

Dinan wants Patterson's job

By KATHLEEN MORAN

L. Brooks Patterson has one of the most familiar names in Oakland County—and no one knows that more than his Democratic challenger for county prosecutor, Timothy Dinan.

Combating Patterson's high voter identification has been the major problem in Dinan's personality campaign.

"I'm meeting a lot of people by going door to door and talking to different groups," said Dinan, a 37-year-old attorney. But it can't reach as many people as he has through the news media.

Patterson has limited his campaign for reelection on the Republican ticket to putting out his accomplishments in office. He has declined all but one invitation to appear at candidate programs with Dinan.

"I think I have established a certain confidence and respect for the criminal justice system in this county during my four years in office," said Patterson. "The police no longer look on this office as a stumbling block, something they have to get around."

They have more respect for the office and the public has more confidence that we are taking on the criminals. I don't have time to be out campaigning much."

Patterson says he has boosted the rate of convictions as charged by virtually eliminating plea bargaining for some crimes. He has also increased existing minimum sentences for crimes and published a handbook for teachers in dealing their rights in dealing with the drug problem in schools.

I looked at the City of Detroit and figured out where it had gone wrong so that I could set my priorities to deal with the same things happening here in Oakland County," Patterson said.

Plea bargaining, which allows a person to plead guilty to a lesser charge in order to speed up the judicial process, has been



TIMOTHY DINAN

eliminated for persons charged with drug dealing, armed robbery and in cases where an illegal weapon is involved. He said. Whereas 67 persons were found guilty as charged in similar crimes in 1972-73 were convicted as charged last year, he said.

DINAN SAYS he would discontinue plea bargaining for all crimes, especially those crimes of assault, crimes with weapons, those involving drug pushers and repeat criminals.

Historically, the argument for plea bargaining has always been that there are so many cases that the court machinery would virtually collapse from the sheer weight of cases without it," he said.

But I believe we could lighten the court's case load by implementing a screening and diversion system for adult first offenders charged with a non-violent crime."

Dinan says a similar system is working successfully in Genesee County. A citizen probation authority screens cases and se-

lects first offenders which it believes might be rehabilitated through the program.

THE OFFENDERS, who are adults of all ages, enter into an agreement with the county and are treated similar to probationers. They might be involved in counseling or some form of rehabilitation. If they violate the contract, they are then prosecuted for the offense. If they successfully complete the one-year probation, they aren't prosecuted.

"I feel that it's a sensible program," said Dinan. "The beautiful thing is that it has a high success rate and it has been proven to change the person's attitude on crime."

"It also frees up law enforcement officials to pursue a stipulated, unvarying prosecution of more serious crimes," he added.

DINAN BELIEVES a revision of the penal code is necessary. "Many are outdated and outmoded," he said. Minimum sentences should be mandatory for most crimes, he said. Patterson notes that he testified on behalf of legislation to establish minimum sentences for crimes involving weapons.

Although the new law establishes a mandatory minimum sentence of two years for those convicted of crimes involving firearms, both Patterson and Dinan believe should be extended to crimes involving any weapon.

"A broken bottle or knife will kill you just as well," said Dinan.

The drug problem among youths could be tackled by setting up student crisis centers in each community, said Dinan. Youths would be trained to work with their peers in combating drugs in the schools.

Patterson believes his handbook for teachers and administrators is a step toward easing the drug problem. The handbook details a teacher's rights and makes



L. BROOKS PATTERSON

suggestions on handling problems related to drugs, alcohol and other problems.

ALTHOUGH HE has been criticized for doubling his budget in four years, Patterson says he has "triple'd our productivity."

"I make no apologies for spending more money," he said. "If you notice, most of it is going toward salaries I've increased salaries so that we have some of the best trial lawyers."

Dinan attacked Patterson's "emotional" approach to crime. "I think his priorities are distorted," said Dinan. "He's a politically ambitious. He has orchestrated the media and appealed to the fears and emotions of a concerned community."

Patterson agreed that he has sought publicity on cases in which his office is involved. "That's true. I think the public has a right to know what's going on," he said.

"But I also think it has a deterrent effect. It puts criminals on notice that they will be prosecuted if caught committing a crime in Oakland County."

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Suburban bus service boosted

By TIM RICHARD

Rapid transit got the public attention last week when the \$600 million federal commitment was announced this week by Sen. William Milliken.

LARRY SALTZ, acting general manager of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA), said the seven-county agency will have take bids for purchase of 20 new coaches under recent grants.

We want to emphasize that this is for balanced transportation. It's not all going into a Detroit subway, said Saltz, who was in Milliken's office Tuesday morning for the governor's announcement.

MILLIKEN SAID President Gerald Ford overruled the federal decision to \$600 million for urban public transportation in southeast Michigan.

With a matching state and regional share of \$200 million, Milliken said SEMTA would have more than \$800 million in transit development funding, which will directly create more than 15,000 jobs.

Meanwhile, he said the U.S. Department of Transportation is looking for business here to commit \$600 million in investment along major transit corridors. Federal policy is not simply to pump money into transit systems but to view federal

transit funding as part of a total urban redevelopment investment package.

Milliken said the effort to get a federal commitment was the result of a close working relationship on the part of the city (Detroit) and suburbs.

Whether southeastern Michigan would get anything had been in doubt in recent weeks because federal funds had been running out under a program approved several years ago by congress.

SALTZ, OPERATING head of SEMTA since the resignation of general manager Clarence Genette a week earlier, said SEMTA's total project cost would be unknown until a detailed alternatives analysis is completed early in 1977.

That analysis is expected to show what kind of hardware would be best suited to the rapid transit segment of the public transportation program. Detroit Mayor Coleman Young wants a subway, the most expensive kind of project. Some state legislators, however, are adamantly opposed to a subway.

Saltz said a preliminary proposal for rapid transit, a partial subway, suburban bus expansion, commuter trains, small bus

programs (such as dial-a-ride) and the downtown Detroit people mover—are all part of the preliminary \$1.2 billion proposal SEMTA made to Washington last week.

Thus, the federal commitment announced this week is about two-thirds of the total federal share that would be needed to fund that program.

MILLIKEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT had an electric effect on the attendance of Sen. Phil Hart and mentioned Republican Sen. Robert Griffin.

But Milliken also credited Young, business and labor leaders for working to gain federal funding.

In Milliken's office was a bipartisan group of legislators including State Rep. Ruth McNamie (R-Birmingham), House Minority Leader Dennis Cawthorne (R-Macomb), State Sen. David Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) and State Rep. William Ryan (D-Detroit).

No SEMTA board members were present. Most were at a conference in San Francisco, where a major discussion topic was to be new federal specifications (if any) for an ideal bus and alternative ideas from private industry.

Tips for trouble-free driving

Motorists who ignore auto maintenance and are caught in a start can the first morning temperatures drop to five degrees below zero or less can expect the longest lines over at repair garages, according to the Auto Club of Michigan.

With a growing number of service stations in Michigan converting to gasoline sales, the first cold snap that often delays partly maintained cars means fewer places to have repairs made, said AAA spokesman.

An expected 80 percent of cars start easily on the first below zero day will result from vehicles that need not vehicle failure. The Auto Club says it is difficult for winter weather to stop a well-maintained car and motorists who follow manufacturer

maintenance recommendations outlined in the car owner's manual can expect a better chance at summerlike starts all winter.

Even with a new battery, a car that has mileage threaded off worn points and plugs, or cracked ignition wires is a likely candidate for a road service call in sub-zero weather, according to the Auto Club.

Road service calls for motorists in freezing weather are mostly costly, since extensive work sometimes required could have been avoided by routine maintenance. Repair costs do not include the inconvenience of lost time for bad days or longer delays while a car waits in traditional cold weather lines at repair facilities.

Can we afford four more years without effective leadership?

There is a critical decision to be made on November 2nd. It goes far beyond the question of which Presidential candidate can govern with integrity and honesty. We must determine which candidate has the ability and strength to lead our country out of economic chaos, and the vision to see that all Americans—not just the powerful and influential—have a better future.

During the past two years, the middle class has paid far too dear a price for a President lacking that ability.

Since Gerald Ford took office, the unemployment rate has risen 50%, from 5.5% to 8.5 million people, to 7.9% or 7-1/2 million jobless Americans.

Today's inflation rate of 6% is higher than it was at any time between the

Korean War and the inauguration of Richard Nixon.

The 1968 food dollar is now worth 57¢.

Mr. Ford's budget will account for the largest single deficit and more than 1/3 of the public debt incurred during our entire 200-year history.

Real GNP has actually declined during each of Gerald Ford's two years in office.

And who is most affected by these distressing statistics? Not the Washington establishment, or the economic elite courted by the Republicans. The burden falls on the person who can least afford it: the average American.

Jimmy Carter means to change all that. As President, he will make government responsive to your needs.

Tax Reform: "The average family in this country actually pays a higher proportion of their income in taxes than the average family that makes more than a million dollars a year. That's disgraceful. We need to move toward a truly progressive and simplified tax system, with reduced tax rates for the average American."

Economy: "We'll never have a balanced budget nor an end to the inflationary problems as long as we have 7-1/2 million people out of work. Employment needs to be the major thrust of the whole domestic policy of our government."

Efficiency in Government: "We now have in the

federal government the most bloated, confused, wasteful bureaucracy ever created. There's no way to get an answer out of Washington and no way to understand what's going on there. We need to reorganize completely the executive branch of government, making it fair, efficient, effective, and responsive to our people's needs."

Housing: "No government that cared about our neighborhoods would stack the tax deck against them. A landlord can let a building run down and make a good living on tax breaks. But when a home owner spends a little hard-earned money fixing up his home, the assessor raises his taxes. And the FHA no longer

cares about families getting started in their own homes. I intend to restore the FHA to the time when, for a down payment, a family could get a mortgage which the government would insure."

Health Care: "We need a nationwide health care delivery system which will make adequate health care a right for all people."

Jimmy Carter has the strength to take charge of our government. If you are tired of paying the high price of Republican ineffectiveness, you have only one choice on November 2nd, and that choice is for change.

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