

# New urban cabinet ducks M-275 issue

By TIM RICHARD

Although the Milliken Administration is committed to halting urban sprawl, don't look to the governor's new Community Development Cabinet to oppose — or endorse — the M-275 freeway project.

"That is not our purpose or role," said Lt. Gov. James Brickley. He chairs the cabinet of top administrators under Milliken's orders to "preserve communities."

"If we did take a position on M-275, then we would become a new Transportation Commission," Brickley said last week in an interview with this newspaper. At the time, he was a "tongue governor" while Gov. William G. Milliken was in China.

Instead of taking positions for or against such developmental issues as the western Oakland freeway and Super Sewer, Brickley's CDC group will work indirectly.

"I READ OF a federal official, I don't recall who, saying that the necessity of having to write an urban impact statement had a very subtle impact on federal planning," said Brickley.

"He said that when you know you must prepare an urban impact statement, you start tailoring your plans at the outset with that in mind."

Brickley is a one-time FBI investigator, Detroit councilman, Wayne County supervisor, chief assistant county prosecutor and president of Eastern Michigan University. He was tapped as Milliken's running mate after serving an earlier term (1971-74) because of his knowledge of urban affairs and his championship of regionalism.

Milliken's and Brickley's chief goal, as revealed in their speeches, is to preserve urban areas and stop urban sprawl.

"What has been discovered across the country," Brickley said, "is that on one hand the federal government has a policy of aiding cities, and on the other hand the federal government has aided urban sprawl." He cited highways, sewers, and even home mortgage programs as programs which helped contribute to sprawl.

"Urban sprawl will break this country, financially and physically," Brickley said.

"WHAT WE WANT to do is have an overlay," he went on.

"Each member of the Community Development Cabinet has a fairly proscribed role. The Department of Natural Resources wants to get polluters out of Detroit. The Department of Commerce wants to get jobs where the people are.



The Department of Labor wants to protect workers, and the Department of Transportation wants to facilitate transportation.

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— Lt. Gov. James Brickley

ally in favor of M-275. They persisted in favoring it after the old four-member State Highway Commission cancelled the project in 1977.

The successor agency, a six-member State Transportation Commission, is reconsidering the problem. It is expected to choose next month between a modified freeway plan, a parkway plan and various combinations of local road improvements.

"On the question of M-275 — a controversial freeway plan that would link the I-275 and I-96/I-696 intersection in Novi with I-75 near Clarkston — Brickley said, "There is no way of saying exactly what M-275 will do."

One group contends M-275 is needed to accommodate existing growth in popular western Oakland County and to fulfill existing community plans.

Another says it would be an environmental disaster to the headwaters of two rivers. Opponents say it would encourage urban sprawl, draining people and resources from older suburbs and Detroit.

BRICKLEY CONFIRMED an earlier report from one of his staff members that the CDC had discussed the subject once, for about an hour. The discussion was essentially a briefing from John Woodford, director of the transportation department. Woodford and his staff are emphatic-

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The new transportation commission was created by a state constitutional amendment approved by voters in 1978. The same amendment made Woodford an appointee not of the commission but of the governor.

IN OTHER MATTERS, Brickley revealed Milliken has asked the CDC to prepare a report on what can be done with empty school buildings. Schools, hospitals and other public facilities are abandoned because of population shifts.

"This is coming at a time when the 13 state colleges and universities are asking for \$800 million to \$900 million for capital expenditures," he said.

Meanwhile, the CDC, whose sole staff member has come from Brickley's office, is in the process of filling four positions — three full-time and two part-time. These will be policy analysts and persons with expertise in issues research, preferably with some experience in local government.

## Stroke info panel formed

The stroke committee of southern Wayne heart unit of the Michigan Heart Association is available to speak to local groups and clubs on the subject of stroke and stroke rehabilitation.

The stroke committee has formed a panel which is available for presentations in the downriver area.

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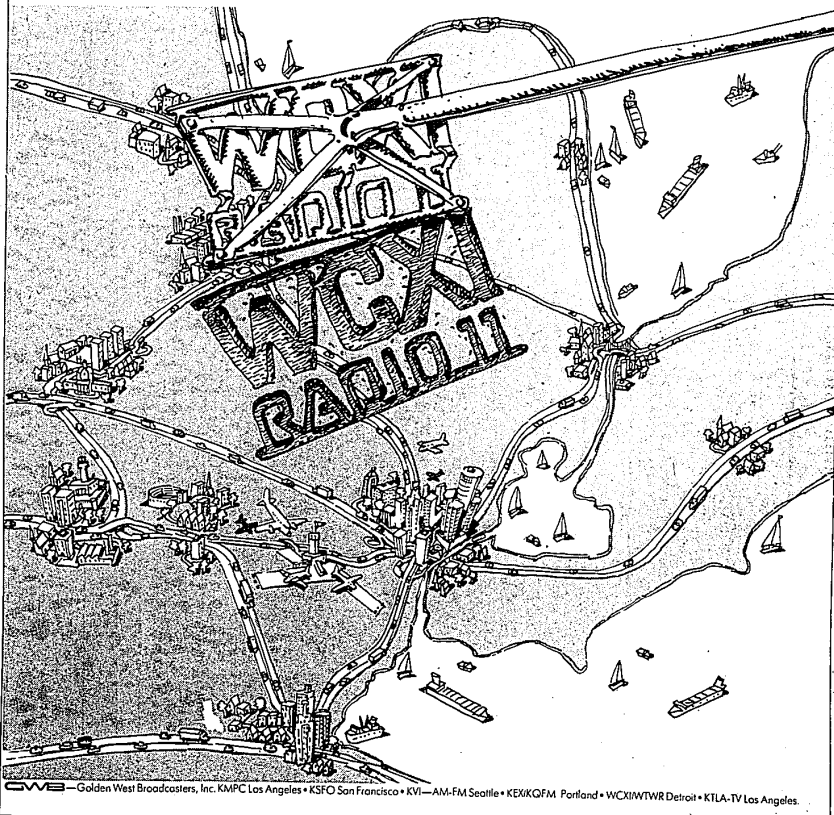
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## UM-D enrolls 7.4 % more

Fall semester headcount enrollment at the University of Michigan-Dearborn stands at 6,400, an increase of 443 over the fall 1978 semester.

The figures, compiled by U-M-Dearborn's Office of the Registrar, show a 7.4 increase over the 1978 fall semester.

The Division of Education was the only unit whose enrollment was down.

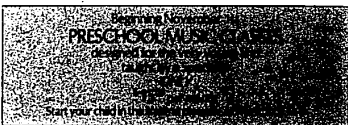
Men continue to outnumber women by 3,538 to 2,862, but represent a slightly smaller percentage of the total enrollment than last year — 55.9 percent as contrasted with 56.8 percent in 1978.

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