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## Broomfield Faces McDonald In 19th

U.S. Rep. William Broomfield (R-Royal Oak) brought an end to speculation and publicly announced his candidacy for election in the reapportioned 19th Congressional District.

Broomfield, who currently represents the 18th District, will have to oppose U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) for the 19th District GOP nomination.

His decision to run came after court approval of a congressional apportionment plan that takes the western section of Broomfield's district and splits into the 19th and 17th Districts.

The new composition of the 18th makes it more Democratic, while the 19th remains largely Republican despite the inclusion of Democratic Pontiac.

THE NEW apportionment plan is prompting McDonald to move his residence out of his Farmington apartment.

Both Farmington City and Township were apportioned into the 17th District, which will be predominantly Democratic.

U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-northwest Detroit) represents the 17th which also annexed Redford Township and Southfield.

McDonald is reportedly seeking a residence in Waterford Township which would locate him in the middle of the new 19th.

The new 19th takes in all western Oakland County except Farmington and Southfield and annexes three townships from eastern Livingston County.

IN ANNOUNCING his candidacy, Broomfield said that he represented a major portion of Oakland County when he was first elected to Congress in 1956 and for two years as a state senator. He also was a state representative for three terms.

## Heroin Hotline Established

The recently established Heroin Hotline will enhance the effectiveness of a citizens crusade against drug abuse, according to U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald (R-Farmington).

The hotline is a toll-free national number (800-368-5363) which citizens can use to phone in information regarding trafficking and use of drugs, primarily heroin.

The hotline is entirely voluntary, and the identities of the callers will be protected if they prefer, McDonald said.

## 5 Reps Oppose No-Secrecy Bill

By KATHY MORAN

A bill requiring that all meetings of public bodies be open to the public was defeated last week with opposition votes from five Observers' representatives.

Voting against the bill to bar "executive" (secret) sessions were Reps. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) and James Desebaugh (R-Birmingham).

The only local support came from Reps. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights) and John Bennett (D-Redford Township).

Reps. James Tierney (D-Garden City) and Raymond Smit (R-Ann Arbor) did not vote. Smit will be in the Observers' area when the new legislative apportionment takes effect since his district will cover Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

WITH DEFEAT of the bill, current practices of handling some matters in private sessions will continue unhampered.

Personal and real estate business as well as labor negotiations are generally discussed in secret session. However, once the public body is in private session, it can discuss other matters.

Under law, all final action must be completed in public. Abuse of the closed sessions prompted Edward Suski (D-Flint) to sponsor the bill.

Forbes was one of the leaders of the fight to defeat the bill because "it strikes at the heart of the constitution, which says all elected officials must conduct business to protect the good and welfare of our people."

Forbes, former mayor of Oak Park, said that labor negotiations and real estate transactions would be hampered by conducting them in public.

"If you conducted labor contract negotiations before a public audience and each person in the audience wanted to talk for three minutes, they would never get done," Forbes said.

And if a city were contemplating buying a piece of land, the price of that land could skyrocket if word leaked out, he added.

FORBES ALSO said it would not be in the best interests of the people to discuss personnel matters before the public.

"How can you bare a man's life in public?" he asked, adding that the implications for that individual could be damaging.

Using the example of a budget, Forbes noted that public hearings are held on it, and it must be adopted in public, but a few "executive" sessions are needed to "grind out the fine parts."

It would be almost impossible to carry on business if everything came under public scrutiny, Forbes said of the provision that would allow people to speak three minutes on a matter under discussion.

"I think that in good conscience, representatives of the public should only conduct those matters in executive session that are in the best interest of the public," he said.

If that privilege is abused, the referendum route of election would be the best way "to get rid of those kind," he said.

BENNETT SAID he supported the bill with the impression that labor negotiations and personnel matters would still be conducted in private.

All other matters, including real estate dealings, should come before the public eye, said Bennett, former Redford Township treasurer.

Real estate negotiations can be conducted prior to the meetings, and discussion held in public, he said.

"The only things that shouldn't be discussed in public are labor negotiations and personnel matters," he said. "Outside of that, I don't know any reasons why discussions shouldn't be in public."

"I'm not one of those who think that we should conduct public business behind closed doors," he added.

## Women's Rights Amendment OK'd

LANSING

A resolution to ratify an equal rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting discrimination because of sex passed the Michigan House last week with support from all but one Observers' representative.

Sponsored by Livonia Democrat Marvin Stempien, the bill passed 90-18 and was sent to the Senate.

Voting for the bill were Reps. Stempien, Raymond Smit (R-Ann Arbor) John Bennett (D-Redford Township), James Tierney (D-Garden City), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), and James Desebaugh (R-Birmingham).

The only opposition vote from Observers' came from Rep. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights).

STEMPIEN HAILED the House action as "a strong expression of the Legislature's belief that women are fully equal citizens in today's society."

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