

STARTRIBUNE—M FEB 23 '94

Hennepin's Keefe is retiring from the County Board

Hennepin County Commissioner John Keefe confirmed speculation Tuesday that he will end his political career after 10 years on the County Board, 16 years in the Legislature and several as a municipal judge in Hopkins.

Keefe, 65, said his age and length of service were the main factors in his decision not to run again. "You come to the feeling that for me the time is now," he said.

He said he's proudest of the program he pushed through last year that allows retirees to work temporarily for the county to pay the county's share of their property tax bill. He said he enjoyed serving on the seven-member board because he was able to influence decisionmaking more than as one of many legislators.

Keefe said he plans to travel for a while after he leaves the board. He and his wife, Rosemary, will split the year between Ocean Reef, Fla., and the Twin Cities, where they have grandchildren.

State Rep. Jerry Knickerbocker, R-Minnetonka, is the only person who has revealed plans to seek Keefe's seat in a heavily Republican district dominated by Minnetonka, Edina and Hopkins.