## Contenders differ on subway

# County SEMTA seat up for grabs

By TIM RICHARD

Round One in a battle over the direction of public transportation will be fought toinght in Oakland County.

At stake is a seat on the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority board that is being vacated by Joseph P. Blanco Jr., who has served since SEMTA was created in 1967.

The contenders: David H. Shepherd, mayor of Oak Park and chairman of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; Homer Case, Bloomfield Township supervisor and a former SEMCOG chairman; and Alice Schoen-bridge, Town of the Southeast Mac commissioner and general foe of regionalism.

EACH CITY, village and township will send a representative to Birming-ham City Hall where three persons will be nominated.

be nominated.

The question isn't whether Shepherd, Case and Mrs. Schoenholz will be nominated, but who gets the strongest support. The final selection will be made by SEMCOG's General Assembly on June 21.

by SEMIOUS General Assembly on June 21. Tonight's meeting shapes up as a preliminary between Shepherd, a proDetroit liberal Democrat, and Case, an Orland Season of the Company of the C

"You have the Grand Trunk Western Railroad paralleling Woodward. I don't know if there's need for both (commut-er rail and rapid transit), he said.

CASE'S CANDIDACY developed last

weekend.
Until then, Bianco had been expected
to seek re-election. But Case and persons close to Bianco said the J.L. Hudson executive from Bloomfield Hills
decided against running again. Bianco
was on vacation and couldn't be
reached for comment.

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Case was treasurer for eight years and has been supervisor for 16 years of Bloomideld Township. He was on the second second to the second second

SHEPHERD DECLINED to take a position on the subway issue, saying:
"That decision has been made. It's up
for public hearings."

He referred to the SEMTA board's

for public hearings."
He referred to the SEMTA board's
10-5 decision April 3 to build the Woodvard light rail line underground from
downtown Detroit to Grand Boulevard
and elevate it to McNichols.
That decision was less than popular
with Oakland County's three SEMTA
board members. Bianco and Henry M.
Hogan Jr. votde against it. R.J. Alexander supported it only to get some kind
of program moving.
Although Shepherd declined viknock' Bianco, it is significant that he
announced his candidacy for the SEMTA post many weeks before Bianco
bowed out.

SHEPHERD has been mayor of Oak Park since 1971. In private life, he is president of Harlan Productions, an ad-vertising agency which he owns, and in

tion, but no rule, of a two-year limit on SEMCOG chairpersons.
Shepherd was chairman of SEMCOG's Council on Regional Development when the outlines of the 1990 transit plan were adopted.
He has been on the boards of the Michigan Municipal League, the National League of Cities and the National Association of Regional Councils, whose 1979 convention will be in Detroit.

Detroit.

UNDER A QUIRK in the 1975 revision of the SEMTA enabling law, Oakland County puts two persons on the SEMTA board through a process used nowhere else.

A meeting of representatives from all local governments is called, and that group nominates three persons. SEMCOG's General Assembly then picks from among the three. In such a process, a foe of regionalism such as Mrs. Schoenholz has virtually no chance of winning.

In contrast, Detroit's five members are picked by the mayor, suburban Wayne County's three members are picked by suburban county commissioners and confirmed by the full board, and Macomb County's two members are picked by the county board.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: O. L. JOHNSON CO. INC. 893-8344

THE

HOMER CASE

the last year published a weekly paper in Oak Park that is now defunct.

He has been chairman of SEMCOG for the past two years. There is a tradi-

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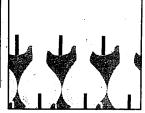
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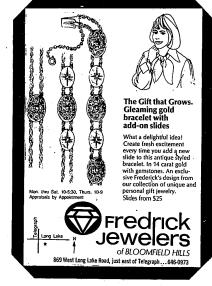
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