

Policy should be positive

A national energy policy ought to include positive rather than punitive measures, say two Michigan State University business professors who surveyed 64 representatives of business, government, labor and environmental groups.

Dr. W. E. Criss, professor of marketing, and Dr. Frank Mossman, professor of transportation, would like to see an industry consortium be permitted to develop appropriate legislation and incentives to encourage energy research and development.

The survey respondents also agreed that the basic problem in the United States "is to achieve an orderly transition from primary reliance on petroleum and natural gas to other domestically available sources such as coal, solar energy and nuclear energy."

After months of threats and mutterings, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has decided to continue as a member of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), a seven-county voluntary planning agency.

The board voted 19-6 on June 2 against a resolution to withdraw which, at one point, had 18 signers. Oakland commissioners were upset that SEMCOG had lost its power of appointment over board members of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation

Authority (SEMATA). To make matters worse, commissioners in Wayne and Oakland counties were given power to appoint their SEMATA members, but the Oakland board was given only one seat to fill.

SEMCOG officials worked in committee to head off the withdrawal, contending SEMCOG had opposed the SEMATA reorganization scheme, which was actually the work of Gov. William Milliken, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and elements of the Michigan Legislature.

The only person to speak in the board session was Commissioner James E. Lanni (R-Madison Heights), who chided the commissioners who withdrew their support for leaving SEMCOG.

Pointing to the proposed Area Water Quality Body SEMCOG is about to create, Lanni warned: "The voluntary regional planning group is now getting its teeth."

"Our representation on the water quality board is even less than on the SEMATA board. It will halt the development of Oakland County."

Local commissioners supporting withdrawal were Henry Hook (R-Troy), Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills) and Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham).

Oakland won't quit SEMCOG

Power rises in press group

Philip H. Power, chairman of the Board of Suburban Newspapers of America, has been elected second vice-president of Suburban Newspapers of America.

SNA is the national suburban newspaper trade association, with more than 900 newspaper-members representing more than 12 million total circulation.

Power was elected at SNA's recent annual meeting in Boston. The position of second vice-president puts him in charge of SNA's advertising and promotion programming activities, as

well as the organization's marketing activity. Suburban Newspaper Advertising Bureau.

Power previously served the organization as secretary; he has been a member of its board of directors since 1974.

Suburban Communications Corp. is the parent company for Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, which publishes 12 newspapers in the suburbs around Detroit and a number of other suburban newspapers, commercial printing and typesetting companies.

Historic preservation unit eyed by county

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners will be ready to act June 14 on whether to set up a one-year committee to see what the county should do to support local historical programs.

Commissioner Robert H. Gorsline (R-Milford) author of the proposal, said there were some raised eyebrows in the Oakland County Historical Society, which receives county funding, but those fears have been laid to rest.

Gorsline's resolution, reported out of the board's general government committee, notes "many communities have developed, or are developing, outstanding programs to highlight this heritage."

"This heritage is maintained today through archives and records, build-

ings with varied and important architectural styles, public monuments, museums containing examples of life in earlier times, and other collections of memorabilia."

The board's interest, it declares, would be "to better understand the nature of programs to preserve the heritage of Oakland County and to understand what, if any efforts should be made by the government of Oakland County to support such programs."

Board Chairman Wallace Gabler (R-Royal Oak) would be empowered to appoint a 15-member advisory, with no more than three members of the board of commissioners. It would be instructed to report back within one year.

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Tax cutting doesn't create more jobs - MSU prof

Tax cutting is not the answer to creating more jobs, according to Dr. Charles C. Killingsworth, Michigan State University professor of economics and labor and industrial relations, and Christopher T. King of the U.S. Labor Department.

While many economists prefer cutting taxes, Killingsworth and King say the employment-creating effects of tax cuts have not been carefully analyzed.

Tax cuts have strong political appeal, they explain. "But if the political appeal is based on myth rather than on reality, or expectations that are unrealistic, the reliance on political appeal may backfire."

While Killingsworth and King agree that a tax cut can create jobs which could be filled by people classified as "hard core unemployed," their analysis leads them to believe that a program of direct job creation can yield three to four times as many jobs as the tax cut approach.

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