

Pay flap dissolves; board OKs wage hikes

By TOM LONERGAN

Rebuffing its finance committee, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week approved a 2.5 percent raise for 2,000 non-union county employees.

Recipients of the pay hike, the second this year, range from CETA special project employees at \$8,000 annually to County Executive Daniel Murphy, with a \$55,595 salary. The non-union employees received a 7 percent increase in January.

All elected officials, except the 27 commissioners, will receive the raise. Elected officials' salaries were increased 5 percent earlier this year.

The Republican majority rejected several attempts by board Democrats to exclude elected officials from the raise. Republicans control the board, 15-11. One commissioner seat is vacant because of Farmington Hills Republican Robert McConnell's resignation.

The board's personnel committee had recommended that elected officials not receive the 2.5 percent.

The raise, retroactive to Aug. 25, will cost the county \$945,000 during the next year. The county is expecting a \$1.2 million surplus in this year's budget.

THE COMMISSIONERS easily approved the raise, 23-3. The board overturned its finance committee which recommended, 6-5, that the raise not be considered until the 1980 budget is reviewed. The board suspended its rules to approve the raise.

About 400 county employees represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) will also receive the 2.5 percent should they ratify a tentative agreement with the county. A 7 percent increase, retroactive to Jan. 1 is also part of the package.

AFSCME's agreement put it in the unusual position of lobbying with the county's management for the non-union employee increase. More than half of the county's 3,500 employees are non-union.

About 40 probate court employees,

represented by AFSCME, picketed the Board of Commissioners Auditorium before last Thursday's meeting, urging commissioners to approve the 2.5 percent increase. The AFSCME employees have not received a raise this year.

More than 140 non-union employees signed a petition supporting the increase which was read to the commissioners.

MURPHY PROPOSED the raise in August, citing the failure of the Carter Administration's 7 percent wage increase guideline to curb this year's double digit inflation. The real income of county employees has declined significantly since 1977, Murphy said.

But conservative Republicans joined several board Democrats in opposing the raise in committee. The Republi-

cans wanted the raise postponed, while some Democrats were suspicious of Murphy's motives, citing the upcoming 1980 election year and that all but one group of union employees were excluded.

Personnel officials said the county couldn't unilaterally grant a union bargaining unit a raise. Only AFSCME had negotiated for the extra 2.5 percent.

THE COUNTY clerk, treasurer, sheriff and drain commissioner are paid more than \$35,000, while Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson's salary tops \$43,000.

The 14 county circuit judges, who all make at least \$51,000, will also receive the raise.

The average salary among non-union employees, which includes the elected officials' top aides, is \$15,000.

'No fault' inquiry begins Auto Club series

An Automobile Club of Michigan insurance expert will discuss "No Fault Insurance — How We Got Here from There," at 7:30 tonight in the first of a series of lectures at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-96, Farmington Hills.

The lectures covering travel, automobile safety, energy conservation and

insurance will be presented on alternate Mondays through Nov. 26 in the community activities area of H Building. They are free to the general public.

Howard A. Balzaire, administrative assistant for insurance operations, will begin the Auto Club series Monday night, taking a look at the no-fault insurance concept and its place in the socio-economic environment.

Bill Banks, Auto Club speakers' bureau coordinator and a contributing editor for Michigan Living/Motor News magazine, will discuss ways to cut fuel consumption and save gas for vacations and recreation in his Oct. 15 lecture, "Maintain Michigan's Mobility."

Banks will discuss the Triple-A press, radio and TV services for highway safety and public information in the final lecture in the series, "Tell It

Like It is," on Nov. 26.

Other lectures include: Oct. 29 — "Planning a Trip Abroad," with tips from Auto Club world travel counselor Barbara Kowdyn; and Nov. 12 — "Understanding and Being Understood," guides for overcoming barriers to effective communication, from Robert W. Loesch, Auto Club's coordinator of supervisory and management programs.



Save 44% on
14K gold
jewelry
during our
one day
traveling
gold event

Monday, October 1: Oakland
Tuesday, October 2: Twelve Oaks
Wednesday, October 3: Northland,
Eastland, Westland, and Southland
Thursday, October 4: Fairlane,
Lakeside, and Toledo
Friday, October 5: Ann Arbor

For one day only at these stores, save an incredible 44% on 14K gold treasures for men and women. Find chains, bracelets, stickpins, earrings, charms, charmholders and more with values like these. 15" S-link chain, reg. \$37, sale 17.99. S-link bracelet, reg. \$22, sale 9.99. Hurry in for the best selection in Costume Jewelry.

Sorry no phone orders, layaways, or C.O.D.'s.
Limited quantities of sale merchandise.

hudson's