

National drug act needed

Lucas, Dole tell Oakland County not to rush

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Don't be in a rush to pass an Oakland County anti-drug paraphernalia ordinance, William Lucas and Robert Dole advised.

The problem is on a national scale," said Lucas, the Republican candidate for governor and a former Wayne County sheriff, policeman and FBI official.

"I'm reluctant to see controls on a local and state scale when it's so easy for drug dealers and users to cross borders," Lucas said in a Bloomfield Township appearance Monday night.

"I HADN'T thought about it, but there's a great deal to be said for uniformity," agreed Dole, a county prosecutor in Kansas before he went to Washington and rose to Senate majority leader.

They appeared at a Republican fund-raiser in the home of Gerri Swornstedt, staging a news conference in front of the family fireplace.

It occurred only hours after the general government committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners decided 5-2 to report out favorably a Democratic-proposed drug ordinance.

If approved by the full board and signed by Gov. James J. Blanchard, it would ban and punish the general sale of hypodermic syringes and "hash" pipes.

THE BIG argument was whether the county should act or wait for the Michigan Legislature to pass a simi-



Sen. Robert Dole
"uniformity"

lar measure covering the entire state.

Lucas and Dole were saying that even the state was too small a unit to try to stop the sale of drug paraphernalia. Moreover, one of the legal arguments used against such local ordi-

nances has been that drug paraphernalia are sold in interstate commerce — a topic only the U.S. Congress has constitutional power to regulate.

Commissioner James Doyon, D-Madison Heights, a co-sponsor of the measure, was all for Oakland showing "leadership" and prodding the state to act.

Commissioner Betty Fortino, D-Waterford, another co-sponsor, added, "You have no way of knowing whether the state will do it." A state law would supersede local ordinances.

Commissioner Larry Pernick, D-Southfield, chairman of the Demo-

cratic caucus, said an ordinance "sends out a message. . . . Drug abuse is not acceptable."

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN John Olsen, R-Huntington Woods, voted no, arguing that an ordinance couldn't become effective until 60 days after it's signed by the governor. "A state law can be enacted faster," he said.

Supporting the ordinance were Democrats Pernick, Dennis Aaron of Oak Park, Ruel McPherson of Hazel Park, and Republicans Page of Birmingham and Joseph Calandro of Novi.

Staples to leave as concertmaster

Gordon Staples will step down as concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra after 18 years and take a position in the first violin section.

Gunter Herbig, music director of the DSO, announced he has granted Staples' request, and the search for a replacement will begin immediately. Staples, 58, of Birmingham, will be named to the new title concertmaster emeritus and will remain in the first chair until a new concertmaster is selected.

THE CONCERTMASTER is the principal or first chair of the first violin section. The post is responsible for carrying out the conductor's wishes in all technical measures, as well as for leading violins.

Considered second in importance only to the conductor, a concertmaster is leader of the players who make up an orchestra.

Calling the concertmaster post "a very demanding one," Staples said, "At this point in my life, I would like to have the pleasure of making music without the full measure of responsibility that rests on the concertmaster's shoulders.

"And to be completely open, this way I'll be able to spend more time with my family.

"THERE IS no way I can place a value on the experiences and opportunities I've had on the front desk through these years," he said.

"My personal and professional relationships with maestros Ehrlich, Cecato, Dorati, Bertini and now Maestro Herbig are rare and special — and I look forward to continuing such rewarding music making with the Detroit Symphony."

Staples is well-known as a personality of wit, charm and dedication to the community at large. A member of the Detroit Symphony since 1955, he became assistant concertmaster

In 1956, and was named concertmaster in 1968 by then-music director Sixten Ehrlich.

STAPLES has appeared frequently as soloist with the Detroit Symphony and community orchestras.

"I respect Mr. Staples' decision, and we all are thankful for his devoted service to this orchestra over more than 30 years, for much of that time in the leading chair," said Herbig.

"I'm very happy that he has promised to stay as long as our search for a successor will last, and that he will actively assist me in finding the right person."

Born in Los Angeles in 1929, Staples began violin studies at age 6.

Among his teachers were Gregori Garbovitzky, Jani Szanto at the Philadelphia Music Academy, and D.C. Dounis in New York.

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