

The Plight Of A Suburban GOP Underdog

McCarthy Gets Only Arm-Twisting Help

By W. W. EDGAR

James E. McCarthy, the tall, sandy-haired Plymouth Township justice of the peace, who had visions of becoming the new district judge, now finds himself the underdog Republican candidate for Wayne County Sheriff all because, as he puts it, "I opened my big mouth."

The change in political goals came about because of a conversation he had at a GOP political rally several months ago, and had virtually forgotten it.

"We got around to discussing the office of sheriff and whether it should be abolished," McCarthy recalled, "when I spoke up and stated the view that the office never should be eliminated and I told them why."

Half kidding, or so I thought," McCarthy went on, "the Republican leaders voiced the opinion that if I felt that way about the office -- I should make a run for it."

Winning the office of Wayne County sheriff is something no Republican has done since 1946. In that post-war GOP upset, Edward Behrendt took the office two years.

THE WENT ON and as the closing date for filing petitions neared, McCarthy went ahead with plans to enter the race for district judge. In fact, he had announced his intention of entering the race.

"On the Saturday night before the filing date," McCarthy pointed out, "I got a call from the Republican leaders and was advised that they were counting on me to make the race for sheriff."

"I had heard rumblings about it, but nothing official until I got the call," he went on, "it took quite a lot of arm twisting, but they finally twisted hard enough and here I am now -- the candidate for sheriff."

In this role -- as the opponent of incumbent Roush -- he is the only candidate from Overland who is seeking a county-wide office in the November election.

THE SWITCH in goals from district judge to sheriff immediately raised questions about McCarthy's qualifications for the post, but he is determined to answer that he is well qualified for these reasons:

1. He has been active in law enforcement from both sides -- both as an attorney and a prosecutor and a justice of the peace.
2. During his military service he often was in charge of

the stockades and, therefore, got the type of experience needed for handling such institutions as the county jail.

The Township Justice is just as quick to answer questions about retaining the office of sheriff.

"We need the trinity of law enforcement," he points out, "in order that justice can prevail."

"We need some place to go when local law enforcement fails, or is not adequate. We need some middle point between the local and state police. That's what makes the sheriff's office an important part of our enforcement. The sheriff rightfully should be the middle goal in the distribution of justice. In that role, the sheriff can fill a great need."

HOW DOES he feel about the manner in which the sheriff's office has been conducted?

"Well since Peter Buback left the office, his successor has done nothing but paint the jail. This isn't much of an accomplishment, but it is all that he has shown thus far."

Speaking about the Wayne

County jail, Candidate McCarthy was outspoken in his criticism after visiting the jail.

"Do you know," he said, "that the Wayne County Jail is the only jail in America that allows the sale of razor blades right in the commissary."

"And," he went on, "the dispensing of medicine is most amazing. The medicine is dispensed in open envelopes and no attempt made to check them. The distribution of dope would be simple under the present system."

"As I see it," he stated pointedly, "the Wayne County Jail, under the present administration, is a breeding ground for crime instead of an institution to guide the law violators to better things."

McCarthy asked:

"Why do the judges send so few young people to the Wayne County Jail?"

"THEY'RE AFRAID of what might happen," he said in answer to his own question.

"They're afraid that these young folks will be exposed to more crime -- and that's a fine state of affairs."

Is he planning to make these

charges part of his campaign?

"The theme of my campaign will be," McCarthy answered, "that the present administration has done nothing since Buback left, to better conditions and that we are just having a continuation of the conditions that forced his resignation."

"Along with that, I plan to campaign on the theme that the entire Sheriff's Department needs a thorough investigation in the hope that it can regain the respect that has been lost in recent years."

McCarthy admitted that his one big worry at the moment is finances, and he isn't sure that a sufficient amount will be forthcoming to conduct the kind of a campaign he would like.

"To win the sheriff's race, a campaign would cost at least \$25,000. At the moment, I can see only about \$5,000, most of which is my own money."

DOES HE EXPECT much help from the GOP leaders who twisted his arm to get into the race?

"The drive for funds is just getting under way," he said, "and there's no telling just how much financial help I might get. It could be very little."

Then, with a smile, he said, "You know, the Republicans in the grass roots depend mostly on small contributions."

Thus far he has mailed 100,000 circulars to all sections of the county and still has 400,000 more to go -- as soon as the funds are available.

His visits to other areas also will depend upon the amount of financial help he can obtain.

IN VIEW OF his pointed criticism of the Sheriff's Department, McCarthy was asked what changes he would make if he is successful in the November election.

"Well, he said, "the first thing would be to make a complete reversal of some of the thinking that now exists -- and we would enforce the law as it now is written."

Among the changes he pointed out would include:

- (1) "Beefing up" of the road patrol.
- (2) Establishment of a crime laboratory.
- (3) Enforcing of law as it portends to youthful violators.

"At the moment," he explained, "the County Road Patrol produces about \$375,000 of money in revenue. You know that this amount is reached despite the absence of strict enforcement. If the laws were enforced, this amount would be a great jump, and the extra funds would more than pay the salaries of any extra men that we may have to be added to the force."

Regarding the enforcement of the laws pertaining to the young violators, McCarthy emphasized that under the present laws the parents are liable for \$1,500 for their children. According to him, this law seldom is enforced, and it's the one that he emphasized again.

"Under your present system," he said, "a youngster can do \$500 worth of damage in Times Parkway, for example, and be fined only \$5. The taxpayer will have to pay the rest -- and this isn't right."

HE WOULD establish a crime laboratory as a means of cutting down needless expense. Under our present system, he pointed out, there is a constant stream of police officers going to the state lab in Lansing, and then the state officials return back here with their findings.

"I'll wager that 50 man days a week are lost in this fashion, and a crime laboratory in the county would not only pay for itself but give us better service."

The same thing holds true with Maybury Sanitarium, according to McCarthy. He sees no reason why this facility couldn't be used as a training school for police officers and in this manner always have manpower available.

McCarthy also is sold on the idea that an out-cast jail would be a real benefit.

"Just imagine," he said, "the millions of people in Wayne

County and only one jail. No wonder we are in trouble."

IN ANOTHER plan to aid the taxpayer, McCarthy also would change the probation system -- and put the probationers to work.

"Just imagine," he said, "the rubble from the civil disorder in Detroit last summer has not been cleaned up. They say there is no help available -- and yet the probationers are allowed to roam around doing nothing."

"We could use them to clean our cities and parks and help to beautify the entire county."

One last thing McCarthy pointed out that would be instituted if he became the sheriff.

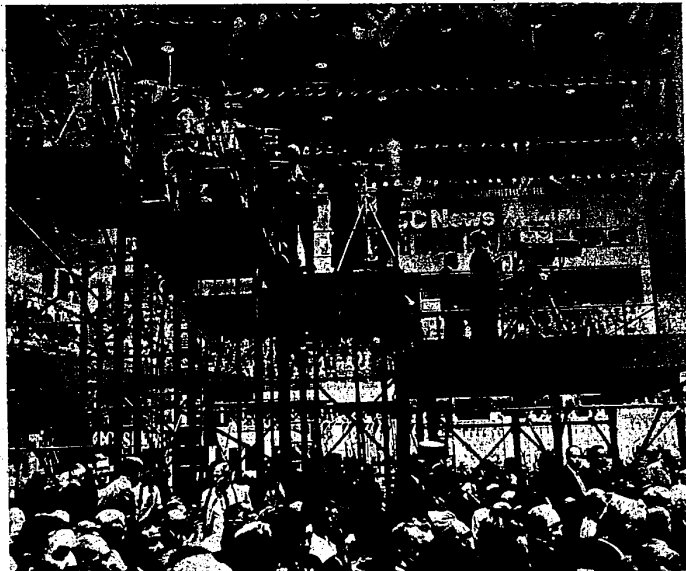
"I would deputize every police officer in the cities and townships in the county and they'd be ready to swing into action without delay when any trouble arises."

These are the dreams and plans of a man who was headed in another direction and had his arm twisted and now is an under-dog candidate for the office of sheriff of Wayne County.



JAMES MCCARTHY is the GOP candidate for sheriff of Wayne County.

public affairs



TELEVISION gets preferential treatment, and delegates are packed in below.

Was TV Really That Good?

By TIM RICHARD

The early indications were that television did a great job covering the two national conventions, and that the conventions themselves were bad shows. These opinions were the policy of the networks themselves, which (1) gave prime-time advertising space promoting themselves and (2) commented unfavorably on the behavior of the delegates.

But the late returns are coming in, as the politicians say, and now the question is being asked whether television did such a good job after all. More and more of those answers are coming in negative.

The case against the networks was summed up neatly by a local Democratic delegate who replied to the charge that the conventions were poorly run: "Look, we're there on business. A convention is business. Television is a medium of entertainment."

He went on: "Sure, if you judge the convention as a show, maybe we looked bad. But we worked, all the time. We did our jobs."

THE ATTACK ON television's coverage comes from many quarters besides Chicago's Mayor Daley--from returning delegates, from academicians, from TV critics, from other reporters who were literally shoved into the background by the networks' large and often rude "news teams."

But their reasons may be dulled down to these:

- A convention, as a parliamentary proceeding, has a lot of legal routine to go through. Television details this as "dead time." To fill in this dead time, the anchor tended to repeat and repeat, over and over, earlier events; the floor crews interrupted anybody about anything; and when the cameras went back to the superbly dressed anchor men again, they had nothing to report but indigestion in sarcasm about the

convention process. Republicans were particularly sore at NBC's David Brinkley on this count.

ABC, which is to television what Rambler is to the auto industry, got around this by condensing its coverage into 90-minute chunks.

• Television doesn't give a true picture of what's going on--because it can't. The camera can only record events that have visual form in a short period of time. There is a bias in favor of showing physical action, such as police clubbing paraders. A news team's guide, sometimes financially, is how much film it can get onto the network show, and to do this it must get action.

• Television becomes not just a spectator but an influence in events. People do things they wouldn't ordinarily do in order to get on camera. The traditional reply of the newsmen--"We don't make the news, we just report it!"--is partly a lie.

• Because television can communicate only physical events and voices of emotion in a short space and time, it can't always do a good job with abstract ideas. The voice and smile of the camera, and the ideas, the process, the trend get lost.

This is the basis for the long-range criticism that television does either nothing or a poor job covering the economy or the courts; it's also the basis for Daley's criticism that television wasn't around when his policemen were being called obscene names, but did show up when the clubs were raised.

• Television contributed to the confusion at the conventions, especially the Democratic one, by the sheer amount of space its equipment took up, by its need

to make formal staging for simple news conferences, and by many of the TV reporters' narcissistic need to ask ridiculously detailed questions that were never going to be used on screen anyway.

• Broadcasters are more than just newsmen--they're also TV stars!--and the result is that their well-known faces make them "prime targets for subtly contrived political rumors," said Newsweek. Floor reporters claim they check all rumors, but "the normally astute TV reporters apparently swallowed a record number of luras" at the Democratic convention.

Among the false rumors lapped up by television were President Johnson's impending visit to the convention and the "Teddy Kennedy boomlet. Newsweek said CBS's Eric Sevareid "later conceded the Kennedy threat was 'partly the creation of TV.'" Translation: It was probably largely the creation of TV.

THE POLITICIANS don't always mind. They love and need the exposure the CBS news team brought. A veteran newspaperman told how he sometimes got close-mouthed sources to open up: "I'd get something that looked like a microphone, shove it in front of the guy's face, and he'd think he was on the air and spill everything."

Television coverage's low point was reached during one police problem or another at the Democratic National Convention. Mayor Daley refused to let news crews near the scene. A top NBC reporter complained bitterly that he "wasn't allowed to talk to the people" what was going on.

(The complaint was utter nonsense. All anyone had to do was get a sheet of papers, a ballpoint, go there and take notes.)

That's what newspaper reporters do.

Candidates Jump Slowly In County Charter Race

Candidates were still filing late Tuesday afternoon for posts in the only primary that will be conducted during the Nov. 5 general election.

The primary will be for 35 seats on the Wayne County Charter Commission.

Voters on Nov. 5 will decide whether they want Wayne County to have a home-rule charter to give them more flexibility in organizing county government. At the same time, they will nominate candidates in a partisan primary.

If the home-rule proposal is defeated, no final election will be held. If it passes, then voters sometime in February will elect the 35 charter commissioners from the winners of the Nov. 5 primary.

HERE IS A rundown of the filings so far in the 15th District charter contest:

25th District (Redford Township) -- none in either party yet.

26th District (Livonia, Northville) -- Councilman Edward Milligan of Livonia, Republican; Ron Mardiros, Livonia businessman and former city charter commissioner, Democrat.

27th District (Plymouth, Canton Township and five south-western Wayne communities) -- Cera Cartie, 4600 John Alden, Plymouth Democrat, expected to file as a Republican; was Carleton K. Rush, of Romulus, president of E & B Manufacturing Co. and a member of the 18th District Republican committee.

28th District (Westland, Wyand) -- Nixon J. Hawley, 5720 Knox Dr., Wayne, a member of the 15th District GOP Committee, was expected to file as a Republican; no Democrat yet.

29th District (Garden City, Inkster) -- Arthur A. Sumack, 111 Brentwood Dr., Inkster, Democrat, expected to file



EDWARD MILLIGAN Seeking Comeback



RON MARDIROS In County Posts

as a Republican was Alton Hanes Jr., 3233 Alvin, Garden City, a member of the 15th District GOP Committee.

An attorney general's opinion, received by the Wayne County Election Commission Monday, said that state law allows city officials to serve on the county charter commission without getting their city posts.

This is a different result from the ruling by Gov. Frank Kelley made in regard to county boards of supervisors.

Milligan's candidacy as a Republican in the 26th District raised some questions because of his position on the Livonia City Council.

At the county general election, received by the Wayne County Election Commission Monday, said that state law allows city officials to serve on the county charter commission without getting their city posts.

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boards of supervisors. In that decision, Kelley ruled that elected city and township officials would have to resign if elected to county office under the "one man may serve two masters" theory.

Milligan was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for supervisor in the 6th primary. Mardiros was unsuccessful in his Aug. 6 bid for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 19th District.

A past McCarthy-for-president supporter, Mardiros said he and other local McCarthyites are ready to support the national convention's nominee, Hubert Humphrey.

"We're not dropouts," said Mardiros. "We're going to support Humphrey. I wish President Johnson would support him as much as we do."

THE PRESENCE of three members of the 15th District Republican Committee in charter commission primaries was called a credit to the organization efforts of Chairman Dwight Vincent.

A party source said Vincent has been making strides to fill the GOP ticket with attractive candidates and build the organization in that normally Democratic district.

If voters approve county home rule, the Charter Commission final election will be held sometime in February, according to county officials.

The Charter Commission will have two chances to submit their proposed county charter: for county voters to vote on, and if rejected, to turn them down twice, the Charter Commission is dissolved.

The County Board of Supervisors may, if it wishes, call a new charter commission election and place a new home-rule proposition on the ballot. In that event, members of the first commission would be ineligible to serve on the second.

THE NEW (1964) state constitution provides for optional home-rule government for counties, which historically have had their powers and structures rigidly defined by state law.

The 1966 Legislature wrote a county home-rule act under which the present election is being held. The Legislature was widely criticized, however, for failing to provide enough local officials flexibility in writing the charter.

The Nov. 5 home-rule proposition was ordered on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors. Oakland County has no such election scheduled.

Different Jobs, Different Districts

Wayne County voters may become confused by the two new groups they will be selecting in the Nov. 5 election.

One body is the new County Board of Supervisors; this group, elected on a partisan ballot, will be elected from 28 districts and take office the first of next year.

The other is a County Charter Commission. The Nov. 5 vote will be a primary only. Those nominated will run in a February final election only if voters also approve a proposition for home rule. Conspicuously, charter commissioners will be elected from 35 districts.