

Taking a conservative approach

By TOM LONERGAN

state of the union was sound. "If he was including the economy in those comments, then he was probably getting his economic advice from Miss Lillian ..."

SEGER'S COMMENTS were enthusiastically received by the 170 chamber members, mostly small business owners and managers from the Pontiac area. They gathered in Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills, recently for a \$10-a-plate lunch and to hear Seger's economic forecast.

Seger, 48, heads a regulatory agency which oversees 200 state chartered banks, 350 credit unions, savings and loan associations, and consumer finance companies. She received her undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan. In the mid-1960s Seger worked for the Federal Reserve Board, an agency for which she has few kind words today.

Although she is less than keen on

'As an economist, I'm impressed with the fact that resources are scarce. . . We can't get simultaneous satisfaction of everyone's desires — that's what economics is all about.'

see "the point" behind the state's Financial Institutions Bureau. "When you have institutions accepting other people's money," Seger said in a recent phone interview, "the feeling is they have to be treated in a special way to protect the funds of the individual, business and government."

THE BUREAU determines the number of branches which banks and other financial institutions may open, maximum size of loans (10 percent of a financial institution's capital), types of loans, interest on savings accounts and other details of the banking business.

About half of the bureau's staff of 117 are "road examiners," who Seger says attempt to visit the financial institutions regulated by the state at least once a year. Banks and savings and loan associations with federal charters are also regulated by the federal government.

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what she calls "snowballing" government regulation of business, the former Oakland University professor, bank vice president and business consultant

Anti-crime group tapped

The majority of the 28-member Oakland County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council have been reappointed for one-year terms by County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

The council coordinates planning and federal grant applications for more than 40 law enforcement agencies in the county.

New members of the council include Troy Police Chief John Donovan and county Commissioner Lillian Moffitt, R-Bloomfield Township. Among the repeat appointees were

West Bloomfield Township Supervisor John Doherty, former Birmingham Mayor Robert Kelly, County Commissioner Lawrence Pernick, D-Southfield, Bloomfield Township Police Chief Robert Snell, Troy City Councilwoman Jeanne Stine, Southfield Public Safety Director R.G. Tobin and James Triano, a Birmingham resident.

Council chairman is James Y. Stewart, Huntington Woods public safety director.

Martha Seger, the state's new commissioner of financial institutions, describes herself as a "candid person, and I guess that's unusual."

The Bloomfield Hills resident's recent speech before the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce was described by one member as "blunt."

Some Segersisms:
 • "I'm somewhat to the right of Calvin Coolidge. My economic ideas go back to the Neanderthal Man, and I'm glad to admit it."

• OPEC oil pricing may be influenced by the Reagan administration "when OPEC figures out they're dealing with someone who resembles John Wayne rather than Casper Milque-toast."

• The media are "economic illiterates."
 • Referring to a Carter administration declaration in January that the

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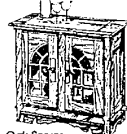
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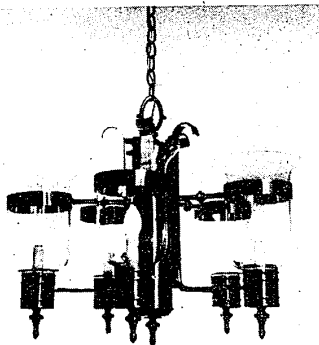


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