

Zak Wins; Pursell Votes for Vice Chairman

By DENNIS FAJOT

Albert J. Zak won a second year as chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors without any opposition and with only token resistance. The man who opposed him last year, James DeSana, won election Monday to the newly created position of vice chairman, also without formal opposition and over only minor dissent.

They will see the 36-member board through the final year of their terms.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS indicate that Zak may not seek reelection next year and that DeSana, if returned to the board by his district, may win the title role.

Zak welcomed DeSana to the second position saying, "Our understanding of the cooperation needed is mutual. We have something in common. He's the former mayor of Wyandotte, and I'm a former mayor of Hamtramck."

The implication was plain. Leadership on the county board has fallen decidedly to non-Detroit members.

Zak and DeSana garnered essentially the same vote totals in secret balloting. Both were the only nominees for their respective offices.

ZAK POLLED 20 favorable votes and four abstentions. Two supervisors were absent. DeSana polled 21 favorable votes and four abstentions. Supervisor Frederick Yates entered the meeting between votes.

Livonia-Plymouth area Supervisor Carl Pursell, told Observer Newspapers he and the only other board Republican, William Bryant (Grosse Pointe), abstained on the Zak ballot, but voted for DeSana.

Why? He dodged the question, but made it common knowledge he considers Zak's leadership "reactionary" and that he worked for DeSana this year as he had in the tight chairmanship race a year ago.

NETHER REDFORD, Ivarson Heights Supervisor Harvey J. Beadle, nor Westland-Garden City Supervisor Ralph P. Turco revealed their votes. Both are Democrats.

Also against Zak was John H. Sheppard, D-12th District northwest Detroit, who said "I abstain" when his name



ALBERT J. ZAK of Hamtramck - He won with 20 votes this time. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

was called, rather than putting it on a ballot. Sheppard was a supporter of C.A.W. candidate Paul Silver for chairman a year ago.

The fourth Zak abstention and those against DeSana's vice chairmanship nomination did not reveal themselves.

Insiders speculate that Frederick Yates, D-9th District

Molin Replaces Sladek In GOP

A new Wayne County chairman has been named by the Republican party, replacing Henry R. Sladek of Livonia who resigned in November.

The new chairman will be Keith Molin, who has been executive director of the county organization.

Molin, of 744 Lathrop, Detroit, will have the task of coordinating activities of the various congressional district chairmen within the county.

Ways and Means Committee of the House.

Zak made it a point Monday to reappoint Yates to that role for this year, the only committee appointment so far announced. Other committees will continue from last year until new appointments are announced.

Speculation, again, is that some committee chairmen are going to get the axe. Zak's avoiding reappointments Monday strengthened the suspicions.

Among those rumored to be on their way down from pinnacles reached in their first year as county supervisors were Turco, Beadle and Pursell, all from Observerland.

Turco, the 25th District supervisor from Westland, has chaired the law enforcement unit this past year. Beadle, of the 18th District from Redford, chaired the legislative committee. Pursell, of the 26th District from Plymouth, chaired the rules committee.

TURCO AND BEADLE reportedly have run into internal strife. Pursell has made his amiable but definite opposition to Zak uncomfortably noteworthy.

Zak complimented the board members in general, however, in a prepared statement delivered after he was re-elected chairman.

"You have measured up to the responsibilities and resolved many of the problems incurred (from the preceding 130-member board)," said Zak. He said he considered these responsible actions.

● Adopting a balanced budget; improving services without incurring a deficit.

● Resisting pressures to give away taxpayers' money.

● Gaining legislative help for capital improvements monies.

"YOU CAN TAKE pride in your first year in office. You've added 27 positions to the juvenile court and youth home."

"You've laid the groundwork to build a second juvenile court and youth home to serve the western part of the county. We hope to take positive action on that in the near future."

He cited addition of 19 guards, a psychiatric unit and prisoners uniforms as improvements for the county jail system.



AFTER CONGRATULATIONS -- Newly elected vice chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, James DeSana (right) exchanges notes with Livonia-Plymouth Supervisor Carl Pursell. (Observer photo)

He asked for continued cooperation among supervisors and said, "Now that we know each other better we can better cooperate to make a better city." That last word seemed a slip of the tongue, not unusual for a former city mayor.

DeSANA, A DEMOCRAT regarded as a maverick and "his own man" after a seven-year tenure as Wyandotte mayor, pledged continued cooperation.

Then he hinted that he might be the aggressive leader of action programs that many of his supporters expect him to be.

"We laid the groundwork for many, many more things to be accomplished in the new year," he said, completing a brief acceptance speech.

The county board started off 1969 with the "Zak Pack" showdown and recall episodes.

It's starting 1970 with "Zak-DeSana Coalition" and reelection drum rolling.



HARVEY BEADLE of Redford ponders his vote for Zak or abstain? (Observer photo)

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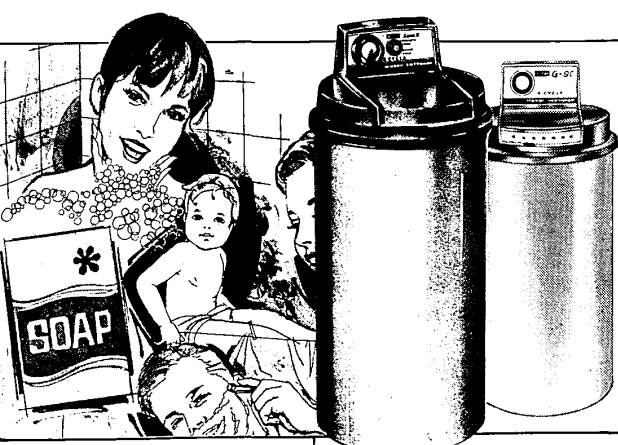
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