

Moelke: 'It's a Power Struggle ...'

Livonia a Loser in Reapportionment, Officials Charge

They are still fuming at City Hall about the Wayne County Apportionment Commission's approval of a plan to cut membership of the county's Board of Supervisors from 130 to 26 members, of which the City of Detroit would have 18, leaving only 8 for the heavily populated suburban and out-county areas.

Livonia, now with three seats, would find itself credited with only 60,000 population and a part of the proposed new 28th District, including Plymouth, with a population of 99,800.

Detroit was credited with 1,800,000 residents, and seats were allotted on a basis of 100,000. Under such a combine, Livonia would share

one representative with the neighborhood.

The reduction, tagged the "Edgar-M. Branigan Plan" because he sponsored it and won over plans calling for 30 or 35 seats, must await pending court decisions before it could become effective.

There also is threat by David Lebenbom, Wayne County Democratic chairman and a member of the commission, to test the Branigan plan in the courts on constitutionality grounds.

Livonia city officials had much to say about the Detroit domination of the board.

Mayor Harvey W. Moelke, who sits on the board, has no

quarrel with its size, but charges that the reduction plan is a "power struggle" and an attempt by the City of Detroit to keep control of the county government.

"The whole thing is being engineered by Detroit," Moelke said. "By 1970, out-county Wayne will have a larger population than the City of Detroit, and on that basis should control the government. Detroit politicians are not concerned with representation, but with retaining control. Out-county residents now pay Detroit's debts, and 80 per cent of the county's revenue goes to the support of Detroit people."

The mayor pointed out that the board is an administrative body, not legislative, and that members are the direct contacts between the communities and the county government.

"I'm not opposed to large membership in government," Mpeike said. "The new Council of Governments have over 400 eligible members to make direct contacts."

But if the adopted plan ever goes into effect, only one representative will be elected to serve the large area of which Livonia is the major part.

What the councilmen had to say about the scheme follows:

EDWARD H. McNAMARA, former supervisor:

"Reform is necessary for the Board of Supervisors, reducing the 130 members to a smaller body, giving the few members more responsibility and more authority and more time to do the job. As it exists, the board is a headless organization of people serving part time and giving part time to other jobs. The county really has no leader. The chairman usually has a half-dozen other jobs and isn't chairman long enough to be effective. He likes the prestige. There are too many factions, blocks representing unions, civil service, etc."

"The Wayne County Apportionment Commission should have used the 1967 census figures, which are readily available from TALUS and other organizations. Livonia has more than 100,000 residents, not 180,000. If Detroit, which is growing smaller, gets one representative for each 100,000 citizens, then Livonia should not have to share a member with surrounding communities."

McNamara said he detected political odor in the Branigan plan, of 26 members, giving certain seats to Republicans, although control of the board would remain Democratic. His main complaint, however, was that suburbs are being sold short, as usual, by the big city politicians.

JACK SALVADORE — A former supervisor:

"This is further evidence of the inequities being forced on suburban areas. It is discouraging to hear it is yielding too much power to a small group.

I have served on the board, and while 130 members may be unwieldy, and could be cut down, there still should be greater suburban representation. Detroit as usual would still control the board."

Rudolf R. Kleibert, a present member of the board, is on vacation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETER A. VENTURA:

"I knew they were talking about cutting the size of the board. I'm not overjoyed. We need to be better represented than we are now. This plan puts us in the center of an area with one representative. I feel that we won't have a fair representation, with only 26 districts. I favor the Lebenbom plan for 30 districts. We need two representatives in Livonia alone. I'm not happy with the turn."

ROBERT F. NASH:

"The 26-member board makes one man an awfully powerful figure. Livonia should have one representative alone, instead of sharing with neighbors whose problems are different. The small board really cuts our ratio of representation."

They should wait for the new 1970 census, or use a special 1967 census, instead of using the 1960 figure of 60,000 population. We alone have more than 100,000, and the new district would have 150,000. We are being 'taken' again!"

TERRY RAYMOND:

"That's the Branigan (County Clerk Edgar Branigan) plan and it doesn't mean much now. The State Supreme Court has called legislation setting up the program unconstitutional, and the U. S. Supreme Court still is to rule on the composition of Boards of Supervisors, on the one man-one vote phase. Besides, Lebenbom can file a minority report the same as posed the Branigan plan and it will go to court for decision. The district Democratic chairman (Lebenbom is county chairman, Raymond is one) are going to fight it."

"In effect with only eight supervisors to represent the out county, the suburbs would be disfranchised. There are too many different problems for one person to handle."

"Branigan wanted to get his plan on file, in case of a favorable court decision. His plan is in violation of the constitution. It unnecessarily crosses lines in establishing districts. It would save him a lot of work, and some money."

"We object to suburbs losing representation with a 26-member board and want Lebenbom's 35-member plan. We'll fight for it."

EDWARD MILLIGAN, a supervisor:

"I believe there's some real value in the ward type system. I don't see the board as the headless monster, leaderless and without direction that some people, and some newspapers, claim."

He said the committees are small and meet frequently and 90 per cent of the time the board goes along with committees.

"I like this system," he said of the 130-member board. "I believe it makes for better representation. I believe every political entity should have representation."

"I don't think the 26-member board can properly represent the population and special interests in the county."

Cville Picks Thompson As Sports Chief

Clarenceville High School has a new athletic director today, the familiar figure of Chuck Thompson who has taught and coached at the school for the last four years.

Thompson, of 1950, Gilman, has a career that encompasses coaching in football, track, gymnastics, and diving, both at the junior high and varsity levels.

Before coming to Clarenceville, Thompson taught in the Detroit public schools. A former Big Ten gymnast, he received his B.S. degree from Michigan State University.

More than 23 million men and women in the U.S. today were former 4-H Club members. Among them are many of the nation's leaders.

Salem's
Store-Wide

CLEARANCE

Savings Up To
While They Last!

We Must Make Room For All Our
1968 Paneling, Now Arriving!

BEFORE YOU BUY ANY POOLS OR EQUIPMENT AT
"SO CALLED" BARGAIN OR CLOSE-OUT PRICES . . .
CHECK OURS !!!

ALL . . .

- BARBECUE GRILLS
- BARBECUE TOOLS
- PICNIC TABLES • TIKI TORCHES
- LAWN FURNITURE
- CHAISE LOUNGES • UMBRELLAS
- LAWN MOWERS • BUG SPRAYERS
- FERTILIZERS • PICNIC JUGS
- PLASTIC WATER CONTAINERS
- CLOTHESLINE POSTS • FIBERGLAS SHEETING
- BADMINTON SETS • CROQUET SETS
- HORSE SHOE SETS • BASKETBALL
- BACKBOARD SET, complete with net, hoop, mounting brackets
- GARDEN HOSE • SPRINKLERS
- ALL POOL COVERS (including regulation Safety Covers)
- VACUUMS • LADDERS
- FILTERS • SKIMMERS
- COAST GUARD APPROVED BOAT CUSHION LIFE PRESERVERS • LIFE PRESERVER VESTS
- ALL INFLATABLE POOL TOYS
- FLOATING CHAISE LOUNGES

OUR POLICY

WE WILL AT ALL TIMES:
1. Treat Our Customers like the good friends they are
2. Stand behind all we sell with an unconditional money back guarantee
3. Be courteous and helpful in selecting the right material and "HOW TO DO IT"

50

%

off

GLIDDEN
ENDURANCE
HOUSE PAINT

SPECIAL
625
GAL.

FREE DELIVERY
On Purchases Over
\$25, within a
15 mile radius

SALEM
LUMBER
CENTER

DO IT YOURSELF HEADQUARTERS

Home "Old Fashioned" Service
Mon. - Thurs. 9 to 7
Fri. 9 to 9 Sat. 9 to 6
Open Sunday 10-5 p.m.

PANELING
COMPARISON SALE

Genuine African
Natural Planked
MAHOAGANY
LIGHT OKOUME

A Satin Finish of
Whispering Warmth

4x7xfull 1/4" Thick
Compare at \$8.99

OUR PRICE
4
Sheet

30650 Plymouth Road - GA 2-1000
3 BLOCKS WEST OF MIDDLEBOLT

GEM
Gem Store Advertising Section de-
vised with your today's Observer
effective dates have been changed.
Wednesday, August 2
Sunday, August 6
NOT July 28 - 28 as
indicated on error

13507 Middlebelt Road

NEPTUNE AQUARIUM
BEAUTIFUL TETRAS
Neon 29c
Head & Tail Lights 29c
Black Tetras 39c
Dawn Tetras 39c
Rosy Tetras 49c

SUPER SPECIAL
10-GAL. SET-UP \$11.95
Includes - Tank, Pump, Filter, Gravel, Glass
Wood, Chisel, Marble, Therm. & Tubing

We Rent Automatic Fish Feeders

AQUARIUM SALE
Shelburne Road - State Bottom
11 Gall. - 4.99 20 Gall. - 10.99
13 Gall. - 7.99 30 Gall. - 18.99

NEPTUNE AQUARIUM
27488 Schoelkopf of Lakeland - 437-4120
Open 10-9 Daily, Sunday 11-4
MICHIGAN'S FINEST TROPICAL FISH STORE
Service and Information Our Specialty
— USE YOUR MICHIGAN BANKCARD —

SPECIAL
GOOD
Aug. 3
Aug. 4
Aug. 5