

# Goodbye Superbowl?

## County puts dent in hopes for '81 game

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Football fans and the Oakland County Tourist and Convention Bureau

have talked of bringing the 1981 Super Bowl to the Pontiac Silverdome. But those hopes were deflated last week as the county Board of Commis-

sioners refused to double the county's annual contribution to the bureau. The bureau had asked for \$83,000 for each of the next three years.

By a one vote margin, 12-11, commissioners approved giving the bureau \$40,000 for 1978, the same as this year.

Commissioners voting for the additional funding included: Henry Hoot (R-Troy), Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills), Robert McConnell (D-Farmington Hills), John McDonald (R-Farmington), Lillian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield Township), Joseph Montante (R-Orchard Lake) and Dennis Murphy (R-Novi).

Those voting to slash the county's contribution included: Commissioners Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield), and Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield).

THE SUBJECT was hotly debated between bureau supporters and commissioners opposed to giving the organization any more public money.

The proposal for \$249,000 in county funds for three years was supported by County Executive Daniel Murphy even though he had originally recommended the county contribution stay at \$40,000 in 1978.

Murphy may have unwittingly aided the proposal's defeat. "The Super Bowl isn't all of what the tourist bureau will be doing. Right now they're trying to raise enough money to keep their doors open," he said.

COMMISSIONER Dennis Aaron (D-Oak Park) immediately countered, "If they're trying to raise enough to keep their doors open, then they don't have a product to sell. These are no demand for their services. And trying to tell the taxpayers that we'll create the need—that's nonsense."

Aaron, the most vocal opponent, said, "The bureau came to us asking for a little bit of seed money. Well, we've given them seed, a plow, land (another commissioner chimed in 'and manure, too') and nothing seems to grow there, except when it comes to asking for more money."

Perinoff called the tourist bureau "a classic example of a fat bureau."

"It's a great grown into a vulture," he said. "We have absolutely no control over the way they spend the money and now they're asking for \$83,000 for an 'ift'."

"Everything points to the fact that they'll never get it (the Super Bowl) here," Perinoff said.

## Automakers see big sales year for 1978

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

While General Motors predicts a record year for auto sales in 1978, the number-two member of the "Big Three" automakers, Ford Motor Co., is less optimistic.

Speaking at a joint meeting of the Economic Club of Detroit and the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, William A. Niskanen, director of economics for Ford, said, "May I commend my counterparts on Grand Boulevard for their forecasts for 1977 and express my wish that the new year will prove to be as prosperous as they expect."

"But somehow, I don't think so," he quickly added. GM has predicted that 11.75 million cars will be sold in 1978—far surpassing the 11.4 million car record set in 1976.

NISKANEN, concurring with the predictions of Ford Chairman Henry Ford II, said 11.1 million cars would be sold in 1978. That figure is somewhat higher than the sales rate during the last six months of 1977 and only slightly lower than the anticipated year-end 1977 total of 11.2 million.

In addition to the 11.1 cars to be sold in 1978, Niskanen said truck sales should increase to 3.8 million in the coming year. Total vehicle sales in 1978 should reach the 14.9 million mark.

Niskanen's predictions are based on a mixed set of economic indicators.

"We do not now observe the set of conditions that are usually associated with the end of an (economic) recovery. Most of the leading indicators are still increasing, and housing starts—one of the more reliable long-lead indicators—have been especially strong," Niskanen said.

HE POINTED to a number of other optimistic signs:

• Monetary growth, although too high to reduce the present inflation rate, should support real growth through next year.

• Interest rates, recently increased, are lower than two years ago.

• Government spending is expected to be strong next year, and the projected tax cut may stimulate private spending.

He tempered his optimism, though: "The continued decline in the stock market since last fall is the most disturbing leading indicator."

"This decline," Niskanen continued, "indicates that business investment will not be as strong as the (Carter) Administration expects, and will also have a small direct effect on automotive purchases, particularly by high-income families."

He added that while Congress seems to be leaning away from proposals to tax or prohibit large, low fuel-economy cars, having only "trivial" effects on total gasoline consumption, their acceptance "may reduce the sales of domestic new cars."

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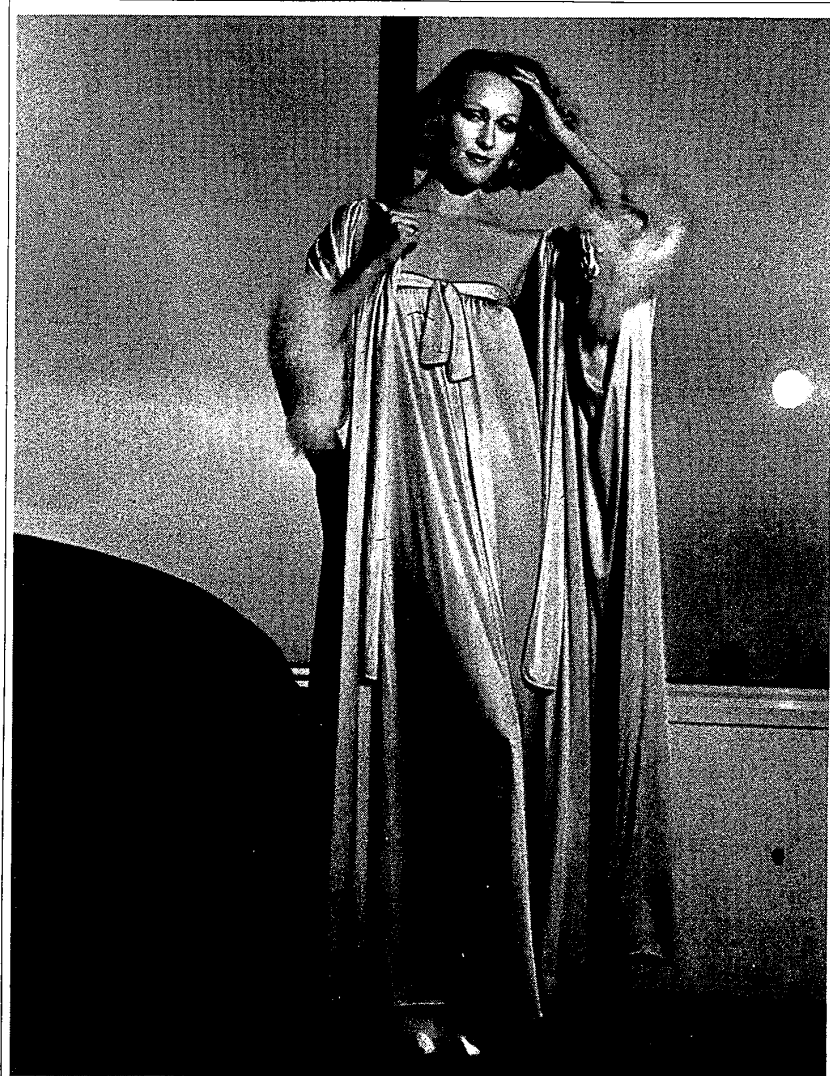
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