

Exhibit D

Housewife seeks cut in legislators' pay

By QUANE KENYON
GRAND RAPIDS (AP) — It's not an easy task to get an initiative proposal on the general election ballot — even if you think most of the voters would approve it if given the chance.

That's the problem facing Mrs. James B. Beckett of Grand Rapids, an energetic mother of five children who has launched a petition drive to lower and control the salaries of state legislators.

Mrs. Beckett, wife of a Grand Rapids attorney, is founder, chairwoman and chief spokeswoman for the Legislative Salary Amendment Committee.

According to the committee, Michigan legislators are among the highest paid in the nation with a \$17,000 annual salary and \$9,000 a year in fringe benefits.

The committee has proposed a constitutional amendment to cut the legislators' salaries to \$15,000 annually and require voter approval prior to any future salary increase.

Mrs. Beckett's biggest complaint is that under the 1963 State Constitution, legislators can get pay raises without the public being allowed to vote on them.

"The voters have to have some control," she said. "They are intelligent enough to make the right decisions."

Since last summer Mrs.



Mrs. James Beckett
... launched drive

Beckett has been running a shoestring campaign to get the required 350,000 valid signatures to put the proposed restrictions on the ballot.

The first 35,000 signatures haven't come easy. However, she said, "Voters have no apathy on this subject. They just need direction."

"There no question about it if this gets on the ballot this

November, it will get more votes than any other measure."

Her committee has had trouble getting support, Mrs. Beckett admitted, both actual and financial.

She said she "hoped to get 30,000 people" to help out, but, "We got 1,000."

The committee asked backers of the proposed amendment to send money. "We asked everyone to send \$1. That's what they sent — \$1 and no more," she said.

Her last financial report showed contributions of \$1,368.50. Much of that went to printing 52,000 copies of the petition.

Other roadblocks, the committee claimed, have been erected by shopping centers, postal service and fear of legislative reprisal.

Shopping centers are good places to collect signatures, but sometimes the operators won't let her group set up booths, Mrs. Beckett said.

Then there's the problem of the mails.

"I think we have lost 20 per cent of our mail because it has been incorrectly addressed," she said. That address, she added, is Post Office Box 1934, Grand Rapids.

Organized groups are slow to support her petition drive out of fear of reprisal from the legislature, Mrs. Beckett said. For the same reason, a local bank agreed to handle the money her committee collected only if it remained anonymous, she said.

"So far, we're right on schedule," she said. "Now we need to double our effort."

"It's a miracle that we've done so much with so little," Mrs. Beckett added.

Inn makes room for woman, beast

SUDBURY, Mass. (UPI) — The Wayside Inn, made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, has changed its slogan to adapt to women's liberation.

Francis J. Koppeis, innkeeper of the nonprofit inn and museum, said the slogan "Food and Lodging for Man and Beast," has been

er father?

appreciates these things. Talk it out with him and make sure you're on solid ground.

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THE NEWS-PALLADIUM, BENTON HARBOR, MICH.

New Bill Eases Petition Rules

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—The legislature has backed off a tight restriction it imposed earlier this year on collecting petition signatures, but probably not enough to satisfy a Grand Rapids housewife.

Lawmakers voted Wednesday to extend from 90 to 180 days the time allowed for collection of signatures on petitions seeking constitutional amendments or new legislation.

Signatures older than 180 days would not be valid.

The bill was sent to Gov.

William Milliken after it was passed in the Senate 29-0 and in the House 88-5.

The measure is a modified version of a bill passed about two months ago that allowed signatures to be only 90 days old. Milliken signed that bill, but extracted a promise from legislative leaders that they would write a new bill with the extended 180-day allowance.

There were no time restrictions prior to the legislative action and Mrs. Lee Beckett, a Grand Rapids mother of five,

interpreted the restriction as an attempt to kill her petition drive to cut lawmaker's salaries.

Mrs. Beckett has collected about 153,000 signatures since 1970 on petitions seeking reduction of legislative salaries from \$17,000 to \$15,000 a year. She also wants to abolish the State Officers Compensation Commission, which sets elected officials' salaries.

She hopes to collect about 150,000 more signatures to get the constitutional amendment on the November, 1974, ballot.

"You'd have to race like hell to get that number of signatures in 90 days," Mrs. Beckett said recently.

"Even 180 days is too short a period in which to collect 10 per cent of the total vote cast for governor. It's an attempt to limit our constitutional rights by law."

She said, "The limit infringes on the constitutional right to petition government for initiation of legislation or changes in our constitution." She is attempting to interest the American Civil Liberties Union in challenging the law.

A spokesman for Milliken said there is some doubt that Mrs. Beckett's petition drive would be halted by the new law, since she began collecting signatures long before the law was written.

Sen. Milton Zaagman, R-Grand Rapids, chairman of the Senate Municipalities and Elections Committee, supported the 180-day bill grudgingly.

"I think it is just yielding to pressure. I don't like it but if this commitment was made (to Milliken), I will keep it," he said Wednesday.

Zaagman said later, "There is

some pressure from possible public reaction. Mrs. Beckett is making statements that this reduces the ability to make constitutional changes."

Zaagman noted referendum petition signatures (for changing law) are good for only 90 days. "If it's good for a referendum, why isn't it good for initiative petitions?" he asked.

Former Canadian Leader Is Dead

OTTAWA (AP) — Louis St. Laurent, 91, prime minister of Canada from 1948 to 1957 and leader of the Liberal party, died Wednesday. One of Canada's leading constitutional authorities, St. Laurent served as a law professor at Laval University, president of the Canadian Bar Association in the 30s and leader of the Liberal party from 1948 to 1958.

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Auto Sales Up 13 Per Cent

DETROIT (AP) — A sales surge by General Motors carried auto industry sales for the middle 10 days of July to a 13 per cent gain over the same period a year ago.

Sales figures released by the four largest domestic automakers revealed sales during the 10-day period totaled 310,431, compared to 274,272 sales during mid-July in 1972.

There were nine selling days in both of the 10-day periods.

GM recorded a 32 per cent

just before the mid-July selling period.

Ford had sales of 69,136 for the period, a 12 per cent drop from 78,544 sales the previous year. Chrysler's sales were down two per cent from 44,346 sales in mid-July 1972 to 43,355 this month.

Industry sales for the year totaled 5,739,966, a 13 per cent increase from 5,057,573 units sold during the same period in 1972.

GM showed a 15 per cent gain for the period, from 2,614,882 in 1972 to 2,996,887 so far this year. Ford was up nine per cent from 1,454,125 to 1,589,480 and Chrysler advanced 13 per cent from 819,512 to 925,337.

American Motors, however, has shown the largest sales gain, recording 228,262 sales so far this year—a 35 per cent increase over the 168,954 cars sold during the same period last year.

Kelley rules petition drive time limits unconstitutional

LANSING (AP) — Michigan citizens will have more time to collect signatures on petition drives under an opinion issued Tuesday by Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley.

Kelley ruled unconstitutional a 1973 law which required petition signatures be gathered within 180 days of the date they are filed. Kelley's opinion stands as law unless successfully challenged in court.

Kelley ruled signatures for petitions

seeking to change state law or the Michigan Constitution can be gathered over any period of time during the four years between gubernatorial elections. The number of required signatures is based on the number of votes in the governors race.

The decision apparently will have no effect on proposals appearing on the November ballot. However, the 180-day limit has affected petition drives which failed to meet the 180-day deadline.

Unsuccessful petition drives must begin anew after this November's gubernatorial vote, Kelley said, since that vote determines how many signatures are needed for the petition to be a success.

Petition drives begun after November will have four years to gather sufficient signatures.

The opinion was issued at the request of Sen. Gary Byker, R-Hudsonville, who asked for it on behalf of Lee Beckett, a Grand Rapids housewife conducting a petition drive to reduce legislative salaries. The drive did not acquire sufficient signatures this year to be filed with the secretary of state's office.

State Elections Director Bernard Apol said he did not have any petitions affected by the 180-day limitation, and said his office had never ruled any petition out because of the restriction.

The old law states signatures on petitions are "presumed to be stale and void" if gathered more than 180 days before filing. But Kelley said the law provided no indication of what proof might be used to overcome such a presumption.

Citing a previous Supreme Court decision, Kelley said that "petitions and the signatures affixed to them are valid for as long as a particular basis (vote cast) remains in effect...hence, signatures on petitions are to be considered valid so long as they are gathered during a single four-year term bounded on both sides by a gubernatorial election."

GM denies suggestion price timing planned

DETROIT (AP) — Did General Motors time its announcement of record price increases for 1975 models so it would be obscured by the biggest news story of the decade?

The company denies it, but at least one newspaper columnist has suggested the firm purposely released the bad news of a 10 per cent price increase while the nation was watching a farewell speech from the first president to resign in U.S. history.

Pete Waldmeir of the Detroit News noted in Tuesday's editions that GM's public relations staff distributed announcement of the average \$500 price increase to the media at 9:30 a.m. Friday.

That was the time Richard Nixon was saying goodbye to his White House staff before national television, and only hours before President Ford was to be sworn in. "The combination guaranteed that all other news stories, no matter how profound their impact on the people or the economy, would be buried deep inside the newspapers of the land," Waldmeir wrote.

He noted the story of GM's price hike appeared on an inside page of the third section in the News' afternoon edition Friday. Normally the story would rate a

Fewer strikes