Resignation rumors fly as Murphy recovers

Oakland County Executive Daniel
T. Murphy is recovering from the
apparent stroke that led to his hospitalization Saturday.
But speculation abounds about
who might replace Murphy if bad
health were to persuade the 67-year
did executive to resign.
"I don't have any indication that
he (Murphy) won't be back." Deputy
Executive Patrick M. Nowak said
Tuesday. "As a matter of fact, we've
talked about county business during
much of the time he's been in the
hospital.

"That doesn't sound like a man who's thinking about, stepping down," said Nowak, a key Murphy dide since the mid-1970 and one of several possible successors.

Murphy was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Bospital by ambulance from the Deer Lake Barquet Club in Clarkston where he and his wife Carolyn were attending a dinner for the hospital.

A physician at the dinner, Dr. Robert Nestor, called the ambulance after taking Murphy's blood pressure. Nestor had noticed Murphy having difficulty using his right hand and the executive was reportedly slurring some of his words.

A STATEMENT from the executive's office said Murphy's attending physician, Dr. Lonel Glass, expects full recovery. Nowak said the executive's office has been deluged with calls from people inquiring about Murphy. "As far as I'm concerned, he's still very much in charge," said Nowak. Asked if he has heard discussion about Murphy stemmer down

Asked if he has heard discussion about Murphy stepping down, Nowak said, 'Not that I'm aware of Any discussion like that is premature.'

Nowak and others are very much aware, however, of rumors that Murphy, Oakand's only executive since the position was created in

1974, will not seek re election when his term expires in 1992.

Nowak has previously said he may run for the post Others who have expressed interest are former country prosecutor I. Brooks Patterson and state Sen Dong Cruce, ReTray.

All three most any discussion about Murphy resigning in "specularities and periodiant part it." The (Murphy) has been in country government for, to years. Nobody would blaim him if he wanted to smell the roses for awhite.

"He wouldn't be hurting financiality and he's got grandback all around the country."

THE CONTINUAL asket out to be adentified: We all wish him the best of health and quick recovery," he said: 'Mthough everyone would understand if he (Murphy) decided to step down, nobody wants to speculate about it hecause they might be seen as a nickel in the warrs."

en as a jackal in the wings. Ironically, one of the things that

might prompt Murphy to stay in ori-ice is the recall pending against him from the Oakland County Taxpayers Association, according to County-Commissioner Donn L. Wolf, Re-Commissioner Donn L.

Commissioner Donn L. Wolf, R-Farmington
"That (the recall) is the kind of thing that would get Dan mad," said Wolf, a political ally of Murphys and a personal friend "He's a fight-er and I doubt if he would step down with that pending."
That recall effort got the green light during a five-minute hearing before the Oskhard Compt Election Commission Tuesday (See related story)

story)

If Murphy were to resign, the 27member County Board of Commissoners would appoint a successor
who would serve until the next election in 1992, according to Jack C.
Hays corporation counsel who said
he had previously researched the tume.

he had previously researched the to-pic.

If commissioners were to pick a successor, most say it would be be-tween Nowak and Patterson. In any Contest between the two, Patterson

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MURPHY, HOWEVER, is believed to favor his assistant. At a meeting last year Murphy reportedly said Oakland's next county executive should not be a politician "like Brooks Patterson, but an administrator like Pat Nowak."

Murphy, a resident of Sylvan Lake, was chairman of the Oakland County Board of Auditors prior to becoming county oxecutive in 1974.



Murphy won't challenge recall language in court

The Inxpayers group irked at County Executive Daniel T. Murphy will wait about 10 days before beginning to circulate recall petitions, according to its chairman, Dominick Vincentini of Oxford.

But the delay will have nothing to do with the apparent stroke the executive suffered over the weekend, vincentinis alard Tuesday.

"Murphy has 10 days to challenge the recall in court," Vincentinal said after a hearing on the recall petition

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by the Oakland County Election Commission. "Once that's past, we expect to get started."

At Tuesday's hearing, the commission of the commission is not empowered to make any determination.

on the validity of statements made on the recall petition, but only on the clarity of the language. The hearing began promptly at 8:30 a.m., and concluded within free minutes. Vincentini, who was waiting in the halfway, was coming into the controom as commission ment-bers were leaving. The duration of the hearing is at least partly attributable to the Lock that the target of the recall, Murphy, did not challenge the clarity of the petition wording.



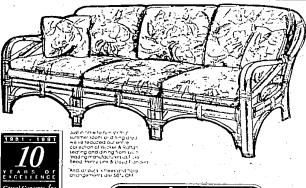
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