

Kelley's office pushes utility fraud probe

By Kathy Parriah
staff writer

Oakland County's prosecutor chose not to file utility fraud charges against several area business owners.

So the Michigan attorney general wonders why Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson objects to the state's pursuing the controversial case in an effort to charge the businesses.

But Patterson's right-hand man, accusing state Attorney General Frank

Kelley of trying to embarrass his 1982 political opponent, called the state's intervention "shocking."

"It's a blatant invitation to perjury and making a mockery of the criminal process," said Richard Thompson, Oakland County's chief assistant prosecutor.

"I don't know why the prosecutor is still concerned about it," replied Stanley Steinborn, chief assistant attorney general. "His office decided not to prosecute and now is going into court

to make a no-prosecution case. I don't think that's what the public expects of its law enforcement."

PATTERSON'S OFFICE last week objected to the attorney general's intervening in the case of William Jones, 35, of Taylor. Jones is an informant in a utility fraud investigation which included 32 Oakland County businesses, nine of those auto dealerships.

The attorney general's office intervened in the case at the request of Michigan State Police after Patterson's office refused to press charges. Now on probation, Jones is seeking to amend his previous plea of obtaining money under false pretenses. The charge is a 10-year felony.

At 1 p.m. Dec. 6, Oakland Circuit Court Judge George LaPlata will hear Jones' request to plead to conspiracy to commit energy fraud, a four-year offense.

If granted, that request would open the way for the business owners to be charged also.

"Our goal is to put together the best case we can against people we believe violated the law," said Steinborn. "Our investigation shows there are people who need to be charged."

THOMPSON SAID the Oakland prosecutor's office declined to pursue charges against the business owners because Jones is an "unreliable witness" who flunked three lie detector tests.

But shortly before the Nov. 7 election, a television report linked the dropping of the cases with contributions by auto dealers to two of Patterson's election campaigns. Patterson is suing WXYZ-TV for slander.

Thompson said the new motion is a "colossal admission that the prosecutor's office was right in refusing a warrant. Jones is not a reliable witness."

"Now apparently the attorney general is attempting to clean him (Jones) up to be a reliable witness by rewriting

"I don't know why the prosecutor is still concerned about it," replied Stanley Steinborn, chief assistant attorney general. "His office decided not to prosecute."

history on the case. I think it's highly improper."

Although not notified about the attorney general's court action, Thompson believes the state should have withdrawn the original pleas and started over in the case.

BUT STEINBORN said the attorney general's office was asked to look into the case by the Michigan State Police, who were working with Detroit Edison Co. on charges that businesses allowed their electric meters to be "fixed" to save on energy costs.

Two area auto dealers are being charged in Wayne County Circuit Court as a result of the investigation.

"We didn't ask to handle this," said Steinborn, denying that the new court case has political overtones.

"There are 83 prosecutors in this state, and 82 of them do not feel politics enters into our relations with them," he added.

"If Mr. Patterson sees politics in everything that happens, maybe it's in the eye of the beholder. It's not in our eye."

Patterson's right-hand man, Richard Thompson, accused state Attorney General Frank Kelley of trying to embarrass his 1982 political opponent and called the state's intervention 'shocking.'

Cure your insomnia with better sleep habits

THE FAINT light from the clock's LED display casts an eerie glow in the darkened room. The silence throughout the house is broken only by those unexplained creaks and groans found in every home.

The clock says 3:10 a.m. Only ten minutes have passed since the last time you checked, but it seems like it was an hour ago.

For the upleenth time, you rearrange the pillows, blanket, and your posture yet nothing feels right. You become increasingly discouraged as you wonder, "How am I going to make it through the day without any sleep?"

SOUND FAMILIAR? Most all of us have had an occasional bout of insomnia.

It may have been the result of a stressful day, a new bedroom, physical illness, too much caffeine and excite-



psychology
Dennis Sugrue

ment, a recent shift change at work, or worries about the next day.

In most cases, difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep lasts only a night or two, or a couple of weeks at the most.

When sleep difficulties persist longer than this, a physician should be consulted to make sure there are no medical problems which are interfering with normal sleep. But referral for a psychological evaluation may be made if the physician suspects the sleep problem is the result of emotional difficul-

ties such as depression.

OFTEN, CLOSE evaluation reveals that poor sleeping habits are a major reason for the persistent or chronic insomnia. Although the use of prescribed sleeping medication on a short-term or intermittent basis can be helpful, changes in sleeping behavior are very important.

The following suggestions can help improve the quality of sleep for all of us:

- Be sure to get enough sleep. Some people can function well on three hours of sleep a day; others require 10 hours a day. Determine how many hours of sleep allow you to go through the day without feeling overly tired.
- Establish a regular sleep pattern. Our bodies have an internal time-clock which becomes disrupted when our

times of sleep and wakefulness vary dramatically from day to day. Rising at a fairly consistent time each day is especially important for keeping our internal sleep-wake cycle functioning properly.

• Reserve your bed and bedroom for sleep, not for reading, television viewing, or doing paper work. This practice helps to condition you psychologically to associate the bedroom environment with sleep, not stimulation (at least not most forms of stimulation). Likewise, avoid falling into the habit of sleeping on the family couch.

• Don't retire immediately after strenuous exercise. A regular exercise program has many health benefits including improving the quality of sleep. However, for optimal sleep, the body needs at least two to three hours to cool down and return to normal functioning before retiring.

• Avoid caffeine, nicotine and alcohol in the evening. Although most people are aware of the stimulating qualities of coffee and nicotine, they are often surprised to hear that alcohol can disturb sleep. Alcohol can indeed relax you and help you to fall asleep, but research shows that even moderate amounts of alcohol have an adverse effect on the quality of sleep.

IF YOU ARE having problems with insomnia, avoid midday naps.

- Don't go to bed hungry. A late night pizza or greasy-spoon hamburgers are not the answer, but something light and bland such as warm milk can be helpful.
- Keep your bedroom temperature no higher than 72 degrees. Researchers suggest that the quality of sleep decreases when the room temperature is too warm.

Sleep well!

Dennis Sugrue, Ph.D., is a Farmington Hills resident and a clinical psychologist at Henry Ford Hospital. He welcomes questions and topics for future articles, but is unable to answer questions on an individual basis. Questions and topics may be sent to this newspaper.

Often, close evaluation reveals that poor sleeping habits are a major reason for the persistent or chronic insomnia.

Fest helps the impaired

A holiday festival for mentally impaired persons ages 8 and up is set for 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday in Southfield Civic Center.

The party features clowns, games, dancing and dinner. Santa Claus will also be on hand.

Sponsored by the Northwest Therapeutic Recreation Association, the party is \$2 in advance or \$3 at the door. To register, call Portia Fields-Anderson, Oakland County Parks therapeutic recreation coordinator, at 858-1441.

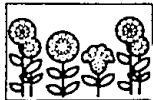
Population expert talks in Dearborn

Cultural Activities Program of Henry Ford Community College will present two lectures Monday, Dec. 3, by Stephen Viederman, world population expert from the United Nations.

Viederman is the deputy chief of Information and External Relations and chief of the External Relations Branch of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in New York.

He will speak on "Cultural Values and Population Change" at 10:10 a.m. and then "Why is Population Growth a Problem?" at 12:10 p.m. In Room L-14 of the Liberal Arts Building. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Viederman was deputy chief of the Interregional and Multi-Bilateral Branch and chief of the Interregional Projects Section of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Previously, he headed the U.N.'s Social and Demographic Research Technical Unit.

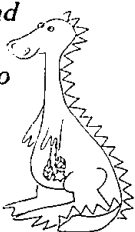


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