

# Coalition splits, strike bill passes

By TIM RICHARD

A coalition of suburban senators broke apart. That, in a nutshell, is why the so-called "Plawewski amendments" to the school teacher strike bill were defeated in the State Senate.

Instead, the Senate passed 20-14 a compromise measure put together by Senate Democratic Leader William B. Fitzgerald of Detroit. Gov. Milliken has threatened to veto it, arguing the public wants strict curbs on teacher strikes.

While the Fitzgerald version has been called a "labor bill," Pursell, the only Republican to support it, insists the views of concerned parents and school board members were heard and weighed by senators. The

bill will allow teacher strikes of up to four weeks, with loss of salaries in the final two weeks.

Plawewski had proposed allowable strikes of up to three weeks, with the school calendar decreased for each day of the strike and both school board and teachers losing one day's income for each day of delay.

PURSELL SAID Sen. Cooper, whose district includes Southfield and Farmington, was first to drop out of the coalition backing the more stringent Plawewski amendments.

"Then labor went after McCullough," said Pursell, "because they felt he was the weak link."

"The Republican caucus thought we could produce 10 votes for the amendments, and Plawewski thought he had 10 Democratic votes. That would have given us 20—enough for passage."

"But while Republicans produced 11 votes for the amendments, Plawewski lost four. So we had only 17 votes; we were short by three."

At this point in the legislative process, Fitzgerald offered his version, which Pursell felt was a compromise between the pro-labor House version and the Plawewski amendments. "But Fitzgerald achieved only 17 votes, and we had a second deadlock," said Pursell, whose district includes Redford, Livonia and Plymouth.

"Fitzgerald, naturally, was attempting to break apart our coalition, and we were stubborn at keeping it intact," Pursell went on. "Over the weekend (July 19-20), McCullough notified our coalition he was in a position

to negotiate a compromise (with Fitzgerald and labor).

FITZGERALD'S version passed last Tuesday with support from Pursell, Cooper and Faust. Plawewski opposed it.

Pursell, one of a tiny handful of Michigan Republicans who got labor support in the 1974 election, expressed frank admiration for Democrats Faust and Plawewski, who held out for a tougher bill despite their long histories of support by and pressure from organized labor.

As for his own decision to support the Fitzgerald bill despite Milliken's threatened veto, Pursell said, "The question was whether we should go with the (Fitzgerald) compromise or no new bill at all. Last year we had some severe strikes in western Wayne County (Crestwood, Garden City) under the current law."

Some Crestwood parents had insisted there be no change in the law, especially since the courts have upheld the school board's right to fire striking teachers under legal procedures.

"These were the same parents who were upset with Judge Roth's cross-district busing decision and said, 'My God, what have we got with federal judges making law,'" said Pursell. "So now we in the Legislature exercised our prerogative. We had a decision to make, and we made it."

But Pursell insisted that "whatever the law, the responsibility for writing a school board-teacher contract lies with those around the negotiating table. If we have had negotiations, we'll have strikes."

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## O&E promotes advertising men

Art Shafer, marketing director of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has announced three promotions within the retail advertising department.

John Bohas, advertising supervisor of the Birmingham office, is now assistant retail manager. Kim Mascho, Wayne County advertising supervisor, has been named special services manager. Barry Melamed, advertising supervisor of the Southfield office, has been named regional sales manager.

Bohas, a 1970 graduate of Ferris State College, has been with the newspaper group since 1971, serving the Birmingham and Troy areas as a salesman and most recently as advertising supervisor. He resides in Troy with his wife and two children.

Manko, a 1971 graduate of Wayne State University, joined The Eccentric Newspapers in fall 1971 as a salesman and served the Southfield community exclusively. More recently he was Wayne County sales supervisor for the merged Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He and his wife live in Farmington Hills.

Barry Melamed, formerly with J. W. Thompson Advertising Agency and The Oakland Press, joined The Eccentric Newspapers in 1972 as a retail salesman. He served as Southfield advertising supervisor until his recent appointment. He was graduated from



JOHN BOHAS

Wayne State University in 1971, and lives in Southfield.

These newly created positions have come as a result of the tremendous growth due to the merger of The Observer Newspapers, Inc. and The Eccentric Newspapers, according to Shafer. These men, all of whom will report to Tom Reynolds, retail advertising manager, will have specific responsibilities within the retail department.

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