

# Executive candidates back Spreen's selection

By ROBERT KIPPER



OAKLAND COUNTY—The biggest news in the county—that Sheriff Johannes Spreen has picked former Detroit police commissioner John Nichols to be his undersheriff—failed to spark a fight during a debate Tuesday between the candidates for elected county executive.

Although Spreen's management of his office has been an issue during previous debates, the candidates chose a number of other issues to feud about in their appearance at the Southfield Civic Center before a small crowd.

Democrat Eugene Kuthy applauded Sheriff Spreen's choice of Nichols and added more praise for the sheriff himself, who is a Democrat.

"The people of Oakland County

want a professional sheriff and they've got one," Kuthy said.

Murphy, who a week ago blasted the sheriff in some of the strongest language he's used in his campaign,

said only that it was Spreen's prerogative to name whomever he wants for undersheriff.

Instead of Spreen, the candidates disagreed on several other issues:

#### HOME RULE

Murphy said he would support legislation to grant county home rule. This would allow county voters to determine for themselves the kind and size and operation of county government, he said.

Kuthy said the present form of county reform—the legislation that permits the streamlining of county operations under an elected executive—is the best vehicle for reform.

**STATE FINANCING OF COURTS**  
"Statewide financing of courts has merit," said Kuthy. "It would create uniformity of justice throughout the state."

Murphy responded: "I'm more parochial than that." He felt the present system of courts supported locally is best. Otherwise, the courts would be subservient to the Supreme Court, Murphy said, because "power runs with the dollar."

#### NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

Murphy supported and Kuthy opposed—with qualification—the plan to extend Northwestern Highway.

This plan has raised a great deal of local opposition in areas like West Bloomfield Township, where it is feared that the extension will bring greatly heightened commercial activity and development.

Murphy said the extension was a necessary part of the state's highway system. If the state doesn't extend the road, he said, local roads will have to be upgraded, which will require local tax dollars to finance.

Kuthy disagreed that there was a need for expansion. Until an adequate traffic study is made, he said, and until a plan is worked out that better considers local opinion, he wouldn't support it.

There were at least three issues the candidates agreed on:

•The \$1.1 billion transportation proposal on the November ballot.

•The end of sales tax on food and drugs, also proposed on the November ballot.

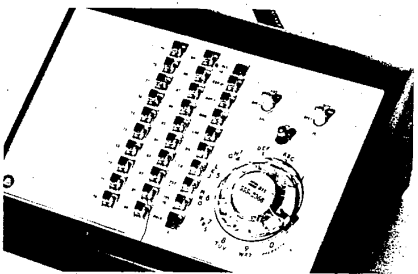
•Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson's

recent criticism of welfare cheaters in the county.

At one point, rather than rebutting Kuthy's remarks on a certain issue, Murphy smiled and said only: "My opponent said it so beautifully, I'll concur."

The Southfield debate showed both candidates at their most relaxed and least combative.

The candidates, neither of whom has been reluctant to debate, will meet several more times before the election.



## New call distributor

An automatic call distributor will give readers of the Observer & Eccentric improved service when placing classified advertisements. The new system will automatically route cus-

tomers calls to one of 19 advisors who take ads for the newspaper. It is designed to help eliminate the busy signal some callers have heard in recent weeks.

## Country Day school holds pancake supper

The annual Detroit Country Day School (DCDS) pancake supper will be held from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at the school, Labar at Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills.

This marks the 13th year for the supper which serves some 11,000 pancakes to more than 2,200 persons. The menu of pancakes, syrup, sausage, applesauce, milk and coffee will be catered by Don's Chuck Wagon of East Detroit.

All profits will go toward purchasing books for the new DCDS library which opened during the summer.

COUNTRY DAY'S library previously shared space with the dining room and study room in the learning center.



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Wednesday, NOV. 20th.	9 A.M.-12 Noon	Thursday, NOV. 21st.	6:30-9:30 P.M.

#### UTICA STORE

Wednesday, OCT. 30th.	9 A.M.-12 Noon	Thursday, NOV. 14th.	6:30-9:30 P.M.
Wednesday, NOV. 13th.	9 A.M.-12 Noon	Wednesday, NOV. 27th.	9 A.M.-12 Noon

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