## County Dems suggest fund for urban blight

Oakland County should establish a fund to enable communities to bor-row money for redevelopment and stave off urban blight, according to the chairman of the Democratic caucus of the Board of Commission-

ers.

The county should also consolidate the Road Commission, the Drain Commission and Department of Public Works to eliminate duplication and address Oakland's worsening traffic congestion, corumissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D. Southfield, was to say in an address today before the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Pentick's Commissioners.

The Observer & Eccentric News-papers asked for advanced copies of both addresses to serve as the basis of news stories. Democrats compiled with the request, Murphy declined.

PERNICK, WHO has been a com-missioner since 1969, is the senior Democrat on the board.

He said presenting the Democratic perspective on the role of county government is one of the ways his party, outnumbered 20 to 7, can play a constructive role in government.

"We've been doing this (giving a Democratic point of view) on and off for years," said Pernick. "We don't expect the course of government to drastically change because of our message.

Commissioners.

Permick's recommendations were expected to be part of the Democrature of State of the County message of the County message of the County message of the County message of the County government.

The Democratic message comes of the County for the County address.

'We've been doing this (giving a Democratic point of view) on and off for years. We don't expect the course of government to drastically change because of our message.'

- Commissioner Lawrence Pernick D-Southfield



ably won't even respond after I've had time to review it," he said. Pernick's 12-page state of the county address covered a wide range of topics, including:

• Trash, or solid waste. The county must continue long-range

he sald.

This could be the most controver-shall part of the Democrats' message because it again raises the possibili-ty of Oakland owning at least one landfill as part of its \$470 million solid waste program.

Original pians — devised over nearly two decades — called for up to \$200 million for a landfill. But that was abandoned in the face of strenuous protests from communi-ties considered as possible locations for the landfill.

Plans currently call for recycling, incineration and landfilling on a contract basis at private landfills that exist, but must be expanded.

Pernick said Oakland should continue to explore existing plans for a county-owned landfill.

Roads, Democrats advocate combining the road commission, and the department of public works to eliminate duplication and to promote efficiency – even though such a consolidation would require enabling state legislation.

PERNICK AND fellow Democrats have been critical of the road commission, particularly because of what they consider to be a lack of accountability or road and highway construction and maintenance.

• A county redevelopment fund, called the "Build for Tomorrow" fund.

The county would use its bonding power to raise and unspecified amount of money to lend communities — especially Ferndale, Oak Park and other southern cities — to help fight urban blight.

A similar system is used to finance water and sewer construction, sald Pernick.

Taxes.
Pernick said the average Oakland homeowner may be paying \$300 or more per year in "hidden" property

That hidden tax could be reduced, he said, if the county reduces milage rates proportionally when property taxes increase more than the rate of inflation.

## Angry judge takes herself off civil case

Claiming she can no longer be to-cally impartial because of "an inwarranted attack" on her integri-by, Oakland Circuit Judge Jessica R. Jooper Wednesday voluntarily re-moved herself from a case involving the law firm of an attorney she is latting. ating.
But not before denying a demand

But not before denying a demand that she disqualify herself and chastising the plaintiff and his lawyer for attempting to "embarrass and harass" the court by calling herormantic involvement to the attenlon of the Michigan Judicial Tenure
Domnission.
The chastized lawyer was not alowed to speak in court. He later told 
cporters, however, Cooper's confuct.— Wednesday in court as well 
sa her previous handling of the casewere a "egregious" violation of 
saw and court rules.
"She violates ethical canons" by

aw and court rules.
"She violates ethical canons" by not disclosing her involvement with he lawyer and his firm, and then debies our motion that she disqualify exrestly, sald Ronald J. Prebenda.
"Then she makes herself out to be he good guy by voluntarily stepping side," Prebenda said in a telephone interview. "She should have done hat in the first place."

AT ISSUE is Cooper's handling of the sult filed by Karl G. Blomquist, an engineer, who last year claimed a fineurp Automotive Systems Inc., if Troy, wrongly dismissed him after another engineer gave sensitive notomation developed by General dotors to an engineer working for he Ford Motor Co. Both the plaintiff and his attorney are from the Farmington area.

gion area. Cooper dismissed the case, but ithout disclosing she was dating teart Sinai, a member of the firm Schlussel, Lifton, Simon, Rands, aivin & Jackler of Southfield that defending the auto components

s detending the auto components company.

Blomquist is appealing Cooper's lismissal. But last December he complained to the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, which has disciplinary jurisdiction over state judgest.

s.

Blomquist also complained Cooper id not disclose she retained the firm a 1988 to represent her in a securies matter.

Blomquist said Cooper should ave disclosed her involvement with

ave disclosed her involvement with inal, a member of the defendant's aw firm, so another judge could be ssigned to the case. Not disclosing that involvement ampered his chances of getting an unpartial hearing. Blomquist com-tained.

COOPER WAS obviously angry hen she addressed the suit in her

owded courtroom. She said there is no law or canon

'She violates ethical canons by not disclosing her involvement, then makes herself out to be the good guy by voluntarily stepping haside. She should have done that in the first

place.' Ronald J. Prebenda Farmington Hills attorney



The plaintiff and his lawyer attempted to "embarrass and harass" the court by calling her romantic involvement to the attention of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission.

Jessica R. Cooper Oakland circuit judge

of ethics against a judge dating an

of ethics against a judge dating an attorney.

Nor is there, she said, any opinion or requirement that a judge disquality an entire law firm because he or she dated a member of that firm.

Cooper did not deny dating Sinai, 48. But "... this judge states she is not married to; does not conabitate with; is not engaged to and does not have any financial relationship with any member" of Sinai's law firm, Cooper said.

Cooper previously declined to talk with reporters about the complaint against her before the tenure commission. But copies of her opinion—which referred to Blomquist's complaint—were made available to the press immediately following her comments in court.

While Cooper was angry, Prebeda was almost livid.

He stormed out of the courtroom and, as reporters approached, said be was too busy to respond, but could be reached later at his office.

"Judge Cooper is wrong and she knows it," he said. Any judge is obligated to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

SHE IS LOOKING at this from a very narrow perspective, Prebenda sald, "from the narrow perspective of a judge."

of a judge."

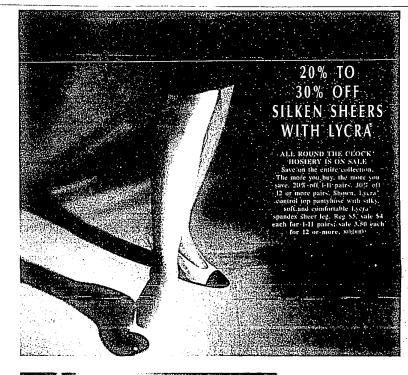
She should look at it from the perspective of my client, he continued. "He goes to court seeking a fast hearing, and the fifty of has a relationship with the fifty of the state of the st

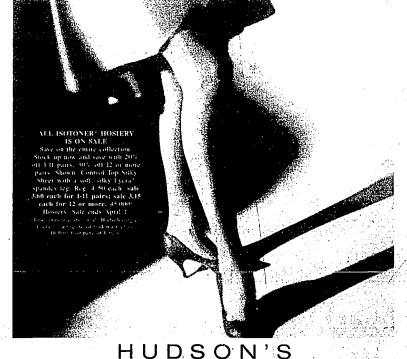
tended by members of his firm.

Thus while having a romantic link with Sinai, the judge had the opportunity to develop a social relationship with his coworkers in the law firm, Prebenda said.

On one occasion, Cooper was the sole judge at a seminar for Sinai's aw firm, Prebenda said.

The motion to disquality came be fore Cooper because the law firm claimed the judge made a ciercial error in assessing his cilent \$1,000 in court costs, Prebenda said.





HUDSON'S OPEN MON. SAT. 10-9; OPEN SUNDAY 12-6.