

## 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, rewrite the 1977 budget to suit them selves.

Instead, five Republicans joined the Democrats to approve the concept of an Oakland County police academy in a 16-9 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 to 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 advocated 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 to form a citizens' services committee to review 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) as a federal grant for 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-Upton Laze), re-elected in Michigan's 24th district last fall, outspent Democratic challenger George Montgomery in the campaign.

According to reports filed with the Office of State Clerk, Fessler spent \$11,688. Montgomery spent \$8,559.

Fessler also collected more contributions. \$17,984 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 Real Estate Political Action Committee—\$1,000; Troy Taxpayers of Wyoming—\$500; Michigan Realtors Government Action Committee—\$500; Savings Association Public Affairs Committee—\$200.

The big items were repair what Republicans considered the damage Democrats had done to the jobs and programs administered by Murphy by giving them to other departments.

Republicans indicated they would be willing to compromise on one Democratic idea: Giving the county road commission an additional \$250,000 out of the general fund.

The board voted down the proposal of Commissioner Betty Fortino (D-Pontiac) to restore those funds. Mrs. Fortino argued that roads were in bad shape, and the road commission couldn't get the money until it had come with an acceptable list of projects.

Paul Kosper (R-Bloomfield Hills), chairman of the finance committee, replied: "This could come at a later date. I talked to the road commission about this (cutting the funds from the new budget). They're not upset."

As soon as the budget was passed, Hoot offered another resolution to work on a \$250,000 traffic safety and roads program. It was referred to the planning and building committee.

DEMOCRATIC RANKS split on the party's effort to order an independent audit of all county financial operations. The Democratic budget in December had earmarked \$150,000 for such an audit.

Republicans knocked it out and made it stick on a 16-9 vote as two Democrats joined them. Said Kasper: "A \$150,000 audit wouldn't scratch the surface."

Larry Pernick (D-Southfield), architect of the Democratic budget, replied that the intention was to spread the cost over two or three years.

To Democratic arguments that an audit would improve Oakland's credit rating, County Executive Murphy said: "What affects your bond rating is how you pay off your bonds."

WHAT FINALLY passed on a 14-10 part line vote with three commissioners either absent or abstaining—was a \$65.1 million budget for the fiscal year that began Jan. 1, about two per cent less than the Democratic version.

Republicans doubted the county would get the kind of federal countercyclical aid Democrats anticipated is how you pay off your bonds."

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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 task of controlling the Republican commissioners. What you saw in there today," Pernick said, "was not the actions of the board or of the county executive."

Thursday, January 11, 1978

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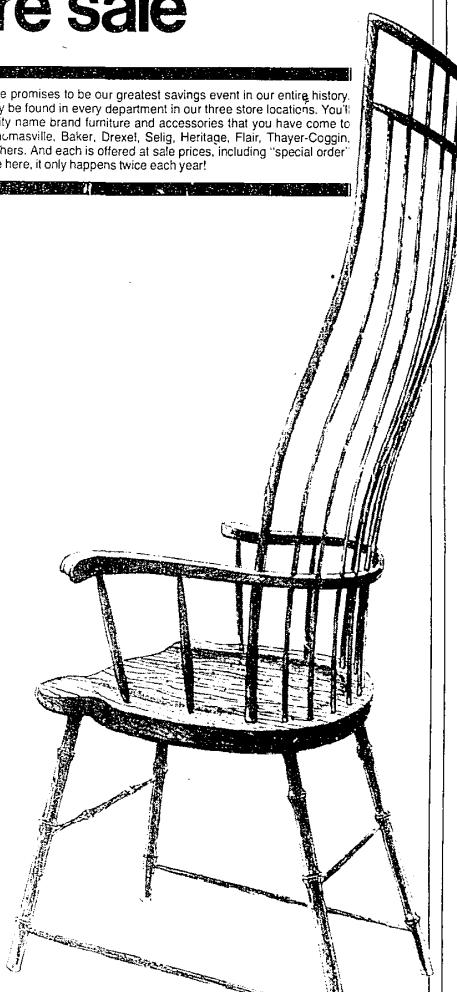
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