

Petition drive urges campaign reform

By CARL STODDARD

SOUTHFIELD—Common Cause of Michigan announced this week that it is readying a statewide petition drive to take the issue of campaign and political reform to the voters.

Susan Rennels, chairperson of the Michigan chapter of the national citizens' lobby, said her group would submit a list of proposals to the state legislators. If the lawmakers in Lansing fail to act on the proposals, she said,

the petition drive will begin as scheduled in about eight weeks.

Specifically, Common Cause is proposing reforms in four parts:

- Regulation of lobbyist's activities, including complete disclosure of all funds spent to influence government decisions.
- Campaign finance reform that would limit the amount any individual or group could contribute to an election campaign.
- Public disclosure of the financial

interest of all candidates and to combat to prevent public officials from voting on conflict-of-interest matters.

- Creation of an independent ethics commission that would have the power to enforce the law effectively.

MS. RENNELS announced the plans for the petition drive Monday at a news conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Southfield. The actual start of the petition drive, she said, will coincide with the effective date of a campaign reform law that was passed by the Michigan legislature.

"All we got was a watered-down campaign spending bill which left most of the serious abuses untouched," she said.

She complained that most election officials cannot interpret from the law which candidates must file campaign reports, or how the law is to be enforced. She also cited "other serious loopholes" in the law.

"Loopholes still remaining permit special interests groups to pay for private trips and give expensive gifts to public officials and their families," she said.

Lobbyist may spend unlimited amounts of money on public officials and entertain them without the public's knowledge, she said.

Also, special interests groups may spend huge sums of money to lobby while remaining shielded from public view, she said.

And, Ms. Rennels said, any public official may vote on a matter that will put dollars directly into his or her own pocket without the public's knowledge.

"All of this is perfectly legal here in Michigan today," Ms. Rennels

said. "It is time we shut down this game of political influence once and for all."

If the legislature is unwilling to put into effect the reforms needed, she said, Common Cause would have no choice but to collect the 300,000 petition signatures needed to put the political reform issue to a direct vote of the people.

CHANCES OF THE LEGISLATURE agreeing to the proposed re-



Susan Rennels

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Akiva hosts Bikel concert

SOUTHFIELD—Akiva Hebrew Day School will present "An Evening with Theodore Bikel" at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at Ford Auditorium.

Bikel, a well-known singer, has released a new album "Silent No More." It contains freedom songs of Soviet Jews, and is based on tapes smuggled out of the USSR.

For ticket information, call Howard Burg at 854-1810.

Vaccinations, licenses set for Hills dogs

FARMINGTON HILLS — The city will sponsor a dog vaccination clinic 1-4 p.m. Sunday at fire hall No. 3, 21420 Wheeler just north of Grand River.

This service is available to all dog owners who are city residents. Vaccinations will cost of \$2. Dog licenses, which are required by city ordinance, also will be available for \$3.

The clinic is co-sponsored by the Oakland County Animal Control Department as part of the county rabies vaccination program.

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CERTIFICATE SAVINGS
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YIELDS 6.92% ANNUALLY
COMPOUNDED QUARTERLY

7 3/4%

ANNUAL RATE
72 MONTH
CERTIFICATE SAVINGS
\$1,000 MINIMUM
YIELDS 7.98% ANNUALLY
COMPOUNDED QUARTERLY

6 1/2%

ANNUAL RATE
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CERTIFICATE SAVINGS
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