Area legislators looking to move up in the ranks

BY TIM RICHARD

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BYATWAITER

Area legislators are optimistically looking to move up the ranks in the State Capitol, even though control of the House of Representatives is still in doubt.

"I'm interested in adding another committee" said Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham. He chairs Education." To like to combine (work on) Finance and Education," he said.

"I have no desire to change, but might his about moving over to finance," said Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield. Ho's already chair of both Labor and Local Government.

Reason: Although no Senate elections were held this year, Republican Nick Smith, chair of both the Finance and Agriculture committees, was elected to Congress and will leave Dec. 31.

Sen. Doug Carl, R-Utica, failed in his bid for Congress, but his consolation prize is that he's in line to succeed Smith on Finance, which writes the tax laws.
"I'd say one-fourth of our caucus has expressed an interest" in the Finance Committee," said Senate majority leader Dick Posthmuns, R-Alto. Posthmuns promised a committee reshuffling by the end of the month."

Also going to Washington will be Sen. James Barcia, D-Bay City, He had seats on the Natural Bresources and Agriculture committees. Eight senators sought other offices this year, hut only Smith and Barcia were success, full. Gov. John Engler will schedule special elections to fill their vacancies. Both seats are likely to remain with their present parties.

Very happyy

'Very happy'

"I'm very happy where I'm at," said Sen. Met Duneskiss, R-Lake said Sen. Mat Dunaskiss, H-Lake Orion. As chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, he spon-sored the 1991 Telecommunica-tions Act and is planning a major

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Dunaskiss also is sponsoring a bill to continue the 1991 freeze of property tax assessments through 1994. "The failure of Proposal C to pass has furthered my resolve to bring about reform in this area," he said.

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Sens. Robert Geake, R-Northville, and Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, are both on that panel. Geake is vice-chair and heads key subcommittees on mental health and social services. Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, is ranking Democrat on the Commerce and Local Government committees and a member of Technology and Energy. He had an excused absence last week.

Sen. George Z. Hart, D-Doarborn, has little place to move. He's a member of the Economic and Urban Development, Labor, State Affairs, and Transportation-Tourism committees.

House in doubt

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Republicans at mid-week thought they had won a 56-54 majority for the first time in a generation. By week's end they found they may have to settle for a 55-58 split.

Two suburban Republicans have their eyes on the House Taxation Committee chair if Demorat Lyn Jonadh is ousted.

"I'm in line for chairman because of seniority," said Rep. Willis Bullard Jr., R-Milford, elected to his sixth term. "Taxation will be very important in the next two years," said Bullard, who is mi-

nority vice chair of that panel.
"I'd like to be chair," said Rep.
Susan Munsell, R-Howell, an accountant elected to her fourth

countant elected to her fourth torm. It won't come down to a fight. House GOP leader Paul Hillegords will form a committee occurrence of the committee occurrence of the committee occurrence of the committee occurrence of the committee occurrence occurrence of the commit-tions of veteran members. Mun-cell said the process could take two manths.

Rep. John Jamian, R-Birming-ham, winner of a second term, said, "I want to stay on Public Health — I can make a valuable contribution and it's important. And I want to stay on Marine Af-fairs because I'm an avid Great Lakes enthusiast and boater.

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"But I may want to change
from the Insurance Committee to
Economic Development."

Rep. Thomas Middleton, R.Ortonville, winner of a second term,
likes his present assignments or
Towns & Counties, Education,
Labor and Transportation. The
fruit grower called Transportation
"my primary interest." He won
his second term.

Missing from last week's session were four women Republicans — Lyn Bankes of Livonia,
Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills,
Barbara Dobb of Commerce and
Georgina Goss of Northville.

Munsell said they were attending a conference of women legislators in Puerto Rico.

Bankes, starting her fifth term,
is known to be interested in moving to the Appropriations Committee. Goss lost her primary and
won't return. Dolan and Dobb
probably lack enough seniority to
be committee chairs.

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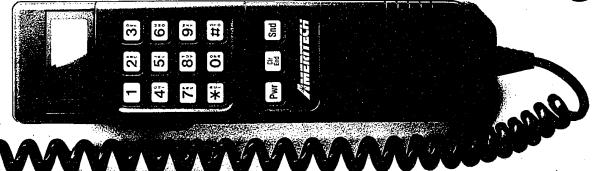
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