

# Kuhn Vs. Pursell—Key Choice In Senate Race

**By DENNIS PAJOT**

Analyzing the 14th District State Senate Republican primary contest.

Three challengers are seeking to unseat an incumbent of their own party in this district, which is comprised of Livonia, Plymouth and Northville, Wayne County and Farmington and West Bloomfield in Oakland County.

It is the fastest growing district population-wise in the state, has been represented by both Democrats and Republicans in the past, and presents the three-fold problem of containing large measures of blue-collar industrial workers, white-collar executives and no-collar farmers and retirees.

"We've got to have order before we can make changes."

Another Kuhn boon, a spate of banking legislation, has enthused party leaders and probably those who have frequent contact with banks, but isn't the type of thing to excite the great cross section of voters.

Kuhn is banking on his record, on his quick rise to stature among his colleagues and his entrenchment as an incumbent, which is important to working party men in that every seat will count in spades at gerrymandering time next year.

**KUHN'S RECORD.** His claim to district allegiance and his relevance to the district's voters is being challenged strongly by his opponents, particularly the man he defeated in 1966 for the job, Carl Pursell of Plymouth.

Wayne County commissioner, isn't letting Kuhn's transfer into the district during that campaign go unremembered.

After three times being elected mayor of Berkley, in the 12th Senate District, Kuhn moved to West Bloomfield in 1966 and immediately struck out to become the 14th District Senator. It was legal. He won. He's been there four years now.

**PURSELL'S STRENGTHS** are in his "local boy making good" image, his professional background as an educator in an education-conscious district, as a businessman (actor) who forged some of the foremost business and civic leader (Chamber of Commerce and Jaycees) and as an effective county official in a county not known for effective officialdom.

His weakness lies in being less well known in Oakland County.

Ironically, Pursell has going for him the similarity of his name to that well-known conservative "anti-riot" policeman Carl Pursell of Detroit.

Also going for Pursell is the fact that no less than four challengers are gunning at Kuhn, three from Kuhn's own party. Pursell being the strongest candidate on the face of it against Kuhn, the others can't help but help Kuhn's stature in the eyes of the voter and only a major slip by Pursell could make a difference.

Such a slip, or some other combination of circumstances not visible to an intense observer, could send one of the other Republican challengers up the middle of the Kuhn-Pursell breach.

**NONE OF** the others have such relevant public service records, are well-known nor possess such depth of political acumen. One is campaigning as a frank conservative of the "anti-communism" stamp.

The other often sounds more like a Democratic ultra-liberal of the "anti-war" camp.

Al Smith has a recognizable name, but frankly admits it's merely coincidence. He told a West Bloomfield audience campus unrest is caused by a communist conspiracy, that rates and of track betting income should replace property taxes, and that he would work for capital punishment in the state.

Donald Von Rase has been strutting in an almost invisible campaign. His five announced platform stances are: abortion is a human right of every woman, withdrawal of U.S. forces from Indo-China by Christmas, support of U.S. Sen. Philip A. Hart (Democrat), support of "the spirit of" Robert Kennedy (Democrat) and Martin Luther King, and support of John Lindsay (liberal) for U.S. President.

**PRIMARIES BEING** essentially party affairs, with some doses of strongly-opinionated independent voters thrown in, neither Von Rase nor Smith really have a chance regardless of their stances. They just don't have the parties oomph.

Unless that Kuhn-Pursell breach instead of zags... The fifth candidate is automatically elected. Paul Kadish is the only Democratic candidate. He's running hard in the primary contest because he has to build up an identity with the voters before the big race after Aug. 4.

Kadish is a liberal Democratic, endorsed by the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia and trumpeting the "end the war now," abortion reform, graduated income tax and anti-parochial stances of the liberal cause.

He will affect the Republican primary race, because his challenge for Kuhn's post directly amplifies Pursell's charges that Kuhn is not representing his people, not facing up to the "real" issues and not flexible enough to throw off the yoke of party obligations.

**SOME BELIEVE** many Democrats will "plunk" their primary votes on Pursell because he would be easier to beat in the general election, due to not being the incumbent. Others advocate Democratic plunking on Kuhn to force a head-on confrontation of opposing viewpoints in the general election.

It is doubtful that much of either will occur, because most of the 14th District State Senate Democrats have an equally important contest in their own primary for the 19th District U.S. Congress nomination.

Primary elections, it mustn't be forgotten, allow a voter to cast ballots in only one party's column.

Prediction: Kuhn will fall. The onslaught of aroused women voters, the general voters' displeasure, the chipping of his opponents and Pursell's middle ground stance plus hard driving will wipe out the narrow margin Kuhn grabbed in 1966.

**THE INCUMBENT**, Sen. George Kuhn of West Bloomfield, is completing his first four-year term in which he rose to considerable stature among his Senate constituents and played key roles in some of the most controversial legislation of modern times.

His anti-abortion final stance is believed to have antagonized a great number of one large body of voters — the women, except possibly those of Roman Catholic faith or rural puritan dogma.

His anti-parochial final stance is likely to have antagonized most Roman Catholics. But it is likely to have gladdened those of rural puritan dogma.

His pro-repeat of property tax credits on the state income tax will surely offend those who agreed to the income tax ballot on the basis of property tax credits promised.

**PURSELL CITES** the recent lake access issue in particular, in which Kuhn voted for the bill making state access purchases possible, then scrambled to assassinate it when he learned that it offended an important group of his constituents.

Pursell also pooch-poohs the importance of Kuhn's stature with his fellow party members in the Senate, and Pursell makes quite clear the effectiveness Pursell has had as a minority Republican on the 96th Democratic county board of commissioners.

Pursell is also playing up the "conservative" aspects of his own record, such as tugging against the so-called "Zak Pack" high salary bid, to get the ear of some Kuhn followers.

Next to Kuhn, Pursell is a moderate. He touts strongly the value of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) as long as it remains voluntary and without taxing authority, for instance. Kuhn ignores it except to say "They have failed to explain to their constituents that no-knock, no-arresting, mandatory sentencing, lowering the age from 16 to 15 for juveniles to tried as adults, and preventive detention for those who might commit a crime, will not reduce crime in the streets."

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**OTHER BILLS** signed by the Governor will:

- appropriate \$318,000 from the state general fund for preliminary studies and planning of 12 projects, such as a second life sciences building at MSU and the medical center project at the University of Michigan (S-116, I.E.)
- clarify terms of office for some former municipal court judges who became district judges under the District Court Act (H-364, I.E.)

**THEY WILL** also provide for:

- authority to market imported commercial fish in Michigan, when such fish is labeled as having been caught and processed in another state or can otherwise be so determined by the state (H-229, I.E.)
- a method to distribute nominal legacies (3 or less of \$100) to persons of unknown or declining legacies

to the residuary estate. The bill eliminates the necessity for a special order to dispose of the bequest (H-361, I.E.)

- the admission of a will to probate without the requirement of testimony of the subscribing witnesses. The bill is intended to simplify the handling of small intra-family wills and speed up the probate process (H-369, I.E.)
- **THE APPOINTMENT** of a guardian without notice or bond to execute a mortgage for a married minor (H-368, I.E.)
- the employment by a county of inmates of Michigan correctional institutions on re-construction projects within any county. The bill places the authority for assigning employment under the Dept. of Corrections (H-245, I.E.)
- exemption from the provisions of the usury statute loans made by any state or national financial bank or insurance carrier to any person who furnishes a sworn statement that the loan is for a business purpose (S-149, I.E.)
- the leasing of land at the south end of Petoskey State Park to the Ottawa-Chippewa Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc., to develop an Indian cultural center (S-133, I.E.)
- amendment of the veterans' trust fund payments to reduce annual payments from \$1 million to \$4 million and to extend the repayment deadline from 1971 to 1976. The bill also allows the board of trustees to grant or loan funds to the state for the construction of a new veterans' nursing facility (S-116, I.E.)
- establishment by intermediate school districts of educational media centers primarily to provide audio-visual education to local school districts (H-394, effective July 1, 1970)
- reimbursement to the Grand Rapids school district of \$184,061 in school aid, the amount deducted from 1969-70 funds because of failure to provide a full 180 days of instruction during the 1968-69 school year (H-473, I.E.)

**REPEAL OF** section 187a of the General Corporation Act, a section which allows a corporation in another state to be incorporated in Michigan (H-418, I.E.)

- continuation of state scholarships for a full eight semesters to students who enter professional degree programs such as law, dentistry or medicine, and who begin such graduate study before completing four years of undergraduate work (H-492, I.E.)
- establishment of a 12 percent per month interest rate on delinquent franchise privilege fees by amending the corporation act (H-414, I.E.)
- allow the state 90 days rather than the present 20 days in which to notify corporations which are delinquent in filing annual reports (H-409, I.E.)
- allowing the deputy clerk of a first class district court to also perform the duties and exercise the powers of a magistrate (H-314, no I.E.)

**DEPOSITING STOCKS** or securities in safety deposit boxes as directed by a circuit court. Deposits previously were required to be in regular bank accounts and the new law facilitates handling of documents entrusted to the courts (H-255, I.E.)

- continuation payments to persons whose homes or businesses are displaced by highway projects, which brings Michigan under compliance with federal requirements (S-1342).

**AN INCREASE** in the tangible or intangible property requirements for persons receiving old age assistance. For a single person, the requirement is raised from \$750 to \$1,300 and for married persons from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The bill also changes from five years to one year the period in which a person may transfer or assign property prior to becoming eligible for assistance.

- withdrawal of a municipality from a district library system. The State Board of Education is authorized to require the municipality to furnish a plan for continuing public library service (S-290 I.E.)
- amendment to the election code to determine the form of paper ballots if there are three or more parties represented in a primary election (H-426 I.E.)

## Here's Digest Of Laws Passed By Legislature, Governor This Year

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Speaking before the Farmington Democratic Club in Farmington, Hecker charged that "Those who voted for this bill have failed in two ways."

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**O'Neill Rips Opponents From Both Parties**

H. Patrick O'Neill, candidate for Democratic nomination for V.P. representative from the 19th District, told a meeting at the Farmington Democratic Club, that two of his three opponents for the Democratic nomination were invisible and one was simply incredible.

Breaking a rule of politeness that you don't name the opposition, O'Neill said, "An opponent by the name of Adell failed to materialize through two months of intensive campaigning. I have never attended a meeting of any type where he was present."

O'Neill claimed that Harris was nominated by special interest groups and the fact that he was not even in the state through much of the campaign didn't make any difference to

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**Tuition Deadline Announced**

Schoolcraft College students who have registered in advance for the fall semester are reminded that payment of tuition and fees should be completed during the two week period of July 27 through Aug. 7.

This applies to students who registered in advance either last March or during the summer months. By completing payments during this specified period, they will insure both their enrollment and class assignments. Students not completing payment of tuition and fees by Aug. 7 will be required to re-register following regular registration procedures.

The cashier's window in the Administration Building is open, daily, 8:30 until 4, or payment may be made by mail providing it is received by Aug. 7.

Students completing both registration and payment, need not appear on campus until their first class meeting. Classes begin Aug. 27.

**Pie-Eating Contest At Wonderland**

An old-fashioned pie-eating contest will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at Wonderland Center, Plymouth at Middle Belt, Livonia.

Children between the ages of nine and 12 are eligible and the first 150 children to register will participate.

The criteria for judging will be the most pie consumed in a three-minute time limit — using no hands, of course. The judges for this contest will be members of the Senior Citizens of Livonia.

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