

Hart bears standard

By TIM RICHARD

Phil Hart began by condemning the presidential veto of a public works bill, then he said he hoped it would be re-passed over the veto. Next he blistered the secretary of agriculture for failing to use surplus crops to feed the needy.

Then the retired senior U.S. senator from Michigan let his Oakland County Democratic audience in on a secret. "That was taken from my 1968 speech."

IN THE YEAR he announced his candidacy for the upper house of congress, and for each of the 18 years he has been there, Hart has addressed an Oakland Democratic dinner in his honor.

This year he is not seeking re-election and has been suffering from cancer and not a little disillusionment.

So for people in southeast Michigan, his talk Sunday evening in the Raleigh House in Southfield was his farewell address, with a tone of strong underlying emotion.

"YOU COULD CONCLUDE it (the 1968 speech) was one of those rare great speeches that is valid for all time," Hart reflected, "but that isn't true."

If you're a thinking Democrat, you could say we had a Republican president then for seven years and a Republican president now for seven years.

"It's a whole of a lot easier to solve technical problems—putting a man, not a woman, on the moon—than to solve social problems."

"Too often we (liberals) were tinkering with the system and not changing the system. Where we dealt with the structure of the system—as in the voting rights act—we were effective."

"BUT REMAIN convinced it will be government in the liberal tradition that has the best chance of meeting the goals."

Hart said liberalism must be "firm in its goals, tentative in its solutions to meet those goals."

"The goals? These are still valid. Provide jobs, protect health, allow decent retirements, feed the hungry at home, seek methods to feed the hungry all over the world, 'bring sanity to a world that spends \$200 billion a year on arms'."

The arms race prompted a very comment on a recent news event. "When they close an air base at Keesler, that's disarrangement for Choctaw County. But we can't leave it both ways."

THE DENVER drew some 500 persons. Hart's was the only speech, and introduction of dignitaries—including many persons backing for the Democratic nomination to succeed Hart—were kept out of the program.

The introduction was performed by the man who brought Hart into active politics—G. Mennen Williams, now a justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

It was Williams who, as governor in 1964, helped Hart win the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor and then helped him win Republican Charles Potter's Senate seat in 1968.

Williams said that Hart's '34 victory ranked with his own first victory for governor in 1948 as his most gratifying.

From the party there was a reproduction of a teaching Washington Post article summarizing Hart's deeds and ideas. From the Southfield City Council, there was a resolution praising his character.

FROM HART himself there were touching personal thanks and these closing comments.

"I wish I could say political participation is an unbroken string of successes. But you have to accept defeat and plodding."

"Evolution is a very slow process."



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Murphy nixes county drain-DPW merger

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners was expected to consider today County Executive Daniel Murphy's veto of the board's resolution combining the drain commission and the department of public works.

Board Chairman Alexander Pernoff Tuesday said he hoped the board would override Murphy's veto.

The override is likely because the original resolution passed 18-0 exactly the two-thirds of 27 votes needed to overturn the veto.

IT IS ALSO likely—a distinct possibility, Pernoff said—the board will appeal a circuit court decision backing Murphy's posture.

In a March 12 memo to the board, Murphy said he vetoed the board's decision to merge the departments and appoint a public works director because the court ruled that the department of public works is under the administrative direction and control of the county executive.

The ruling said that Act 138, which allows the county executive manager form of government, provides that the board of commissioners can consolidate departments only with the county executive's recommendation and after a public hearing.

Clearly, Murphy said the board took its action without his approval.

HE ALSO enumerated his objections to the merger.

"It was based largely on a cost analysis which was seriously misrepresented and did not include input from one of the two departments being consolidated."

"It would continue the fragmentation of county government."

"It would not resolve the difficulties with issuance of public works bonds and in fact might compound the problem."

The veto again touched off the voices of charges between the board and Murphy.

PERNOFF RAILED at Murphy for the lack of communication between the county's administrative and legislative branches.

Murphy is absolutely wrong in his veto message, Pernoff said. "I've heard of a

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