Wayne Supervisors Balk At Court Costs

A six-month crash program to clear criminal court dockets in Wayne County may flounder for lack of funds.

Miffed because they were put on the spot without consultation, the County Board of Supervisors is resisting presented by the in the nearest to the county.

A supervisors' ways and means committee meeting Monday ended without a decision after a stormy session in which the project director was beleaguered by questions and criticisms.

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oFFICIALLY the ways and meant committee postponed its decisary and full cost expectations. From Robert E. Krinock, program director, they learned hast immediate county funding needs will be in excess of \$780,000. He couldn't say how much in excess and the supervisors said, "we'll wait until you can."

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As explained by Krinock, who is the representative of State Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan, the program's author, county support is needed and required for supportive staff and incidentals.

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THE STATE is funding salarties of the 11 judges already at
work and the south of the

It could go higher. Krinock said, due to need to pay for additional probation officers. He said these would be permanent staff positions and could number as many as 71, which

is the additional number of persons needed to meet the state standard of one officer per 50 probationers.

He didn't know exactly how many would be recommended and was asked to find out.

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SOME OF THE county expense is "possibly" reimbursable by a federal grant of \$200,000 that Kronock said he has virtual assurance of securing.

The City of Detroit may be adding funds, too, in the form of wages to additional city police officers charged with guarding the central county of the control recorders. Court, where the lag between arrests and trials has climbed to almost a year. Circuit Court, which was to get two of the judges, has none at all after the circuit judges convinced Brennan that their dockets for out-county criminal cases are up to date.

Circuit Judges Thomas Foley and George Bowles con-

curred that a suspect is brought to trial within two months.

Normally the county board supports only about two-thirds of the cost of the Recorders Court (due to its contribution to the overall-county load).

IN ADDITION to wanting to know the full cost, the supervi-sors criticized Brennan's selec-tion of judges to serve.

County Supervisor Freddie Burton (D-Detroit), a black, noted that no blacks were among the 11, although 80% of the accused are city blacks.

Supervisor Paul Silver (D-Detroit) said none of the 11 could win election in Wayne County because they don't undersand the people's prob-lems.

Neither Krinock nor Sikora has been available for com-ment. Krinock refused to talk to newsmen after Monday's

business days. Sikora has not responded to repeated Ob-server Newspapers' requests for facts and answers.

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UNDERLYING THE ISSUE are at least two controversal subjects: one, the county board's responsibility for a county jail already steeping 400 prisoners on the floor for lack of space; two, the apparent intent of Chter Justice Brennan to run for U.S. senator.

County Sheriff William Lucas has said that clearance of prisoners awaiting trial will relieve jail overcrowding.

Politics seems to dictate that an aspring candidate not be given any premature plums on which ic campaiga.

Bremman, a Republican which is a control of the county of t

it.

It is the Supreme Court's responsibility to administer justice, and it has the authority to put extra judges to work if jail waits are too lengthy.

ACCORDING TO the law, the county board is obligated to appropriate the funds to support the extra judges' work.

However, constitutionality of a similar statute has been questioned in the lawsuit brought by the Circuit Court judges against the county board already.

The board of supervisors, meanwhile, is stressing a program studied and recommended last year to build a new jail to make possible long range relief of crowding and other problems.

Board Chairman Albert Zak has urged significant progress this year on that project, which will also require county money.

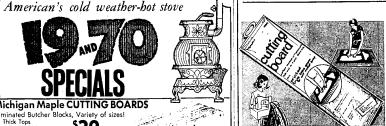
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