Nichols touts accomplishments as he seeks 4th term

Is Sheriff John E. Nichols too fruit to be re-elected?

At a time when the vitality of Republican presidential hopeful Robert Dole — five years younger than Nichols — is sometimes called into question, the sheriff insists he has the energy and vigor to thrive in the snerill insists he has the energy and vigor to thrive in the demanding world of law enforce-

demanding world of law enforcement.
The issue came up Menday at a candidate night sponsored by two labor organizations within the sheriff's department—the Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies Association, about 526 members, and the Command Officer's Association, with 53 members.
The executive board of the deputies association has already endorsed incumbent Nichol. But members wanted to see the candidates face to face, according to

members wanted to see the can-didates face to face, according to association secretary Jami Allen. Some deputies privately said, however, the association may reconsider its endorsement late this week at the organization's

general meeting.

The subject of Nichol's well-being was broached — ever so gently — by one of his GOP

"I'd never question his (Nichol's) intelligence," said Paul

A. Molin, 53, of Farmington Hills. "But his age and health are important factors (in the campaign), and we should be concerned."

concerned."
Moin — who said being sheriff is an administrator's or manager's job as a cop's — said he is concerned that Nichols might not be able to serve out his com-

concerned that Nichols might not be able to serve out his complete term.

If that happened, said Molin, there would be great pressure from political bean-counters to appoint someone less concerned about public safety and the integrity of the department.

Nichol's vitality also came up during the question and answer period when somebody asked Nichols if he intended to serve out his full term or — as rumored — turn the job over to his undersheriff.

"Are you crazy," Nichols responded. "Do you think I'd go though all this (the campaign) only to turn the job over to somebody class?

Nichols, who turns 78 in November, bristled at any implication he was less qualified now than he was in 1934, when he was first elected — after a career that included being chief of police in Farmington Hills and police commissioner in Detroit.

He itemized some of his accomplishments, including

establishing what observers any is the most successful boot camps in the state.

Nichols has pointed criticism for GOP rival Gerald L. Carlin, the former captain of the Rochester Hills substation demoted to midnight jail duty during the infamous probe into the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Carlin, 41, said the demotion—and his subsequent vindication—had a beneficial effect, namely seeing other aspects of the sheriff's department during

the '10 months between his indictment and his resignation from the office.

For one thing, Carlin said, the sheriff's department should consider selling off valuable property in high rent districts — like the acres it has in Auburn Hills — and buying less expensive property. An abandoned, and presumably inexpensive, motel along Eight Mile Road, for example, might be suitable for juit facilities to service the southern part of the county, he said.

That didn't sit well with

Nichols, however. "One of my opponents thinks he knows how to run a jail because he worked there briefly, the sheriff said.

"But there's a big difference between working midnights and being responsible for the entire lid, the sheriff said.

Even something seemingly as simple as dealing with county commissioners is much more difficult than it appears, said Nichols. "When I first got this job, I tried to be kissy friendly (with county commissioners), he said. "But then they started to department are concerns."

Hogan cites abilities in campaign for sheriff

BY PAT MURPHY STAFF WRITER

When he announced his candidacy for Oakland County Sheriff, Matthew E. Hogan III vowed he would never attack incumbent John F. Nichols or speak ill of his

John F. Nichols or speak ill of his department.
Hogan, 46, commander of the State Police poat in Brighton, was true to his word Monday when he shared the political spellight with Nichols and other candidates at their first meeting of the campaign.
Nichols of Northville, Gerard

L. Carlin of Oakland Township and Paul A. Molin of Farmington Hills were the Republicans at a candidate night sponsored by the sheriff's deputies and command officers

officers.
Not present were Republican candidates William A. Goodfellow of Pontiac and Michael L. Odette of Clarkston. Raymond B. L'Esperance of Davisburg was excluded from the ballet Friday when a judge agreed with county election officials who said L'Esperance could not be a candidate because he was not a registered voter.

Hogan is running in the Aug. 6
Democratic primary against
Scott C. Good of Auburn Hills.
Good was also a no-show.
The Republican victor will run
against the winning Democrat in
the Nov. 5 general election.
When Hogan, who expects to
retire from the state police after
25 years, announced his candidacy in April, he said he has successfully worked with Nichola
and his departments for years.
Thus, said Hogan, he has too
much respect to wage a regular
political campaign.
It showed Menday.

Hogan, for example, nodded to Nichols respectfully when he took the podium to detail his background and leadership qual-ities. He has the experience, Hogan emphasized, to lead the department into the 21st centu-

Among his qualifications. Hogan said, was the ability to resolve internal problems in professional manner. He's a tough negotiator. Hogan said, but he regards police unions as part of the process of resolving disputes and individual grievances.

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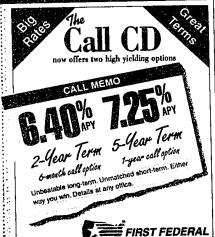


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