea-bargained" by Democratic prosecutor Thomas Plunkett.

Wrong, said McDonaid and Leib, both of them assistant prosecutors in that cra.

wrong, sam assistant prosecutors in that era.

McDonald, 48, a county commissioner from the Farmington area said he won a conviction in the drug case of People vs. Gaines and challenged Thompson to "check the record."

Challenging Thompson on the right policy of no plea-bargaining. McDonald said that last year he defended schooltenfere David Schuler (1987).

McDonald said Thompson reclused to reduce the charge, though McDonald had lined up an FBI agent as a char-

scalulat on the lesser enarge of pos-session.

"There's a way to get to dealers. You get to them through the user," McDonald said, "Being tough isn't going to do it. It also requires educa-tion."

LEIB SAID. "It simply isn't true" that every drug case was plea-bargoined under Plunkett.
"As far as I know, I was the first assistant under Plunket to ry a sale of drugs case which has a 20-year mandatory sentence," said Leib, 46, a former West Bloomfield Township trustee.

trustee.
Leib claimed support from Patterson's "Inner cabinet" including personal secretary Fel Brown, moneyraiser Rudy Lozano, issues man Ken-

Fessler, 45, state senator for western Oakland County, challenged Thompson's assertion that law enforcement authorities "are doing everything they can" to catch the seriar palst in the Birmingham-Bloom-filed, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Founship area. "Had I been prosecutor — we've now had II rapes — I would have formulated a task force by then, prior to the 11th rape, "salf Fessler. "Very often you have communitate the way they should. There's some competition. There may be a break-down in communications with a translation of the condition of the communitation of the competition. There may be a break-down in communications with a break force." It still hasn't been done."

THOMPSON, listing his law en-preement group memberships, said

the other candidates "have been in private practice 15 years.
"I didn't become tough on crime today, I've been doing it 16 years, I have the two endorsements that really count — Brooks Patterson and Sherilf John Nichols."
Asked about the serial rapist, Thompson said 800 tips have been received and investigated; the FBI behavioral science unit has been consulted, search warrants have been obtained; and an assistant prosecutor is permanently assigned to the case.
Thompson called the rapist a "highly intelligent" person who surveys his intended victim two or three days before attacking.

"We are satisfied they (police) are doing everything they can. Obviously we have not apprehended the Indi-vidual yet."

LEIB, WHO resigned as a West Bloomfield Township trustee during a recall effort, was asked its effect on his campaign for prosecutor.

Leib said the recall was the work of "a selfish group of homeowers, including yourself, (who) chose to oppose the plans of the township to develop any kind of site — it happened to be next to you."

Leib said he resigned because "I have a major campaign I began a year ago. You knew it. So did everybody else."

He said he quit to spare the township a recall campaign that was unnecessary since he wasn't planning to run for trustee again. "I guess we were short-sighted in not taking you seriously enough. I would have loved to have dug my heels in." Leib said, "because I was only one on the township board who had the guts to speak up to you."

ACLU to Blanchard: Veto surrogacy ban with the contracting couple also is routinely paid \$10,000. AREA LAWMAKERS were overwhelmingly in favor of banning surrogate contracts. In the Senate, the bill was backed by Republicans Doug Cruce of Troy, Richard Fester of Commerce and Rudy Nichols of Waterford, and

(AP) — Gov. James Blanchard should veto the anti-surrogacy bill approved by the Legislature, the ex-ecutive director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Michigan chapter said.

chapter said.
"When is it the state's business to

"When is it the state's business to tell anybody whether or when or how to bear a child?" Howard Simon said during a taping of public lelevision's "Off The Record." "I think it is wholly inappropriate for the state to intrude itself into what is an intensely private decision between a couple and a possible sur-regate mother.

between a couple and a possible sur-regale mother.
"I'd like to see the governor veto the bill and exercise some leadership on this matter," he said. "I think there's been just an awful lot of non-sense that has been out on the issue of surregate parenting — about haby selling and so on."

THE HOUSE last week voted 90-10 and the Senate voted 28-3 to out-law pregnancy-for-pay-contracts. Under the legislation, everyone in-

taw pregnancy-tor-pay-contracts.
Under the legislation, everyone involved in a surrogacy arrangement would risk criminal penalties if payments exceeded actual expenses. The people who signed such agreements would face up to 90 days in jail and a \$10,000 fine, while brokers would face live years in jail and a \$50,000 fine.

Women who wanted to bear a child and then give the baby up to another couple would still be able to do so, and brokers could still arrange surrogate births — but all would have to do it for free.

Typically, women who agree to be artificially inseminated carry a baby to term, then give up custody and are paid \$10,000 plus sepness. The person who matched the mother

Among western Wayne County representatives, the bill was sup-

Democrat William Faust of West-land.
It was opposed by Robert Geake, R-Northville, and Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.
Sen. George Hart, D-Deerborn, did not vote.

Among Oakland County represent-atives, the bill was supported by

Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, W.V. Brotherton, R-Farmington: Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion; Judith Mil-ler, R-Birmingham; Gordon Sparks, R-Troy; and Wilfred Webb, D-Hazel Park.

Opposed was David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.



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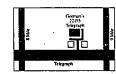
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