

Court overturns '71 conviction

LANSING—A 1971 misdemeanor conviction of then Oakland County Drain Commissioner Daniel W. Barry, charged with conflict of interest, has been overturned by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Perinoff opposes assets disclosure

By SUSAN L. SILK
OAKLAND COUNTY—One Democratic Oakland County Commissioner is contesting the suggestion that his party's candidates for county office be required to make full disclosure of their financial assets.

"As a county commissioner I wouldn't want to be a GD candidate for every GD criminal around," said Alexander Perinoff, (D-21) of Southfield.
The disclosure proposal was one of a four-point program on ethics by Democratic county executive candidate Eugene Kuthy of Orchard Lake, during a Wednesday (June 26) public hearing seeking party platform issues.

"I believe that every candidate for elected office should be required to file for the public record with the county clerk a statement of personal income, assets and net worth, documented by income tax forms, prior to the election," Kuthy said.
"THAT'S ATROCIOUS in my view," Commissioner Perinoff shouted from the floor of the meeting.

"I wouldn't want to be a pidgeon for every criminal," Perinoff said, adding that such a disclosure of assets might make him a target for robbery, kidnapping, etc.

"Not for a lousy \$6,200 a year—never," Perinoff said, referring to the salary of part-time county commissioners.

"The great storm" following Watergate seems to have forgotten that the majority of public officials "conduct themselves honorably," Perinoff said.

KUTHY REBUTTED that "it's the right of the people to know who they are electing."

The county executive candidate's three other ethics program proposals include:

- A triple indemnity pay back to county government by officials found to have personally profited from the unlawful use or misuse of his public position.

- In cases of misuse of public office by appointed county officials, a board of commissioners empowered to implement an undated resignation sign-

from his office in the drain commission following the 1971 conviction and is now expected to demand payment of approximately 13 months back wages from the county.

The conviction followed a citizens' grand jury investigation which resulted in the conflict-of-interest charge along with accusations of misuse of public funds, conspiracy and bribery. These felony charges will not be tried in Oakland County Circuit Court until the appellate court addresses itself to technical questions on the grand jury procedure.

Barry, a Republican drain commissioner for 15 years, is presently one of two candidates seeking the Democratic nomination in the county executive primary election race.

Seventh in a series

IN ITS WRITTEN opinion, the Court of Appeals explained that while Barry was drain commissioner he also had private business interest in a section of undeveloped land in Waterford Township.

Upon Barry's request, the land he privately owned was used as a county

drain project land fill, and the cost of transporting the fill materials was borne by the drain project contractor.

The appellate court, however, could not determine beyond a reasonable doubt that Barry's actions "constituted an interest in the profits" of the project.

"None of those obviously prohibited acts are involved" in the Barry case, the appellate court said.

"There is no question but that the defendant (Barry) benefited. . . Such conduct is clearly unethical and will be a punishable offense under the Code of Ethics for state employees," the appellate court ruled.

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Puppets on wheels

Hansel and Gretel, as usual, delighted youngsters Monday at the Troy Public Library. The Oakland County Puppetmobile troop will perform for children every other Monday at 1 p.m. at the library. Next show is July 8. (Photographed by Douglas Bauman)

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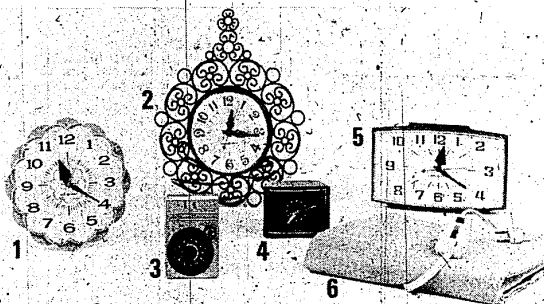
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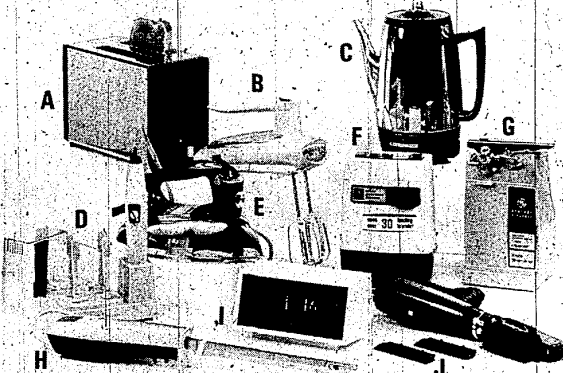
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