

New bill irks SEMTA reps

By TIM RICHARD

Board members of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) are seeking the ear of Gov. William Milliken and legislative leaders about a "restructuring" bill they may fail to carry out their so-called "tripartite agreement" of September 1975.

The tripartite agreement—between SEMTA, the governor and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young—called for Detroit to sell its bus system to SEMTA when the SEMTA board was reorganized to give the mayor power to make some direct appointments.

But SEMTA board member Marilyn Thayer of Ann Arbor told board members Tuesday that the legislative bill which was supposed to implement the tripartite agreement "no longer calls for that."

This removes the impetus for the sale and merger of the two systems. Mrs. Thayer said.

SEVERAL SEMTA board members said they would never have supported the tripartite agreement if it hadn't included the sale of Detroit's Department of Transportation (D-DOT) to SEMTA.

The Michigan-Young-SEMTA agreement provides that the SEMTA board "restructuring" shall become effective concurrently with the sale and transfer of D-DOT to SEMTA, "and such restructuring" legislation shall be provided.

But a new bill by State Sen. David Plawczyk (D-Dearborn Heights), introduced in the legislature earlier this week and referred to the highways and transportation committee, provides for SEMTA's restructuring but no sale of D-DOT.

"This bill puts Detroit on both sides of the negotiating table for the sale and merger of D-DOT," said Mrs. Thayer. She meant that if Plawczyk's new bill becomes law, Detroit would get a stronger SEMTA.

Adams resigns SEMTA job

Thomas B. Adams has left the board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) without ever attending a formal meeting.

SEMTA board members learned Tuesday that Adams, a Bloomfield Hills advertising executive, had told Gov. William Milliken, who appointed him, he would be unable to carry out the duties.

Adams was one of three persons named to the SEMTA board by the governor. The other six members are elected by the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments.

Adams' appointment was to have taken effect Feb. 1. He did not show up for the board's Feb. 17 meeting, however.

Milliken in 1973 named William Marshall, state AFL-CIO president, to the three-year term. But Marshall resigned at the end of 1974. For a year, the post was vacant, and late in 1975 the governor named Adams to fill the remainder of the term, which expires June 30.

Thus SEMTA has functioned with no more than eight board members for nearly 15 months.

Gov. reappoints 3 to boards

Gov. William Milliken has announced the reappointment of three area residents to state commissions.

Mrs. Hilda Gager of 2845 Brooks Lane Southfield has been reappointed to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission for a term ending December 31, 1979.

Mrs. Gager, an attorney and senior partner with a Detroit law firm, was first appointed in October 1974 and serves as a Democratic member. She is the recipient of many professional awards including the Award of Achievement of the Young Lawyers Section of the Detroit Bar Association in April of 1974.

Raymond Lyons of 3748 N. Darlington Birmingham was reappointed to the Michigan Employment Security Commission for a term expiring January 8, 1980. Lyons, vice president of employees and public relations for Fruehauf Corp., has served as a Republican member on the bipartisan board since 1969.

Birmingham Fire Chief C.G. Sumpster of 1137 Highland was reappointed for a term expiring December 31, 1979 to the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council.

voice first and be able to negotiate the purchase of D-DOT on more favorable terms—if the sale is to be made at all.

"I HAVE the same trouble with this bill Marilyn does," said SEMTA board chairman Joseph Blumens Jr. of Birmingham.

The SEMTA board agreed to ask a meeting with the governor and the so-called "quadrant committee"—leaders of both parties in both houses of the legislature.

Mrs. Thayer quoted Sen. Plawczyk as saying his bill is to substitute for Senate Bill 911 "will be out of committee and voted on in three weeks."

AT PRESENT, the governor appoints three members of the SEMTA board and the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) elects six at large.

The tripartite agreement called for giving Detroit five of 13 members of a restructured board, but it can use a buyout of opposition during public hearings in Detroit and Pontiac last fall.

Plawczyk's new bill is designed to meet objections that the tripartite formula violates the constitutional one person, one vote principle. It would expand the SEMTA board to 15 members as of July 1, 1979.

Plawczyk's formula would give the City of Detroit four or five members, depending on how one splits fractions. All would be appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the city council.

Suburban Wayne County would have three to four members, again depending on the splitting of fractions. The first seven would be elected by the full Wayne County Board of Commissioners, the second by SEMCOG, the third appointed by the governor, with senate confirmation, and the fourth by SEMCOG.

OAKLAND COUNTY would get two or three members with the same appointment formula—the first seven elected by the county board, the second by the governor, the third (if any) by the council of governments.

Macomb County would get two members under the same appointment formula.

Washburn, Monroe, St. Clair and Livingston—the other four counties in the region—would be lumped for SEMTA board representation purposes. Their first member would be elected by the council of governments, the second (if any) appointed by the governor and the third (if any) by the council of governments.

AN EARLIER PLAN for a vehicle tax was dropped in Plawczyk's new bill. Instead, it calls for SEMTA to levy a tax of \$5 on each \$500 of value at the time of sale or transfer of real estate. A house selling or being transferred for a price of \$20,000 would be taxed \$100, payable to the county treasurer by the seller. The treasurer would transfer it to a state account for SEMTA.

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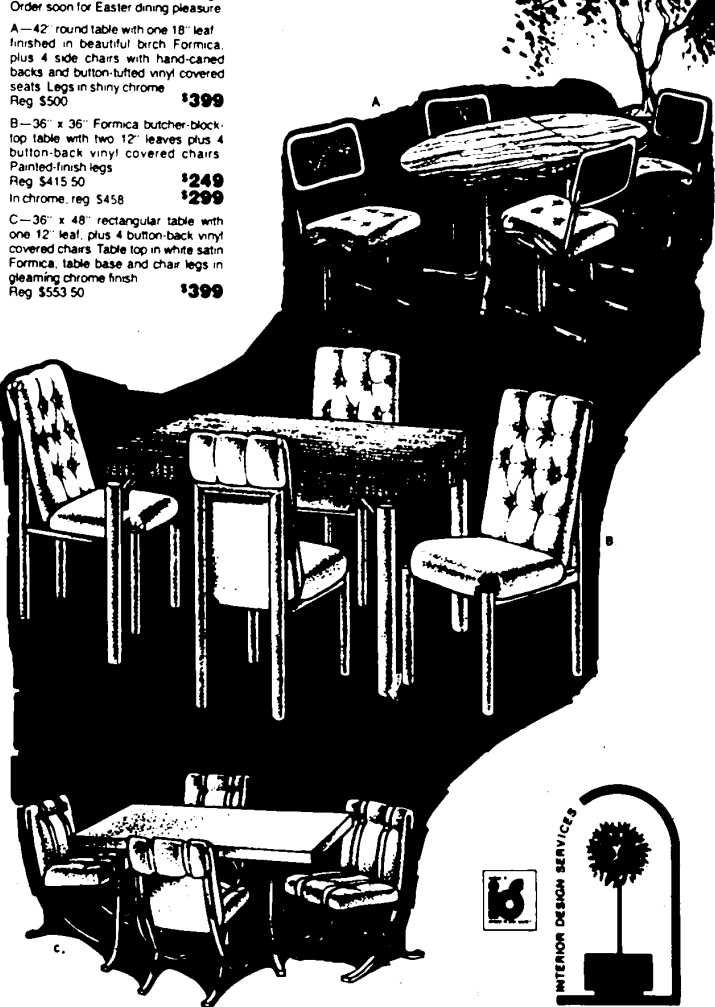
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