

Moral perspectives

Suburbs shortsighted when they oppose regional transit

Talk about fiddling while Rome burns: Energy shortages get worse while we suburbanites continue our knee-jerk reaction against a regional transit system. What keeps us from thinking better?

For one thing, our optimism that problems will be solved as soon as they get bad enough keeps us in a waiting posture. Confidence is great, but blind optimism is idiotic.

We know it takes several years to construct the arteries of a transportation system but we don't think our way into those years of delay.

For another thing, we have been provincial for centuries and it is hard to give it up. We feel self-sufficient, but interdependence is a fact every hour.

Nostalgia about times with less people, less mobility, and less complexity doesn't help us think realistically.

Plain old selfishness creates fear that a few of our dollars will help others more than ourselves. The simple fact is that many people have been around a lot to make the metropolitan area function, even though some of us do not ride trains all that often. The services and workers we need make

mobility for others part of our self interest.

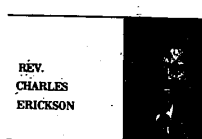
THEN THERE IS the emotional horror of subsidies. My big brother from some high place will push us around and we resist. As we talk about high costs for a transit system, subsidies are naturally an open subject.

But how about hidden subsidies we take for granted in already existing transportation? Do airline tickets pay the cost of airport construction and maintenance? Do we pay the high salaries of air controllers? Who pays for the agency personnel who prevent chaos in the massive airline industry?

Do we think we pay the costs of free-ways in our gas taxes? Who pays for highway patrol or snow removal? When you get right down to facts, it is hard to think of any travel which doesn't have hidden subsidies somewhere.

Speaking of facts, informed people we might meet every day in social life know the energy situation will bring radical change. But they get tired of our indifference and stop trying to get us to see the truth.

Right now we are in a stage of sky-



REV. CHARLES ERICKSON

rocketing transportation costs. Meanwhile the pressure on people of fixed or low income mounts with consequent hostility and depression. This leads to massive costs in crime, welfare, and health, but we fail to see the connection.

SO WE PLAY a game as if our society can be financed by "somebody else." State income from the lottery comes primarily from people who can't afford to carry that load of financing all of us.

Transportation costs are displacing essentials in many family budgets. The rising prices we see in stores come, in too large a part, from costs of transporting people and goods. Some broad

scale cost-efficiency thinking is in our self interest.

Perhaps the major block to clear thinking about mass transit is our feeling that bigness is automatically bad.

By definition, a metropolitan area is big. There are many people, many businesses and a lot of geographical area. And it all has to move together like meshing cog wheels.

It takes a lot of moving about to keep things alive. Ideas and negotiations have to be transmitted by people who travel to meet. It takes bigness to do important things.

Bigness is not the enemy but a stark fact of our situation. We need a big system to move people and goods in a hurry.

Nostalgia just won't do. It is no longer just the banker walking across the street to talk with the lawyer. We no longer see teachers walking a block or two to school. How many people live within earshot of the church bell where they worship?

All of us travel twice or more a day and we all need a big system to get us to other spots quickly and economically. Regionalism expressed in an excellent mass transit system is just good common sense.

Dinner musician



Maggie Kuhn talk slated for council

Maggie Kuhn, who organized the Gray Panthers nine years ago and is now head of the group's National Steering Committee, will be guest speaker for the greater Detroit section National Council of Jewish Women's annual installation meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, in the Towne Theater, 26521 Civic Center Drive, Southfield.



MAGGIE KUHN

The Gray Panthers is a national activist group of older and younger people seeking to eliminate what it calls "age-ism," discrimination against older people in the matter of jobs, credit cards and insurance.

Ms. Kuhn's talk coincides with Senior Citizens Month, which is one priority of NCJW. A pett lunch will be served. For reservation details call the council office, 577-9604.

Two other upcoming NCJW events, a lecture and concert, are scheduled in May. Lillian Jackson Braun, former Good Design Editor of the Detroit Free Press, will speak on "Twenty-eight Years as a Peeping Tom," 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, in the NCJW office, 16400 W. Twelve Mile. Dessert and coffee will be served. The cost for members is \$2 and for non-members \$3.50.

Ms. Kuhn's talk coincides with Senior Citizens Month, which is one priority of NCJW. A pett lunch will be served. For reservation details call the council office, 577-9604.

Two other upcoming NCJW events, a lecture and concert, are scheduled in May.

Lillian Jackson Braun, former Good Design Editor of the Detroit Free Press, will speak on "Twenty-eight Years as a Peeping Tom," 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, in the NCJW office, 16400 W. Twelve Mile. Dessert and coffee will be served. The cost for members is \$2 and for non-members \$3.50.

At 8:45 a.m. on Friday, May 11, a bus will leave the NCJW office to hear Antal Dorati conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Coffee Concert at Ford Auditorium. The bus will return at 2 p.m. The cost will be \$9 for members and \$11 for non-members. Reservations for both events are required and they also may be made with a call to the council office.

Spring strawberry festival scheduled

St. Florian Parish, 2626 Poland, Hamtramck will hold its 11th annual Strawberry Festival from noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, May 6. A 10 a.m. mass in honor of St. Florian will precede the festival, which will feature strawberries in a variety of desserts.

Conservative Judaism conference is May 1-2

The annual spring conference of the Michigan Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1 and 2, at Temple Bnai Israel in Saginaw.

Delegates from the 15 affiliated sisterhoods will explore the possibilities, noted in the conference theme, "And Be Thou A Blessing?"

Delores S. Moser, national vice-president, who has held many offices in the sisterhood of Congregation Bnai Israel, Millburn, N.J., as well as in the Northern New Jersey branch, will be consultant speaker.

Workshops on programs, Jewish family living, adult education, Torah Fund hall, youth and sisterhood social relations, creative handicrafts, membership, and ways and means will be featured.

Workshop leaders will include Bea

Katzman of Shaarey Zedek, Southfield; Nita Liechtenstein of Adat Shalom, Farmington Hills; Anne Leeman of Beth Achim, Southfield; and Constance Sklarczyk of Beth Shalom, Oak Park.

Torah study session will be conducted by Rabbi Hillel Rudavsky of Beth Israel, Flint. Services for Shabbat are being coordinated by Betty Weisman of Adat Shalom, Farmington Hills, and for Maariv by Dorothea Goldstein, Congregation Moses, Kalamazoo. Women's League exhibits will be on display.

A Women's League Socio-Drama, "Do You Know Where Your Children Are?" will be presented by members of Temple Beth El, Midland, and will be directed by the delegates with the moderation by Rabbi Morris Fishman of Temple Bnai Israel, Saginaw.

Other area members working toward a successful conference are registration chairman, Nita Liechtenstein and Freda Davidoff; chairwomen Jean Alperspector and Sylvia Foxman; publicity, Helen Bayles; local arrangements Adele Spicer, printing, Evelyn Whitman; and transportation, Elizabeth Cantor.

All reservations are to be made through the individual sisterhood presidents.

Other area members working toward a successful conference are registration chairman, Nita Liechtenstein and Freda Davidoff; chairwomen Jean Alperspector and Sylvia Foxman; publicity, Helen Bayles; local arrangements Adele Spicer, printing, Evelyn Whitman; and transportation, Elizabeth Cantor.

All reservations are to be made through the individual sisterhood presidents.

Other area members working toward a successful conference are registration chairman, Nita Liechtenstein and Freda Davidoff; chairwomen Jean Alperspector and Sylvia Foxman; publicity, Helen Bayles; local arrangements Adele Spicer, printing, Evelyn Whitman; and transportation, Elizabeth Cantor.

All reservations are to be made through the individual sisterhood presidents.

Lutheran conference opens Friday

The Rev. Everett Fullam, an Episcopal priest from Darien, Conn., will give the main address at the opening session of the fourth Michigan Lutheran Conference on the Holy Spirit to be held April 27 and 28 at Mercy Center, Elevation Mile and Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.

Workshops will be the order of the day when the conference opens on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. The evening session at 7 p.m. will include addresses by the

Rev. Jerry Stroud of Christ Lutheran Church of Redford Township and the Rev. Donald Matz of Howard City. One of the topics to be discussed at the workshop is the Christian and the occult led by the Rev. Warren Arndt.

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: For Church Directory Information, Nativity Episcopal Church, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Northbrook Presbyterian Church, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation L.C.A., St. Paul United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills Christian Center, North Farmington Baptist Church, Unity in Pontiac, First Baptist Church, Bloomfield Hills Christian Church, The Orchard United Methodist Church, The Congregational Church of Birmingham, U.C.C., First Baptist Church of Farmington, and Christian Science Churches.