

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Pontiac officials failed again last week to stall Oakland County board action on offering county land to the state for a prison.

"It's political. The Republicans have given no thought to the city of Pontiac's economic development plan," said Commissioner Hubert Price, D-Pontiac.

But the county board's finance committee gave a fiscal green light to the proposal on a 5-2 party line vote. The panel turned back repeated Democratic attempts to place hurdles in front of the idea.

The plan goes this week to the planning and building committee.

THE PLAN is sponsored by Commissioner John McDonald, R-Farmington Hills, in his bid for the GOP

McDonald called for the county to lease 22 acres of its land adjacent to the present jail in Pontiac to the state Department of Corrections for \$1 a year for 99 years.

McDonald gave the plan new life after residents of rural Holly Township, in the northwest corner of the county, publicly protested that Lansing was secretly planning to pick the former Adelpian Academy there for a 600-bed prison.

PRICE LOST an effort to refer the proposal to the planning and building committee first.

Then he lost a four-part amendment to refer it to the corporation counsel for:

"County property is entrusted to us," said Commissioner James Doyon, D-Madison Heights. He said the board should develop a policy prior to disposing of any land. Doyon said all 27 commissioners should agree before the land is disposed of.

REPUBLICANS sat quietly for the better part of an hour, then lashed back at the delaying tactics.

"The time to act is now. We should send this to the state and see if they accept it."

Commissioner Richard Kuhn, R-Waterford, said politics was being played not by Republicans but by Democratic Gov. James Blanchard's administration. Kuhn said the site process was being "protracted" by an architect hired by the state Corrections Department.

Oakland Sheriff John Nichols (right) will narrate a videotape on train crossing safety after a nerve-wracking first-hand experience. With Grand Trunk engineer A.O. (Tony) Harder, Nichols recently made a 67-mile trip from Detroit to Durand. Less than a quarter-mile into the trip in Detroit, the driver of a pickup truck smashed through a crossing gate, scattering pieces over the tracks, and drove on with the engine popping. Nichols said that since trains are hauling increasing amounts of explosive, flammable and poisonous materials, an accident could be a major disaster rather than a one-vehicle tragedy.



The board of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland Inc., formerly Oakland County Council for Children at Risk Inc., has elected officers for the 1988-89 year. They are: president, William J. Schiele, director of the Sanctuary Runaway Shelter; vice president, Barbara Consilio, Oakland County Probate Court administrator; secretary, Patricia A. Hurn, director of social services at Huron Valley School; and treasurer, Deborah Macon, president of the League of Women Voters West Bloomfield-Farmington.

The Child Abuse and Neglect Council is a non-profit group of individuals and organizations with common goals of treating and preventing child abuse through research, service, education, public awareness and advocacy for children.

Schools; and treasurer, Deborah Macon, president of the League of Women Voters West Bloomfield-Farmington.

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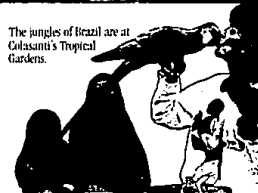
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