County debates withdrawal from Social Security system

A move to pull Oakland County's 3,500 employees out of the federal so-cial security system has been stalled, but probably not for long. The Republican majority on the 27-member County Board of Commission-res may overturn board Democrats' efforts to nip the plan in the bud. Last week, three Republicans joined four Democrats in tabling the matter in the finance committee, which, under normal circumstances, would be a final action.

BUT THE Republican finance com mittee chairman, Commissioner Dennis Murphy, R-Novi, vowed that the matter "is not going to die in commit-

tee."
At issue is a resolution allowing the county to notify the Social Security Administration of its intent to withdraw from the federal tax-backed retire-

from the federal tax-backed retirement system.
The federal government requires two years notice before a governmental unit withdraws from the system. The county could decide not to pull out before the two-year notice takes effect. Murphy said there's no political or partisan politics involved in the withdrawal move, which was initiated in the county's Employees Retirement Commission by two employee-elected members.

VOTING TO table the matter in committee were Democrats Lawrence Pernick and Alexander Perinoff, both of Southfield, James Doyon of Madison Heights and Betty Fortino of Pontiac.

They were joined by Republicans Lillian Moffitt of Bloomfield, Ralph Moxley of Birmingham and Anne Hobart of Pontiac.

Murphy and Republicans John Peter-son of Rochester and Mathew Dunask-iss of Lake Orion, voted against tabl-

iss of Lake Orion, voted against tabling.

Murphy said the tabling will become a Republican caucus issue. "We're going to do something with it," he said. "We're either going to take charge of this county or left it go down the tube." Murphy and County Board Chairman Wallace Gabler, R. Royal Oak, co-sponsored the withdrawal resolution. Republicans control the board by a 16-11 margin. It takes 16 votes for the full county board to rescind the finance committee's tabling and reconsider the social security issue. The board's next meeting is Nov. 29.

DEMOCRATIC Caucus Chairman
Pernick led the debate against the social security resolution last week.

"When we file a declaration of intent
to withdraw, that means people in this
courthouse have already made a decision," Pernick said.

"What this is is the first step to taking away those (social security) benfile away those (social security)

But Robert Allen, the county's civil

But Robert Allen, the county's civil counsel, disagreed.

"Filing this notice doesn't mean you're going lo withdraw nor does it automatically withdraw you."

Allen noted that while social security. Allen noted that while social security benefits aren't subject to collective bargaining, "what you replace it with is." Half of the county's employees are represented by unions.

COMMISSIONER MOXLEY, a for-mer Birmingham police chief, said sep-arate local government retirement plans can't match social security. Most police and fire employees aren't part of the social security system. "If you pull out, it's being unfair to the thousands of employees we have," Mozley said.

"You're at the mercy of the future of the county. If you expect the county to retain benefits, rest assured it's going to be much less than social security."

Mrs. Molfitt, vice-chairman of the board, said she voted to table because little information was provided. "This is their (employees') security

and you better spell it out. That resolution doesn't tell you much," she warned.

Mrs. Moffitt has called for the county personnel department to make a comparison study between social security benefits and what could be provided in a private plan.

"I think we should look into this issue," she said.

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"I' can see advantages to it (witherway), the state from payroll checks, matched that mount.

"I' can see advantages to it (witherway), because social security is cost.

The law doesn't allow private sector employees to withdraw from the system.

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WSU symposium to examine law

Leading members of the education, medical, law and nursing professions from all parts of the country will participate in a two-day symposium on "The Supreme Court Davis Decision: Implications for Higher Education."

Wayne State University sponsors the symposium on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 14 and 15.

It is the first national symposium called to discuss the court's unamimous ruling that it will not be considered discriminatory for educational institutions to impose "legitimate physical qualifications" for the admission of handicapped students to clinical training programs. However, the court did not say what criteria would determine such qualifications.

THIS SPECIFIC case involved Frances Davis, a practical nurse who was not admitted to a North Carolina Berkeley, Calif.



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