Commissioner attacks Murphy veto

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

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Oakland County's renegade Republican, Commissioner James Land, 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 Michagan Transporation Authority (SEMTA), has
challenged County Executive Daniel
Murphy's veto founty Executive Daniel
Murphy's veto power.
He filled suit in Oakland County Circuit Court immediately following Murphy's veto of the board of commissioners decision to drop out of SEMTA.
Lamti is asking the court to declare
the veto null and void.
"I'm a strong Murphy supporter."
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LANNI CONTENDS that the county charter gives policy-making authority to the 27-member board. The state law 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 estab-lishing the county executive, accord-ing 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

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

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 Oak-land County's withdraw! from SEMTA. Murphy and some commissioners had built a strategy of using withdraw! as a bargaining tool to demand transportation concessions Detroit Mayor Coleman Wilken and Detroit Mayor Coleman Wilken and Detroit Mayor Coleman with the second contract of the sec

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

He said he doesn't trust the con-cessions made at a recent peace meet-ing 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 Colernan 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.

SECCESSION. 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 transporta-tion authority, we would not have to pick up the subsidy for a Detroit people mover."



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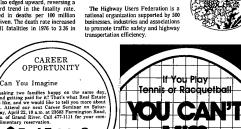
Last year, 49,200 people died in traf-fic crashes in the U.S., an increase of 2,500 over 1976, according to the High-way Users Pederation.

The number of deaths per mile driven also edged upward, reversing a downward trend in the fatality rate. neasured 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.







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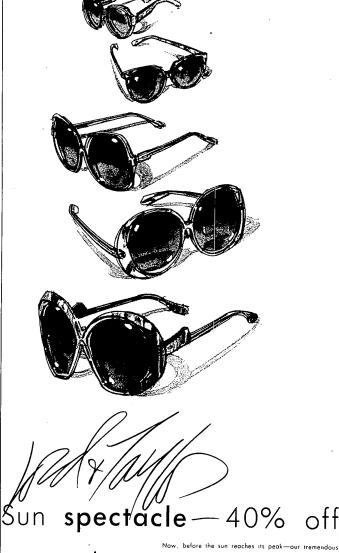
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