

# Does A Higher Office Beckon Sen. Pursell?

By KATHY MORAN

Although the 1974 election seems miles away, the jigsaw pieces are already being fitted for what will become the Republican and Democratic tickets in the statewide election.

One major puzzle is who will fill the lieutenant governor slot on the Republican gubernatorial ticket if, as expected, Lt. Gov. James Brickley declines to run again.

Sen. Carl Pursell of Plymouth is rumored to be on the list of likely candidates for Gov. Milliken's running mate.

Pursell's record as a freshman senator is on his side, coupled with the fact that he is one of the most noted Republicans from southeastern Michigan.

Those factors, along with speculation that Brickley is looking for a place to pursue his interest in criminal justice, may combine to put Pursell on the GOP ticket.

Should Milliken be in the position of scouting for a new lieutenant governor candidate, he'll have to look toward a metropolitan area to balance his ticket. As a Traverse City resident, Milliken has support from out-state areas and will need a partner to draw votes from urban areas.

Pursell stands out as a respected legislator who has accomplished more in his brief political career than many of his elder colleagues. At 40, Pursell has held one term as a Wayne County Commissioner, during which time, he became concerned about the cumbersome bureaucracy in county government.

He was elected to the Senate in 1970 and made one of his top priorities a major bill to reorganize county government, putting a strong check on or appointed official at the top of the county structure.

Now, after three years of guiding the bill through the Legislature, and two previous years of pushing for the reform, he is on the brink of passing the reorganization plan.

Pursell was appointed to the Senate's most powerful committee — appropriations — where he has a voice in all major bills.

Currently, Pursell says the Senate is still in its political future and that he and his administrative assistant, Bob Webber, have mapped out their strategy for a fall campaign.

"I enjoy the Senate very much," Pursell said. "I plan to run for the Senate next year and continue my work there. I think I can be more

effective and make a contribution to our district and state in that role."

Should Pursell run for the Senate again, he'll be running in a different district. His first campaign was in a district composed of Farmington, Livonia, Plymouth City and Township and large rural section of Oakland County.

Due to reapportionment, the shape of his new district was changed to include Plymouth City and Township, Livonia and Redford Township, generally considered a "swing" district.

He says he was fortunate to have represented his old district in his first term because he became the only area legislator to develop strong working contacts in Oakland and Wayne counties.

By virtue of his position on the appropriations committee, Pursell has developed contacts in out-state areas and earned a reputation as a legislator who knows how to compromise and work his bills through the often cumbersome legislative process.

A strong supporter of mass transportation, Pursell was instrumental in passing the mass transit bill, which allocates one-half cent of a two-cent gasoline tax increase for development of mass transportation systems.

Interested in environmental issues, Pursell sponsored the first bill to pass the Legislature.

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SEN. CARL PURSELL

been involved with on the convention floor.

"But that doesn't mean I'm interested," he hastens to add. "Whatever will be will be."

The events which occur in the next few months may determine Pursell's political future, and it may be that the former Plymouth businessman and teacher will end up a candidate for the state's second highest office.

"I love a battle and have been very successful with most of the battles I have

## Bikes To Take Over Hines Drive For A Day

Suburban bicyclists will have a chance to pedal a 10 mile length of the Hines Drive Sunday, Oct. 21, without worrying about cars or motorcycles.

The Wayne County Road Commission, at the urging of State Rep. John Marks (D-Westland), has approved the closing of the drive to auto and motorcycle traffic from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. from the parkway east of Newburgh to its ending at Ford Rd.

Marks, whose 38th district includes parts of Westland and Livonia, said many bicycle clubs in the state have been invited to enjoy the car-free drive along the drive.

He said persons coming to the parkway in their autos will find parking space at the

Warren, Telegraph, and Meridian access points as well as west of Newburgh.

He noted that since the road commission closes the flooded Hines Drive after heavy rains, he is hoping for a "flood - but of bicycles."

The freshman legislator

said the parkway closing is an "historical event in that we hope to hold it every year, allowing bicycling enjoyment and an opportunity to support the concept of utilizing existing facilities until bicycling paths in Michigan become a reality."

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