

Republicans cross over

Commissioners OK cop academy

By TIM RICHARD

Minority Democrats expected to be clobbered Tuesday when Republicans, with a new majority on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, reverse the 1977 budget to suit themselves.

Instead, five Republicans joined the Democrats to approve the concept of an Oakland County police academy in a 10-9 vote.

Otherwise, the Democrats took a long series of 14-11 drubbings as the GOP amended the Democratic budget passed in December to something more nearly resembling the wishes of Republican County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

JOINING 11 Democratic commissioners of back the police academy concept were Republicans Henry W. Hoot of Troy, John McDonald of Farmington, Ralph Moxley of Birmingham, Robert Page of Birmingham and William T. Patterson of Clawson.

Police officials in Oakland County have reportedly wanted such an academy for years. Oakland Community College does police training, but its facilities are considered inadequate, especially for firearms training. The police academy idea is seen as an effort to get the right physical plant, not as dissatisfaction with OCC's academic work, according to commissioners.

After the budget debate, Hoot proposed a resolution—sent to the public services committee—to renew study of the need for a police academy.

Within the budget writing finance committee, Democrats won reinstatement of three other programs—\$5,000 for an information booklet for the Friend of the Court office; \$4,000 for a higher capacity telephone system for the Friend of the Court; and \$8,800 worth of CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act, a federal program) employees for the county social services department.

These were approved by the full board.

OTHERWISE, IT WAS a day of steady defeat for the Democrats as Republicans shot down the minority's effort to debate GOP budget amendments one by one.

Rep. Fessler spent more

State Rep. Richard D. Fessler (R-Union Lake), re-elected in Michigan's 24th district last fall, outspent Democratic challenger George Montgomery in the campaign.

According to reports filed with the Oakland County Clerk, Fessler spent \$11,698. Montgomery spent \$8,549.

Fessler also collected more contributions, \$17,994 to \$8,449.

Those contributors of \$200 or more to Fessler include: House Re-election Committee—\$2,151; North Oakland County Builders Association Political Action Committee—\$200; Pharmacy Political Action Committee—\$200; Real Estate Political Action Committee—\$1,000; Floyd Tonda of Wixom—\$300; Michigan Realtors Government Action Committee—\$500; Savings Association Public Affairs Committee—\$200.

Fessler held two fund-raisers that greatly added to his campaign. Contributions totalled \$3,315 from these events.

Contributing \$200 or over to the Montgomery campaign were: Michigan Education Association Public Affairs Council—\$1,500; Farmington Educators Public Affairs Council—\$200; North Oakland County Association Public Affairs Council—\$200; Lakes Area Education Association Public Affairs Council of Union Lake—\$1,150; Community College Coordinating Council Political Action Committee—\$500; Oakland County United Auto Workers Citizens Action Committee—\$1,311 and the House Democratic Committee—\$1,500.

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and cut the revenue projection by about \$1 million.

Murphy had recommended \$65.9 million.

After the board meeting, Pernick announced the Democratic caucus had elected him its 1977 chairman, and he pledged to offer alternative programs.

"We're not content to let them (the

Murphy administration) tell us what to do and rubber-stamp them. We will work to develop our own programs."

"The county executive hasn't changed his tack of controlling the Republican commissioners. What you saw in there today," Pernick said, "was not the actions of the board but of the county executive."

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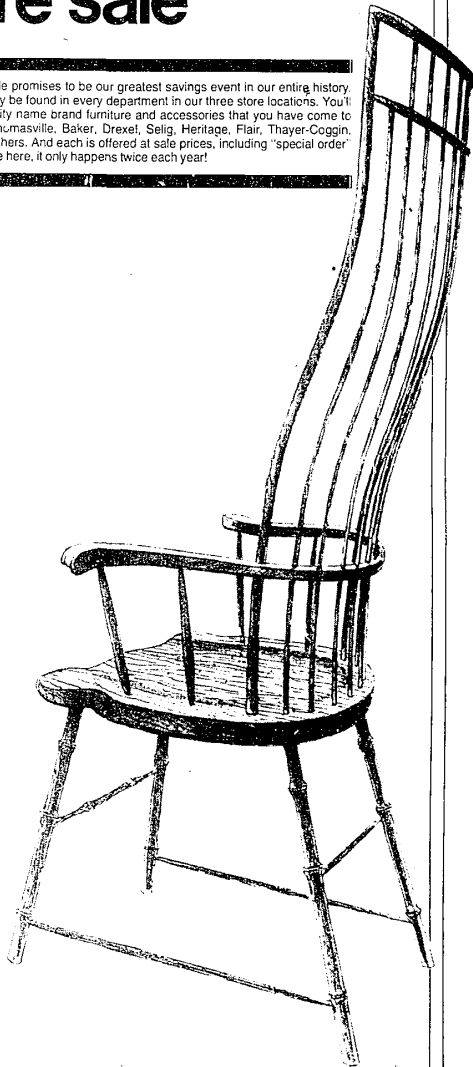
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