

Mardiros Quits In 19th, Sticks By Mayor

By TIM RICHARD

Most Democratic insiders knew that Ron Mardiros was planning to step out as 19th District-Wayne chairman, but they figured he would finish out his term, which ends in February.

Instead, Mardiros stunned even some of his closest associates with his decision Monday to get out almost immediately — Thursday, to be precise.

Mardiros denied he was being pressured out because of his

recent decision to support Republican Congressman Jack McDonald instead of Democratic challenger Fred L. Harris.

"Nobody asked me to resign," Mardiros said.

MARDIRO'S GAVE two reasons for quitting:

"I am most interested in responsibilities and duties as the assessor of the City of Livonia. There is much to do in the department of assessment, and I intend to devote my time in this capacity."

"Also, I will be working actively in the campaign for our mayor, Edward H. McNamara, for his bid for lieutenant governor."

In private conversation, Mardiros hinted he has other political ambitions for 1971, but he declined to discuss them for publication.

Mardiros' resignation puts first vice chairman Maxine Brodsky in charge of the organization, which covers Livonia, Redford Township and the City of Northville — about two-fifths of the population of the 19th Congressional District.

At least, Mardiros says she's in charge. "To make any change in that, they have to call a special convention of the precinct delegates. That's in the bylaws. I know. I'm the father of the bylaws."

THE DECISION caught Mrs. Brodsky totally by surprise. "Well, that's nice to hear at five minutes after 11 at night," she said.



RON MARDIRO'S
'New Directions'

"I expected him to leave in February." She praised Mardiros' work: "There are so many different factions, but everyone agrees he puts a lot into it. He's been very tired. It's an exhausting sort of job."

Mardiros' reign — two re-igns, actually — have been marked by continual fights with labor leaders in the district. After six years as chairman of the Livonia Democratic Club, Mardiros became first 18th-Wayne chairman in 1965.

Two years later, the labor group ousted Mardiros at a local convention, making Livonia Councilman Jerry Raymond chairman. In 1968 the Mardiros forces elected a majority of the precinct delegates in a hotly-fought contest, and early in 1969 Mardiros was chairman again.

THIS YEAR his coalition

began to dissolve. Part of that group was the liberal New Democratic Coalition. The NDC backed Ron Hecker, formerly a strong Mardiros ally, for the Democratic nomination for Congress this year, but Mardiros put his chips on a neophyte with the charming political name of H. Patrick O'Neill.

O'Neill ran second, Hecker third. So angry was Mardiros at the labor group's domination of 19th

District procedures at the Aug. 22-23 Democratic state convention that he told anyone who would listen that he wouldn't support nominee Harris.

Mardiros has run for a number of political offices but was elected only to the Livonia charter commission. His latest year, in April of 1970, saw him nearly unseated 24-year veteran City Treasurer Carl Wagenschmidt. Mayor McNamara appointed Mardiros city assessor

and Pat O'Neill civil defense director.

"Today," said Mardiros' letter of resignation, "the 19th District-Wayne Democratic Party is in the hands of the best collection of precinct delegates ever elected."

"I now choose to change the direction of my energies and activities in the future."

Home Purchases Cement This Family's 'Togetherness'

A father and three daughters have found that "togetherness" means homes purchased in close proximity to one another in Plymouth.

Four years ago, one of Floyd Merrill's daughters purchased a home in the Salem Square subdivision in Plymouth. A few days later, he and his wife did the same.

Since that time, two more daughters in the family have purchased homes in Plymouth — one in the subdivision of Timberlea Farms, and the other in Plymouth Village subdivision.

THE MERRILLS MOVED to Plymouth from Detroit because "they preferred small town living and they found that atmosphere existed in the Salem Square subdivision."

"Since our children are all grown and have left home, I want a home where I can have a nice garden," says Mrs. Merrill. "You should see my garden — it's like a small park."

"Most enjoyable of all, of course, is having our daughters close to us here in Plymouth. We have another daughter in Florida and two boys still in Detroit."

The Merrill's daughter Janet Knight and her husband moved to Salem Square at the same

time as her parents. They have four children.

Out of frequent visits to her parents, Elizabeth Willner, her husband and two children decided to purchase a home in Plymouth and recently moved to the subdivision of Timberlea Farms.

Finally, when the Merrill's daughter Barbara, her husband and four children were transferred back to Detroit from Cleveland, they decided to join

Family Service

Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit, a Torch Drive agency, reported its caseload for 1969 was 47 per cent Negro in a service area which is 22 per cent black.

the rest of the family and moved into a new home in Plymouth Village subdivision.

"We are pleased with our homes, the area, and the people," is an opinion voiced by all the Merrill family.

"And we're pleased that the Merrill family chose our homes," is the opinion expressed by Kaufman & Broad Homes, Inc., since all of the subdivisions that the Merrills purchased homes in were developed by Kaufman & Broad's Detroit division.

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