

Senate confirms Bendix chief for cabinet

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Southfield's most prominent businessman, W. Michael Blumenthal, has been confirmed by the full U. S. Senate for the post of Secretary of the Treasury.

Chairman of the multi-national Bendix Corp., headquartered in Southfield, Blumenthal's approval came last Thursday shortly after President Jimmy Carter's inauguration.

Blumenthal got his vote of confidence along with nine other Jimmy Carter nominees for cabinet and cabinet-level posts.

Swearing-in ceremonies will take place in the White House on Sunday.

Blumenthal move from Bendix and Southfield comes after an association

that began in 1967.

HE LEFT a position in the Johnson administration where he headed the U.S. delegation during the Kennedy Round of international tariff negotiations to join the Bendix organization.

The trade negotiations had eased trade restrictions among free world nations.

Blumenthal had also a high-level economic advisor in the Kennedy administration.

After five years at Bendix, he became chairman in 1972. Sales and profits under Blumenthal's stewardship grew immensely. Blumenthal also made a name for himself in corporate circles for his efforts to improve hire more women and minorities at Bendix.

He once told a Livelihood Luncheon in Southfield that the proper use of people is the key to making profits.

"If we treat the people we work with like good neighbors, we have found that it helps us to make a profit," he said. "People want an opportunity to develop to their fullest. As our employees grow, we have found that the business grew at the same time."

Bendix, which employs about 80,000 around the world, has a work force of approximately 900 in Southfield.

For the state of Michigan, he served as head of the Michigan Economic Action Council, which included leaders from business, organized labor and government, for the purpose of evaluating the state's long-term economic prospects.

THE REPORT authored by Blumenthal, that came out of that committee was universally praised by labor and business alike.

Blumenthal has espoused a policy of increased economic planning by the federal government to fight unemployment and has defended President Carter's economic plan for tax rebates and jobs programs.

He has pledged an attempt to simplify tax forms for millions of American taxpayers.

In accepting his nomination from President Carter a few weeks ago, Blumenthal said "Ours is a great country, we have great resources, and I shall try to marshal these resources."

W. MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL

N'western forces are at odds

The two Northwestern Highway advisory committees will meet Tuesday to try to resolve what should carry out an environmental impact statement on extending Northwestern.

Meeting jointly for the first time since April, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) are expected to debate the one consultant versus two-or-more consultant approach at the session, set for 7:30 p.m. at Farmington Hills City Hall, 3155 Eleven Mile.

Some CAC members have been pushing for the two-consultant approach since they don't believe a single consultant could manage an unbiased report.

GEORGE SYNDER, a representative from the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council, believes in having one consultant for and one against the extension of Northwestern Highway.

"The environmental impact state-

ment is not designed to make the decision (for or against the extension)," he said. "That is the highway commission's job."

We're giving them a tool to be able to make that decision. Our job is to bring forth the alternatives."

Edward Kazenko, coordinator of the impact study for the Michigan Highway Department, opposes the two-consultant method.

"The conclusion reached from nationwide sources is that the two-consultant approach for the conduct of an environmental impact assessment has not been tried in this country or, for that matter, abroad. The response from all sources as to whether the approach would be practical was unanimously negative," he told the committee in October.

If two consultants are hired, he has recommended hiring a third to coordinate the work of the others.

"There would be some duplication of effort with the involvement of a

third consultant who is primarily dancing between the other two," he added.

The group also has the option of hiring one consultant who would then hire two others to help gather the information.

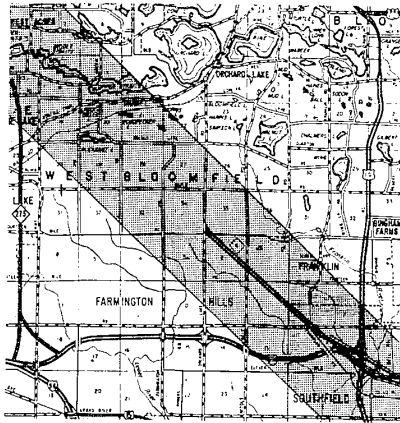
THE TWO COMMITTEES may also choose to discuss the study design for the environmental impact study.

The TAC recently reviewed and accepted most of the amendments to the study proposed by the CAC.

The joint meeting could be the time to consider the few major differences which remain prior to submission of a design to the state highway department.

If both committees can agree, just one study design will be submitted; if not, each probably will submit its own.

The highway department will decide on the final design either by accepting the committees' recommendation, compromising, or coming up with a design of its own.



Planners to eye apartments

Southfield Planning Commission Wednesday will consider proposals for a restaurant, two low-rise apartments, a townhouse and business zoning expansion.

The commission at the 8 p.m. meeting in Southfield City Hall Jan. 26 will make a recommendation on a bid by Sambo's of Michigan for a Jolly Tiger restaurant in a small office district.

The site is on the east side of Southfield Road between Mt. Vernon and Louise. The petition, discussed in November by planners who delayed their recommendation, has met with strong homeowner opposition.

In other action, commissioners will review the rezoning request of GM Building Co. for a 14-acre, two-story apartment project on the west side of Lahser between Hallcroft Lane and Twelve Mile. The 1.25-acre parcel is now zoned

single-family residential.

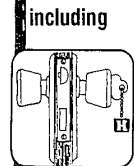
Richard and Pearl Goldsmith will seek rezoning of a single-family residential site to allow 20 townhouse units on three acres. The commission will recommend to council how the parcel on the north side of Twelve Mile between Briarbank and Brooks should be used. The commission also will consider the request of Rev. Meredith T. Moshauer to rezone 3.75 acres at the northeast corner of Nine Mile and Beech to allow a 44-unit, low-rise apartment development.

Another petitioner, A. E. McCardell, will ask for commissioners' endorsement for rezoning a sliver of land on the north side of Northwestern Highway between Franklin and Inkster roads from residential to business. Total size of the property is 1.50 acres. The rear portion is already zoned for business use.

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