Stempien Aims At Vote In New County Districts

by DON HOENSHELL

Wayne County will start gearing up to elect a 26-member board of supervisors on a "one man-one vote" formula unless the State Court of Appeals upsets a historic local decision by May 20.

Circuit Judge James Canham issued the order Thursday in a test case started by Livonia Attorney Marvin R. Stempien.

Stempien presented himself as a candidate for the board of supervisors, asking Canham to force County Clerk Edgar Branigin to accept his filing based on the 26-member districting plan.

On April 1, the United States Supreme Court in a Texas case had upheld the principle of "one man-one vote" in county legislative bodies.

The Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court reversed their own previous rulings which upheld the 1963 state constitutional provision of a supervisor from each township.

* * *

CANHAM ISSUED the order against Branigin sought by Stempien and immediately stayed it for 10 days to give Prosecutor William L. Cahalan time to appeal to the Court of Appeals.

The order would require the county to divide into the 26 districts established by the county reapportionment commission and hold a primary election on Aug. 6 and the general election Nov. 5, the date of the 1968 statewide election.

"I can't actually file for a place on the ballot until May 20 when the (Canham) order is effective," said Stempien.

"I can't see the appeals court doing anything but adding an exclamation mark to this order."

* * *

THE WEDNESDAY decision of the Michigan Supreme Court left state officials scrambling for answers to questions.

Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley will assign a legal task force to determine what it means to the tenure of present supervisors and when the election must be held in all counties.

Secretary of State James M. Hare, whose office runs the state's elections machinery, said:

"Our department will not take any action until we have been given direction by the attorney general's department. I would guess it would be a week before we hear something definite."

* * *

ELECTIONS DIRECTOR Bernard J. Apol said 47 counties, including Wayne, filed reapportionment plans before the deadline established in the 1966 law last May 15.

Legal controversy has dogged the trail of county reapportionment on the one man-one vote formula since a 1965 decision in Grand Rapids circuit court, and a conflicting ruling a few weeks later in another case in Muskegon.

The State Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court both upheld the 1963 constitutional provision requiring each township to have a member on the county board of supervisors.

Then the United States Supreme Court, in a Texas case, held April 1 that county legislative bodies must be apportioned on a one man-one vote formula.

The appeals court then reversed itself, and on Wednesday the Michigan Supreme Court did the same thing in a six to two decision.

Justices John R. Dethmers, Eugene F. Black, Theodore Souris, Michael O'Hara and Paul Adams agreed to the decision, along with Chief Justice Thomas M. Kavanagh.

Dissenting votes were cast by Justices Harry F. Kelly and Thomas Brennan.

While adopting the legal principle established by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Michigan bench left tenure, the timetable and other processes to "future action and determination."

It said, however, that the April 1 decision in Washington "binds this court and all other state courts to promptly responsive obedience."

* * *

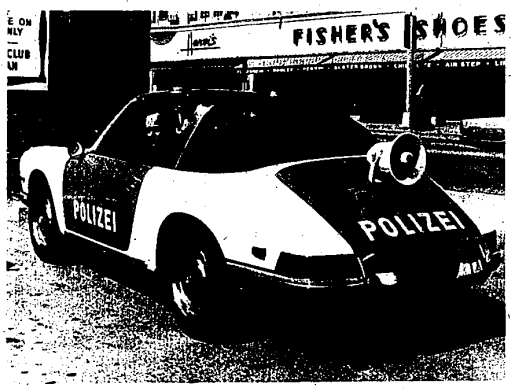
NOW UPHELD as law, the 1966 act ignores the now-invalid Michigan constitutional provision and establishes a 25 to 30-member range on boards of supervisors, each member elected from a district as equal in population as possible with the others.

Wayne County's 26-member plan was drafted by County Clerk Edgar Branigin, as a member of the county reapportionment commission, and it satisfied neither Republican nor Democratic members.

Stempien denied suburban claims that Livonia, Plymouth and the others will lose power on the board of supervisors, despite having to share a single member.

"Livonia now has three members (on the 130-member board) and thus has 2.2 per cent of the voting power," Stempien said. "The new plan will give Livonia three per cent of the voting power.

"After reapportionment in 1970, Livonia will have four per cent of the voting power. When local officials say they are losing something, they're wrong."



HALT! ACHTUNG! That's the way the cop tells you to pull over in Germany. But did you ever expect to see him riding in a new Porsche sports car? In fact, over 100 of these fast cars are cruising the autobahns (freeways) in Germany right now. More are on order presumably to cope with other sports cars (non-police) who might violate the law. Erhard Damm, owner of Erhard Motor Sales in Redford, brought one of these special police cars to show to various police departments in Observerland. Notice the red flasher just behind the door and the bull horn mounted on the back of the car.

After Vietnam Reunion, Brother Meets Death

Sp/4 Jerry A. Wyman, 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wyman, 33435 Nancy, Livonia, has been killed in Pleiku, South Vietnam.

The parents received notice of their son's death early this week in a telegram from the Secretary of the Army. It said, in part, that Larry died May 5 "as a result of gunshot wounds received when engaged with hostile forces while driver of a military vehicle on supply mission."

On April 3, The Observer Newspapers told a far happier story of the Wyman family.

* * *

JERRY, 22, had been joined in Pleiku by his younger brother, Army Sp/4 Larry A. Wyman, as a result of a special request by the two boys "to be together" while serving their country.

Both had been assigned to haul ammunition from Pleiku to Dak To and An Khe, and both had been living for the past seven months in the same Army barracks.

Larry Wyman will escort his brother's body back to the United States for burial sometime next week.

* * *

FUNERAL SERVICES will be announced by R. G. and G. R. Harris Funeral Home.

Survivors, besides the parents and brother, Larry, include three sisters, Mrs. Genevieve Berryhill of Detroit, Mrs. Dale (Connie) Prosser of Livonia, and Margaret Wyman, who resides with her parents; a maternal grandfather, P.W. McCarthy of Livonia, and paternal grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Wyman of Lincoln Park.

SP/4 JERRY A. WYMAN

Residents To Perform

Observerland residents will be on stage when the Eastern Michigan University — Civic Orchestra presents two concerts May 14 and 15 in Ypsilanti.

Concert time both evenings is 8 p.m. Director Jose Serebrier will make his final appearance with the group before assuming the position of composer-in-residence with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Members of the orchestra include:

John N. Love, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Love of 22856 Frederick, Farmington; Katherine McIntosh, daughter of Mrs. Jeanne S. McIntosh of 16135 Bell Creek Ct., Livonia; Robert J. Wideman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wideman, of 906 S. Harvey, Plymouth; Andrew Wisniewski, son of Henry Wisniewski of 8847 Northern, Plymouth; and Richard Morrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Morris of 1720 Stelber, Westland.

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UAW Man, 26, Bridges Gap Of Generations

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bard Young, director of Region 1E of the UAW and a member of its executive board, is covering the national UAW convention in Atlantic City for Observer Newspapers.

By BARD YOUNG

ATLANTIC CITY -- Delegates re-elected President Walter P. Reuther and gave him a vote of confidence as the 21st annual United Auto Workers Union convention ended here.

Many of the delegates were from Livonia, Redford, Westland-Garden City, Plymouth and other northwest Detroit suburbs.

For Louis R. Dughi Jr., who lives in Southfield, it was the first trip to a UAW convention. He hopes to attend many in the future. For him, the experience was, in his words, "inspiring, rewarding and exhilarating."

Young Dughi, 26, is now back at his home on Greenview. He and about 5,000 delegates, alternates and their wives departed from Atlantic City as the convention came to a close this weekend.

* * *

THE DUGHI STORY is the story of many convention delegates and of the entire membership. The UAW is a fast-moving and faster-changing union, as the old-timers retire and the younger workers move in.

Most of the new members have never worked in a union shop or under a union contract before.

Most of them find it difficult to identify with the labor movement which the old-timers, whose ranks are now thinning, struggled to build.

Lou is a full generation younger than the men who fought so bitterly during the dark days of the depression to build this organization which has since given birth to the benefits Lou now enjoys.

But Lou has managed to bridge the generation gap.

* * *

NOW THAT THIS convention is history, it is Lou's job to take the word back to the UAW members who sent him to the convention in the first place.

UAW convention delegates are elected, and the spots are hotly contested. Dughi is a plant steward at Chrysler Detroit Universal. Acting for his constituents at the convention, he cast important votes--not only on the question of who shall lead the team, but votes which also determine the direction his union shall take on vital political, economic and social issues which face the union, the nation and the world.

The votes in which he participated gave a mandate to Reuther and the executive board to take action concerning relations with the AFL-CIO (disaffiliation is a virtual certainty); and on how best to marshal forces in the continuing struggle against poverty in the midst of plenty, how to insure genuine equality in job opportunity, how to provide justice and dignity on the job, to promote racial understanding and amity, to preserve a genuinely free and open society in a more peaceful world.

* * *

DUGHI WILL REPORT to his members at Chrysler Detroit Universal, many of whom live in Observer communities, on convention actions concerning all these matters.

He will also report on the extent of dissent within our union, and the Democratic practices which permit that dissent to be heard.

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