

Quest for Superbowl gets \$43,000 more grease

By TIM RICHARD
The Oakland County Tourist and Convention Bureau got a 50 per cent shot in the arm as it seeks to bring the 1981 Super Bowl pro football championship game to Pontiac's Silverdome.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners on May 18 voted an additional \$43,000 to the group.

It will boost the budget from the current \$82,000 to \$125,000, said Henry M. Hogan, chairman of the bureau.

The county earlier in the budget

year had voted a \$40,000 appropriation.

SOUTH END commissioners indignantly scolded the tourist and convention bureau as "a maggot feeding on the taxpayers" and "a cancer on the body politic."

Hogan said the new funds would enable the group to promote bringing in Super Bowl with mailings, printing of newspapers, buttons, receptions for National Football League leaders and owners and a "blitz" of trade associations in Columbus and Cleveland.

Overhead and staff salaries run

\$5,000 a month (or \$60,000 of the \$82,000 budget), said Hogan. Without the new money, no promotion of the Super Bowl project would be possible.

Observer & Eccentric area commissioners split their votes along party lines. In favor were Republicans Henry Hoot of Troy, Paul Kasper of Bloomfield Hills, Robert McConnell of Farmington Hills, John McDonald of Farmington, Lillian Moffitt of Bloomfield, Joseph Montante of Orchard Lake, Ralph Moxley of Birmingham, Dennis Murphy of Novi, Robert Page of Birmingham and John

Peterson of Avon.

Opposed were Democrats Alexander Perinoff and Larry Pernick, both of Southfield.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said the amount was modest compared to the \$275,000 the City of Detroit spends on the metropolitan tourist bureau and the \$1 million it is budgeting for its economic development corporation.

Commissioner Henry Hoot (R-Troy), who sponsored the appropriation, said he hoped the "clean taxes, not on Oakland residents, and we don't have

to provide them schools, police and fire protection."

COMMISSIONER Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield) doubted the wisdom and legality of the appropriation. He asked a written opinion from the bureau's counsel, Robert Allen, on the legality of a county's contributing to a private agency.

Perinoff called the tourist bureau "a maggot, feeding on taxpayers' money... We have a serious problem with court facilities," he added, recalling that the Michigan Legislature is in

the process of establishing three new circuit court judgeships for Oakland County.

Commissioner Dennis Aaron (D-Oak Park) called the tourist bureau "an ego trip that doesn't produce and will not produce." The metropolitan Detroit agency, Aaron said, "brings in the business" that this (Oakland County) group only talks about."

Commissioner James Lanni (R-Royal Oak) said the tourist group would be more fairly financed by an accommodations tax than out of general fund property taxes.

Devil drink is target for Wilbur Mills

Former U.S. Rep. and recovering alcoholic Wilbur Mills will be keynote speaker for the 25th anniversary of Brighton Hospital on Aug. 5.

The hospital is one of the country's first and leading facilities for the exclusive treatment of alcoholism.

Alcoholism contributed to Mills' downfall from one of the most powerful positions in Congress. In January 1975, Washington D.C. police found Mills, then chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, in the Potomac River Tidal Basin, after he apparently had too much to drink.

That incident and Mills' relationship with a Boston burlesque dancer, Fanne Fox, led the Arkansas Democrat to admit he was an alcoholic. A year later, he resigned from the House.

Now an attorney for a New York law firm, Mills devotes much of his time to speaking about the treatment of alcoholism.

Nearly 5,000 former patients, benefactors and friends of Brighton Hospital will be invited to the anniversary, with "Sharing the Joy of Sobriety" as the theme.

Brighton hospital accepted its first patients in a converted farmhouse in the fall of 1953. The hospital, which completed a \$2 million renovation and expansion in March, 1976, is located on Grand River at Kensington, near the present I-96 freeway.

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