Patterson condemns early parole

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson says he's angry about last week's state Supreme Court decision to allow early paroles for some 1,000 state prison inmates.
Patterson said he plans a petition drive to stiffen state-sentencing procedures generally and to specifically eliminate early paroles caused by overcrowding.

eliminate early parona curve crowding.

Mass sentence reductions are required under a 1990 law approved by the Legislature following voter rejection of an income tax hike proposal which would have financed prison con-

The law requires Gov. William Mil-

The law requires Gov. William Mil-liken to reduce most immate sentences by 90 days whenever immate population at the state's 12 prisons and 11 camps exceeds 12,874 for 30 consecutive days. Each 90 day sentence reduction makes about 1,500 immates suddenly el-gible for parole. Corrections officials-reportedly expect two-thirds, or about 1,000, of those immates to be granted early parole in addition to about 1,000

others who would have been eligible anyway.
PATTERSON claimed the law was unconstitutional on two grounds. He said it violated the state's minimum amandatory sentencing provision — a voter-approved constitutional amendment passed in 1978 after a Patterson-initiated petition drive — and it constituted legislative interference in the governor's power to commute sentences.

The Supreme Court disagreed, ruling the legislature's action merely extended its power to set penalties for criminal violations.

"My initial reaction, of course, was disappointment. I thought we had a very solid legal argument 1 still do. But obviously the court has the final say.

But obviously the court may be made say.

"(But) my reaction's turned to anger. In this whole system the public is given little consideration."

Pattersin said he recognizes the problems of prison overcrowding, but he said the sentence reduction plan "creates another problem of equal se-writy if not worse. .. this law is very dangerous and endangers the public."



L. Brooks Patterson

THE LONG-TERM effect of the law,"
Patterson said, will cancel out the
state's minimum mandatory sentenc-

Patterson added that he expects nore than two emergency overcrowd-

more than two emergency overcrowd-ing declarations annually.

"I'm not oblivious to (prison) condi-tions," added Patterson. "My solution is expansion of the prison system by re-vamping and refurbishing existing fa-cilities."

cilities."

He singled out Eloise in Wayne County and Kinchloe Air Force Base in the Upper Peninsula. A portion of Kinchloe is already in operation at Kinross State Prison, but Patterson said the shut down base is under-utilized.

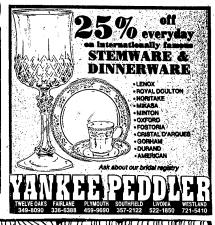
down base is under-williss and in significant of the control of th

Philadelphia planner at LIT

Urban planner Edmund Bacon will orban planner Edition Bacon will share his redevelopment experiences in Philadelphia during the third of his three-part architecture presentations at Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, on Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Bacon, this year's visiting profe "Downtown is Looking Up" in the ar-





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