

Commissioner attacks Murphy veto

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Oakland County's renegade Republican, Commissioner James Lanni, is once again in the limelight. The Royal Oak representative, who only two weeks ago captured headlines and the attention of television cameras in leading the county's exodus from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA), has challenged County Executive Daniel Murphy's veto power. He filed suit in Oakland County Circuit Court immediately following Murphy's veto of the board of commissioners' decision to drop out of SEMTA. Lanni is asking the court to declare the veto null and void. "I'm a strong Murphy supporter," Lanni said in a soft Tennessee drawl. "But it's wrong to let the state legislature rewrite the county charter."

LANNI CONTENDS that the county charter gives policy-making authority to the 27-member board. The state law which allows for the popularly-elected county executive or a board-appointed county manager, however, gives the executive the power to veto any board resolution. "We can't allow the state legislature to diminish the power of the board of commissioners," he said.

I'm a strong Murphy supporter. But it's wrong to let the state legislature rewrite the county charter.
-Commissioner James Lanni

A provision of the state law establishing the county executive, according to Lanni, "says the board can put the question of whether we want to retain that form of government on the ballot at the end of the fourth year. 'Murphy could veto that resolution. It doesn't make any sense,' Lanni said.

However, Commissioner John McDonald (R-Farmington), a lawyer and chairman of the county Republican caucus, said, "Not only can the state legislature diminish our powers, they can say we don't even exist. 'We're not a self-sustaining institution. We're creatures of the state,' he said.

OTHER COMMISSIONERS said Lanni is more interested in keeping Oakland County out of SEMTA than clarifying state law, which Lanni denies. Commissioner Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield), chairman of the com-

mission's Democratic caucus and a longtime Murphy opponent, said, "It just shows that when you play with fire, sometimes you get burned."

Through the battle leading to Oakland County's withdrawal from SEMTA, Murphy and some commissioners had built a strategy of using withdrawal as a bargaining tool to demand transportation concessions from Gov. William Milliken and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

Murphy, throughout, held his veto in reserve to save the county the trouble and expense of setting up its own transportation authority. Lanni, who introduced the SEMTA pullout resolution for the second consecutive year, has always advocated the county go it alone.

"Those are the problems," Pernick said, "when you get into game-ship. They're caught in a corner reacting to a situation as things develop."

Pernick said, however, that the Democrats, who have long been at odds with Murphy, will steer clear of the intra-party challenge to Murphy's veto power.

DESPITE LANNI'S protestations that the lawsuit is not an effort to keep Oakland County out of SEMTA, his arguments for leaving the regional transportation body are as loud as ever.

He said he doesn't trust the concessions made at a recent peace meeting between Murphy, Milliken and Young. The concessions on the part of Young and Milliken led directly to Murphy's veto.

"We've got promises," Lanni said. "Gov. Milliken said he would work to see that Oakland County got its small buses. Coleman (Young) said he'd abide by whatever SEMTA decides."

"The governor can promise anything, but he still doesn't control the legislature," Lanni said. "And Coleman still has an awful amount of influence on the SEMTA board."

"I'd like to know exactly what the concessions are and I'd like to see some results," he said.

SECESSION, Lanni steadfastly maintains, is the best way for Oakland County to guarantee its citizens quality service and to insure that its tax money is not used to "subsidize" services for Detroit residents.

"By setting up our own transportation authority, we would not have to pick up the subsidy for a Detroit people mover."

Best buy.
ENTREPRENEUR
Compare price and quality.

Blue Jays
BASEBALL PACKAGE
ANY TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS (subject to space availability)

- 2 Top Price Field Level Seats to a Blue Jays Game
- 2 Nights Deluxe Accommodation
- Late Check Out • Parking
- Pool, Sauna and Health Club

PRICE **\$36.00** PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY CANSADA FUNDS

ONE NIGHT (subject to space availability)

- 1 Top Price Field Level Seat to a Blue Jays Game
- 1 Night's Deluxe Accommodation
- Late Check Out • Parking
- Pool, Sauna and Health Club

PRICE **\$21.50** PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY CANSADA FUNDS

- Tickets for additional games available on request
- \$15 deposit required one week prior to date of game

The Bristol Place Hotel

FOR RESERVATIONS DIAL "O" ENTERPRISE 6333 OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

This Summer HAVE FUN!
Camp De Sales - 50 Acres of Water-Land For Boys 7-14

1978 SCHEDULE

- July 8-July 22
- July 23-August 6
- August 7-August 19

200 boys each session
Fee \$175 for 2 weeks

OPERATED BY CHILDES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

A LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

WHILE FOR BROCHURE AND TELL A FRIEND

Camp De Sales
Box 100, Troy, Mich. 48063
Phone (313) 552-2028
Winter/Spring - (419) 243-5195

Nation's traffic deaths up

Last year, 49,200 people died in traffic crashes in the U.S., an increase of 2,500 over 1976, according to the Highway Users Federation.

The number of deaths per mile driven also edged upward, reversing a downward trend in the fatality rate, measured in deaths per 100 million miles driven. The death rate increased from 3.31 fatalities in 1976 to 3.36 in 1977.

The federation's death rate figures were based on the number of miles driven last year in the U.S., recently released by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Highway Users Federation is a national organization supported by 500 businesses, industries and associations to promote traffic safety and highway transportation efficiency.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY
Can You Imagine making two families happy on the same day, and getting paid for it? That's what Real Estate is like, and we would like to tell you more about it. Attend our next Career Seminar on Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. at 23603 Farmington Road, So. of Grand River. Call 475-1111 for your complimentary reservation.

Real Estate One.
An Equal Opportunity Company

If You Play Tennis or Racquetball YOU CAN'T MISS
with a Spring-Summer Membership at Franklin Racquet Club
ADULTS \$35 - JUNIORS \$10

Tennis Time - from \$8/hr.
Racquetball Time - from \$4/hr.

NOW THRU SEPT. 1

Call for Information
352-8000

Franklin Racquet Club
29350 Northwestern, Southfield, Mich.

KALEIDOSCOPE QUILTS
50% - 75% OFF

- Plaitzraft Stoneware
- Yorktown
- Household Accessories
- Party Goods
- Cards
- Candles
- Giftwrap
- Ribbon
- Candles

THE KALEIDOSCOPE
3205 Rochester Road
Vic. Tenny Plaza • TROY
Mon-Sat. 10-6 • 689-6464

Lord & Taylor

Sun spectacle — 40% off

Now, before the sun reaches its peak—our tremendous sunglass sale! All the best designs from America, France and Italy. Frames to flatter every face, in tones of tortoise, brown, Burgundy, champagne, among others. Reg. 12.00, 15.00 and 18.00

Sale 6.99, 8.99 and 10.80

No mail or telephone orders, please. Lord & Taylor, Lakeside, Fairlane, open daily 10 to 9:30, Sunday 11 to 6. Twelve Oaks, open daily 10 to 9, Sunday 11 to 6.

Wicker Works

The Wicker Works experience. It's expertly prepared dishes such as tender Chateaubrand, Shrimp Tempura, Breast of Turkey Wellington, Prime Rib and more. A 25-foot Salad Bar with almost everything. Wines and cocktails, of course.

Service that's attentive but not distracting. Enjoy the casually elegant atmosphere tonight.

Experience Wicker Works

Northfield-Hilton Inn
5500 Crooks Rd. at 44
Troy, Mich. 48066
(313) 979-2100

Reservations, please