

# PCHA to Pick New Slate of Officers

The Peoples Community Hospital Authority will in all probability have a new slate of officers within two weeks following criminal charges made by Attorney General Frank Kelley of misuse of public funds.

The change will most likely not occur by ouster by the Governor, but through an election of officers scheduled for the Feb. 24 meeting of the PCHA Board of Directors at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne at 7:30 p.m.

The election of officers was called for by Board Chairman Earl McNamara at the meeting immediately prior to the issuance of Kelley's report which resulted in McNamara being served a warrant for spending PCHA funds for private gain and benefit. McNamara named Nankin Clerk William Engle as chairman of the nominating committee. Serving on the committee with Engle are Dr. Robert Bullinger, former board chairman, E. J. Landland, R. Remer, and John Tattan.

Tattan was also charged by Kelley of spending PCHA money on food and liquor for private uses. Tattan is a former River Rouge Councilman. A number of public officers and leaders were among those named by Kelley in warrants for criminal and civil action. Charged with embezzlement and conspiracy to misappropriate public funds was Kenneth Gremore former executive director who is suing the Authority for \$37,000 in remaining wages on his contract.

Former State Representative Edwin A. Fitzpatrick was charged with spending \$1,220 of PCHA funds for food, drink and room charges at the Lamp-lighter Inn Motel in Lincoln Park.

Frank Rodwell, treasurer for the PCHA and Allen Park, was also accused of spending Authority money at the Lamp-lighter for private purposes. John Kessey, mayor of Melvindale and director, was charged with misuse of public funds as well as conflict of interest. According to Kelley, The PCHA paid \$13,928 for work which was subcontracted to Kessey Trucking Co., a firm owned in part by The Melvindale mayor.

Gordan Gable, Ypsilanti Township attorney, was accused by Kelley of attempting to transfer the PCHA to a private corporation to be controlled by Gable, McNamara, Gremore and William C. Tullis, a Garden City director who is also PCHA secretary.

Henry Slet, Wayne County Civil Defense Director and former supervisor of Sumpter Township, was charged in a warrant with misuse of PCHA funds.

Those charged with criminal action stood mute at an arraignment except for Slet who is vacationing in Florida. A special meeting of the Civil Defense Committee of the County Board of Supervisors is scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday) to consider the possible suspension or dismissal of Slet from his \$12,000 a year position as Civil Defense Director.

The meeting was scheduled by Plymouth Township Supervisor John D. McEwen, the committee's vice-chairman, because in McEwen's words, "Some action has to be taken one way or another in any cases where an official or employee of any governmental unit has been cited by the attorney general."

McEwen said Slet would probably be suspended "without prejudice" until a trial was held.

The Ingham County Circuit Court has assumed trusteeship of the PCHA and ordered Gremore, McNamara, Tullis and Gable to appear on March 11 to show cause why it was not illegal to attempt transfer of the Authority to a private, non-profit corporation.

The Ingham Circuit Court also ordered PCHA officials not to destroy or remove any records between now and

March 11.

Kelley claims an attempt was made by the four men to float a bond issue of \$16.5 million to transfer the PCHA to a private, non-profit corporation for private gain.

A report made by State Treasurer Allison Green to Kelley showed the Authority had a surplus in cash assets of \$3

million which could be used to build a new Beyers Hospital in Ypsilanti.

PCHA officers had reported earlier that refinancing to a private corporation was necessary to construct a new Beyers hospital and renovate the Seaway Hospital of Trenton.

Green said PCHA officials concealed the Authority's true

assets by recording cash not only on the PCHA account but on the books of the four member hospitals, making five sets of books.

The PCHA operates four hospitals (Seaway, Annapolis, Beyers and Outer Drive) with patient revenue and a 4 millage levied against the 23 participating communities which includes

Garden City and Nankin Township.

Kelley will be in Garden City tonight (Wednesday) to talk with officials from the 23 communities on the ramifications of his report.

Nankin Township, along with other member communities, passed a resolution earlier offering to withdraw from the

PCHA if the millage paid into the Authority was refunded.

The State Insurance Commission is presently investigating the effect of cocktail spending by Authority officials has on Blue Cross rates.

Area banks granting personal loans to Gremore without any security are also being checked into.

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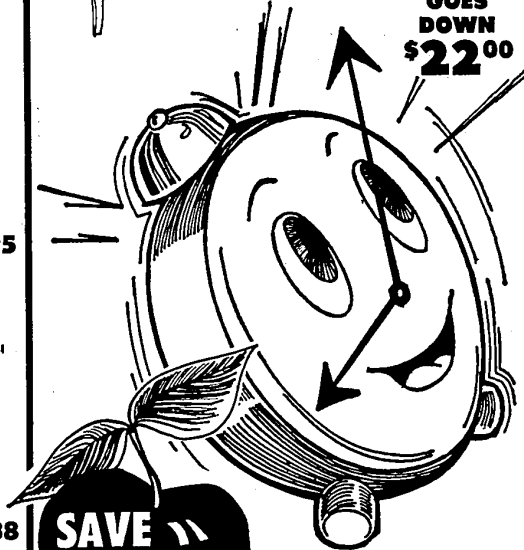
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### Madonna Lists Annual Career Night, Feb. 17

Career night is being sponsored by the Madonna College Advisory Board on Feb. 17, at 7:45 p.m. in the science lecture hall of the academic building.

Speakers, representing various professions, will inform students of the opportunities and advantages of entering such fields of work as special education, social work, nursing, politics, science research, medical technology, journalism, home economics, business, art and music.

Dr. James Irwin, principal of Central High School, will open the meeting with an address, "Careers Unlimited." Workshop sessions, each considering one particular field, will convene at 8:20 p.m. The general session at which the Advisory Board will make summary statements will meet in the Lecture hall at 9:30 p.m.

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