

'Harassed' Sheriff Spreen Bides His Time

By JAN WILLIAMS

PONTIAC
Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen feels he's fighting a losing battle against the Republican-dominated Board of Commissioners.

The Democratic sheriff says he sees a need for law enforcement to assist people to fight crime and to rise above partisan politics.

"To do that, you have to work together," Spreen says. But he contends he's getting harassment from the board instead of cooperation. There are 10 Republicans and nine Democrats on the board.

"I was told by some that if I ran the way I did, I wouldn't receive any funds. I didn't believe it then. Now I do."

Since last April, Spreen has been denied two requests for additional personnel, and he says several others have been tabled.

"You have to look ahead to the future. Crime is going to rise in Oakland County, and to combat it requires additional staff."

The additional staff requested, denied by the board, included a full-time legal advisor and an administrative assistant.

Commissioner Lew Coy (R-Wixom) said the board gave Spreen nine new positions in January because the sheriff said he lacked the staff.

"Now he's saying, he doesn't have the expertise. Must we buy every bonodoggle that comes along?"

Spreen says it boils down to whether the sheriff is just a jailer or a crime fighter.

According to Commissioner Coy, the requirements of a county sheriff are to operate a county jail and serve certain papers.

According to Spreen, it also includes suppression and prevention of crime. "I'm not asking for someone to help me run the jail. The role of the sheriff is much more than just a jailer."

Commissioner Donald Quinn (R-Troy) accused Spreen of malfeasance and running an unsafe jail. He gave accounts that he had

entered the jail through a security door, supposed to have been locked, and wandered through the jail at his own will.

"The security measures are such that anyone can walk into the jail at any point with anything on his person and take a prisoner."

Spreen called Quinn's remarks reprehensible and irresponsible. But he didn't deny this could happen and said that's why he had asked for extra help.

"The jail is sadly lacking in security. But these mistakes didn't start on Jan. 1. I'm just trying to correct them."

Spreen said he had asked the board for security precautions and couldn't get them.

"I've pointed out the needs, but they aren't listened to. When you're asking one man to do the job, you're asking something not done in other modern departments."

Spreen says none of the commissioners has ever asked to sit down and talk out these problems.

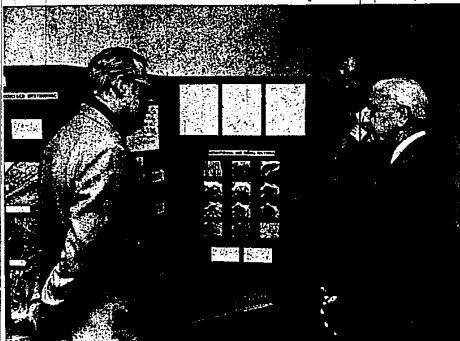
"I've been from pillar to post and continually get the

door slammed in my face. I'm just not going to try any more."

Spreen says he will instead limit his sights and wait for the future when people will listen. "You can only go so far. And then you have to stop and do what you can with what you have."

Spreen says he had the feeling he wouldn't get the support to carry out law enforcement in the county as he would like to.

"This office should be non-partisan. I've seen too much politics in the police department, and the police always wind up on the short end."



DISCUSSING NEUROMUSCULAR disease were more than 100 doctors and medical students who recently gathered in East Lansing for a conference sponsored by the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America. Examining an exhibit are (from left) Rolland Ensign, DO, of Farmington; Stanley Muciek, DO of Livonia; and Dr. Max Newman, of Southfield.

Kahan Joins Shrine Board

Oscar Kahan has been elected to a three-year term on the board of governors of the Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children unit in Erie, Pa.

Kahan, president of the Livonia Mall Merchants Assn., also will be a lay representative to the National Hospital Assn.

Kahan has been a Shriner for 15 years. The Shrine takes care of any child with an orthopedic disability when parents are unable to finance braces, casts, orthopedic shoes or other aid.

Oakland Bar Elects Devine

Daniel C. Devine was recently installed as president of the Oakland County Bar Assn. at the annual meeting in the Raleigh House, Southfield.

Devine was an Oakland County assistant prosecutor from 1962 to 1965, is a former Oakland County Circuit Judge, and has served on Detroit Recorder's Court bench.

He is a partner in the law firm of Denison, Devine, Porter & Bartush in Bloomfield Hills.

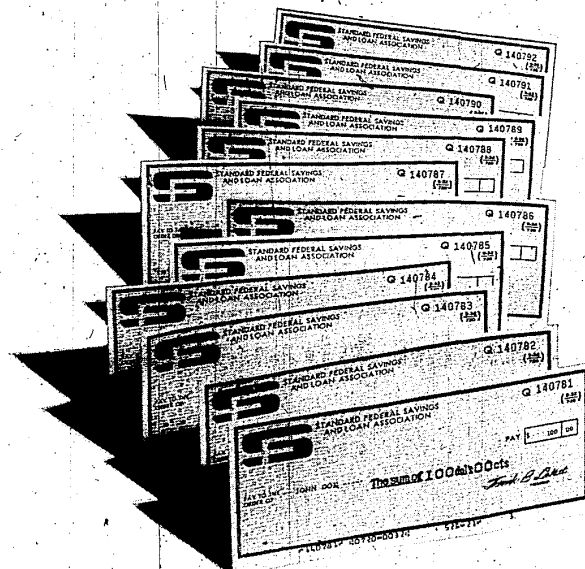
In March 1973, Devine was appointed to the State Bar Grievance Board.

OU Approves New Degree

ROCHESTER
Oakland University's approval of a BS degree program in computer and information science and the approval of receipt of \$648,900 in gifts and grants were highlights of the recent board of trustees meeting.

The computer and information-science degree program supercedes a concentration in that field established a year ago by the School of Engineering and will be offered in fall 1973.

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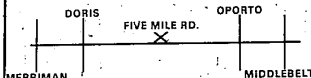
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