

# Murphy iffy about staying on

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10/5A

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy says he may not be able to finish out his term and may resign before the 1992 election.

Health problems that have incapacitated him since early January may force him to retire early, leaving the choice of a successor to the Oakland County Board of County Commissioners, he said.

The 67-year-old Murphy, Oakland's only executive since the county went to that form of government in the early 1970s, talked about his possible retirement Wednesday during an interview at his Sylvan Lake home.

Murphy said he expects to resume making brief visits to the office beginning next week and hopes to make a full recovery that would enable him to finish out his term.

"But I may not be able to," he said — his words labored and his speech slightly slurred. "I'll see how things go. I have to think of what's best for the county and for me and my family."

MURPHY SUFFERED a stroke Jan. 5 and was hospitalized for 20 days. With daily therapy, however, he appeared to be on the road to recovery despite difficulty with his speech and problems with his right leg and arm.

Murphy made occasional public appearances and expected to return to the office full time, possibly in April — when he suffered a second setback on April 12. This one hospitalized him for nine days.

"The second problem is a circulatory problem," Murphy said. But the doctors prescribed an anticoagulant — Coumadin — and it seems controllable.

Although his cholesterol numbers



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy relaxes in his Sylvan Lake home.

were good — about 175, or well below the recommended 200 level — Murphy said he had a slight problem with high blood pressure prior to the stroke.

But the blood pressure problem was under control when the stroke disabled him, Murphy said.

"The doctors told me the cause was stress," he said. "Stress directly related to the job."

That stress will still be there when

he returns to the job, Murphy acknowledged. "But I expect to handle it better."

FOR ONE THING, the executive

said he expects county commissioner Roy Rewold, chairman of the board of commissioners and a longtime

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