

# Patterson excites GOP, criticizes parole policy

GRAND RAPIDS— Any Michigan Republican who had never heard of L. Brooks Patterson got a quick, loud introduction at last weekend's GOP state convention.

First, the overwhelming majority of the 1,300 delegates shouted through a rules change to allow debate on the Oakland County prosecuting attorney's proposal to toughen parole standards in the state.

Next, they gave Patterson a louder ovation than even Gov. William Milliken or re-elected state chairman William McLaughlin received.

Then, after four speakers praised Patterson's resolution, the convention dispensed with a requirement for a roll call and loudly passed the resolution.



L. BROOKS PATTERSON

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tion that persons convicted of violent crimes shouldn't be released from jail until they've served the minimum sentence imposed by the courts.

According to Patterson, five persons have been killed in the last 20 months in Oakland County at the hands of early parolees.

REPEATING A statement he's made numerous times locally, Patterson said:

"We're being raped, robbed and beaten by the same people over and over again. It's time to stop the revolving door on our penal institutions."

Patterson said the convention response was personally gratifying and was a clear indication that citizens want something done about the early release of potentially dangerous criminals.

However, Patterson described the more than a week's effort he put forth to prepare the convention for his visit and his cause.

PATTERSON PERSONALLY mailed each of the delegates a four-page brochure on the parole issue, at his own expense. He visited each delegation to plug his cause. And a giant display was prepared for the lobby of the convention hall, crammed with newspaper headlines of parolees being arrested and convicted for brutal crimes.

Patterson said he hoped his resolution would encourage state legislators to support a bill sponsored by State Rep. Richard Fessler (R-24), of West Bloomfield. The bill would require the minimum sentence restriction for prisoners.

Back in his Pontiac office Tuesday, Patterson was amused by the increased speculation he was seeking higher office, but he didn't deny it.

"I want to be re-elected county prosecutor and to continue doing a good job," Patterson said. "After that, I am prepared to keep my options open."

"If you do a good job," he added, "I think you can go to the voters and ask for a job with an even greater range than the county limits."

Patterson-watchers think the prosecutor is most interested in the 1978 Republican nomination to try unseating Frank Kelley as state attorney general.

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