

# Taylor attacks hospital 'give away'

Two key members of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners criticized another commissioner's proposal to sell, lease or give away Wayne County General Hospital.

Commissioner Tom F. Taylor, (D-Westland), chairman of the board committee that oversees the hospital, said the proposal "appears to be an

## Pursell tells how aid data to be compiled

LANSING — School Aid Data Instant Exhibit (SADIE) soon will be coming to the aid of state legislators.

Sen. Carl D. Pursell (R-14), SADIE is the acronym for a special computer system which will soon be installed in the Legislature to speed instant information on school aid to the lawmakers.

Said Pursell, who, along with Rep. Earl Nelson (D-Lansing), has been the prime sponsor of the service.

"School aid and all its ramifications is one of the most complex problems we have to deal with in the Legislature," said Pursell, a member of the influential Senate Appropriations Committee whose district includes Livonia, Plymouth, and Redford.

"It is so complicated that answers needed immediately often require lengthy staff research and valuable time is lost waiting for data. One of the great reforms we can accomplish is to provide legislators, who make the decisions, with the information they need and provide it on a timely basis. SADIE is the important first-step in this reform process."

"When SADIE is operating, any legislator should be able to type a request into a typewriter terminal and receive up to 100 information items on public school education."

The total project will cost about \$30,000 in initial outlay and will require an annual operating budget of about \$1,200 but will be well worth the cost, the senator added.



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over-simplistic answer to a very complex problem."

Boar Chairman Robert E. FitzPatrick agreed with Taylor and said the proposal "comes at a most in-appropriate time. I am sure the majority of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners will not take Commissioner Barr's resolution seriously."

FitzPatrick added:

Commissioner John Barr, (D-Dearborn Heights), proposed that the county turn over the hospital to some other entity, such as a nonprofit corporation, then purchase needed services from the hospital.

His resolution to that effect, introduced at the Feb. 21 board meeting, was referred by the board to Taylor's committee for consideration.

Citing complicated county bureaucratic procedures, Barr said he believed a more efficient way could be found to provide hospital care. He described the hospital as a "constant embarrassment, a dollar-wasting venture" and said "it does not provide the health care that taxpayers should be getting."

Taylor stated: "As chairman of the human resources committee, I assure that no final action will be taken on this resolution until such time as the people directly affected by such a proposal have been given every opportunity to make it put."

"This will require public hearings, lengthy investigation and testimony by consumers' groups, employee groups, professionals in the health care delivery system and others."

FitzPatrick strongly disagreed with Barr's contention that the hospital is not providing adequate health care.

"We are, of course, aware of the inadequacy of some non-medical procedures at the hospital, but at no time has the Board of Commissioners considered the health care services, professional and paramedical, to be inadequate," he said. "Some of the finest medical care in the nation is provided at Wayne County General Hospital."

FitzPatrick also reacted to Barr's statement that the hospital should get out of the hospital business because "we are losing and wasting a fortune out there."

"To suggest that we should get out

## Sierra Club Plans Banquet

The Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club has announced its Annual Chapter Conference will be held on Saturday, March 9.

Afternoon workshops on outings and conservation will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Henry Ford Fairlane Mansion on the campus of the University of Michigan-DeDearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. The workshops are open to the public and free. Advance reservations are not necessary but would be appreciated.

The Mackinac chapter annual fund raising banquet will be held Saturday evening, beginning at 7:30 in the Dearborn Inn, 20201 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Principal banquet speaker will be Jonathan P. Elia of Madison, Wisc., Sierra Club midwest representative.

A former legislative aide of U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, Elia joined the professional staff of the Sierra Club in 1969.

His duties include legislative advocacy, press relations, public affairs and related club activities in eleven midwestern states. Elia will speak on the topic, "Will the Energy Crisis Burn Out the Environmental Movement?"

The banquet is open to the public. Advance banquet reservations (\$9 per person payable to Mackinac Chapter-Sierra Club) are necessary and cannot be accepted after March 5. For reservations, send check with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Conference, Robert Jacobs, 4117 Rochester Road, Apt. 5, Royal Oak, 48073.



**LAWRENCE R. POSTEK** of 9051 Iowa Ave., Livonia, has been promoted to assistant director of civil engineering for Giffels Associates, Inc., Detroit-based, architectural, engineering and planning firm. A graduate of Wayne State University, Postek is a registered professional engineer and has been with Giffels Associates since 1966.



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of the business because we are not making money," FitzPatrick said, "is a most unfortunate choice of words."

He said the board did not begin the phase-out of the Wayne County Child Development Center -- a comparison cited by Barr -- to save money, but to "provide better care and services for retarded children through the Wayne County Referral Center."

Taylor added: "Commissioner Barr appears to be overly concerned with the economic aspects of this problem and has not given sufficient consideration to a number of other factors."

These factors, Taylor said, include the following questions:

"How will current employees be provided for; how will Wayne County meet its statutory obligation to the medically indigent; who will provide, in the absence of Wayne County General Hospital, a much needed teaching and research facility which is responsible for the graduation of a number of physicians and nurses annually?"

Barr took the reaction to his proposal with aplomb. He said he realized the matter is complex and will require lengthy deliberation. He said he intended his resolution to serve merely as the starting point for such deliberation. Barr said he agreed there should be public hearings.

Taylor said that "to approach this

problem from a purely economical standpoint is rash and erroneous. There are a great number of social and medical considerations which will have to be delved into. I intend to see that this is done."

Barr is chairman of the board's ways and means committee and was a member of the human resources committee last year.

Barr's proposal was blasted from the floor at the board meeting by Commissioner Paul Silver, (D-Detroit), the human resources committee chairman last year.

He charged that the resolution was full of factual errors.


"It also is cruel and irresponsible because it has put a fear in the minds of hundreds of county employees about their job security and in the minds of thousands of people out-county who feel a great need for the hospital."

Silver said Barr ignored the fact that similar proposals were explored in the restructuring of the Detroit General Hospital administration and it was ascertained that the city would still be obligated to make up any hospital deficit.

"If we were to follow Barr's suggestion, we should contract out our courts and the entire sheriff's staff

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