Lawmakers grapple over Olympic wrestler's aid Ross, whose district includes South-field and Farmington, called the pro-posal "nappropriate in principle." "We've tended to be critical of the Soviet Union for sending people who are not amateurs and are subsidized by the Soviet government," Ross said. "The resolution would begin to move us towards something of the same princi-ple." It passed the House of Representa-tives on a voice vote without opposi-tion, but earlier this month had a tougher time in the Senate. Senators passed the resolution, 20-15, after a lively debate concerning the state's subsidizing amateur athletes.

Nobody called it "special interest" legislation, but the Michigar Legislation, but the Michigar Legislature recently endorsed a plan that will affect one person — an unidentified state employee who may compete in the 1980 Olympic Games as a wrestler. A resolution asked that the state Civil Service Commission grant any state employee who participates in the Olympics a month off at full pay and fringe benefits.

TWO UNLIKELY allies, Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, a liberal, and Sen. John Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, regarded as among the most conservative, led opposition to the plan.

Road board seeks **SEMTA divorce**

The Oakland County Road Commission is banging the drum for the county to pull out of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

In a report released last week, the road commission proposed the county establish its own transportation agency to provide intra-county service.

The road commission declared a county transportation agency would provide three times better service in Oakland than SEMTA does, with no new taxes.

THE REPORT was prepared for the oard of Commissioners Planning and Board of Commissioners Pianning and Building Committee, which in April asked County Executive Daniel Mur-phy to study the feasibility of a county transportation agency. The road com-mission said its report is "input" for Murphy's which isn't expected until next month.

next month.

The county board requested the study shortly after SEMTA approved a \$1.4 billion regional transit plan that includes a part-subway, part-elevated and part-surface light rail system along Woodward Avenue from downtown Detroit to Eight Mile Road.

Several county commissioners, who have twice threatened to pull out of SEMTA, believe the regional plan shortchanges Oakland residents.

THE ROAD COMMISSION report aid the regional plan "concentrates 90 said the regional plan "concentrates 90 percent of all funds on a gamble to revitalize a short length of Woodward

Oakland transportation agency who be easy, "We'd have to have the governor's blessing," he said, noting that Gov. Milliken has supported SEMTA regional plan and subway. Wilcox added the county's leaving SEMTA may jeopardize the \$500 million the federal government has promised to get the SEMTA regional plan of the ground. The government insists on agreement among seven insists on agreement among seven southeastern counities on any plan. vitanze a succession of the defending specific and a larger proportionate share of state and federal transportation money through its own agency, the report said, than that currently spent by SEMTA within the MURPHY VETOED a board of com-missioners decision to leave SEMTA a year ago, and the veto was upheld by the board.

"SEMTA has been preoccupied with rationalizing a capital intensive rapid transit system and not with the total

commission said.

"SEMTA has responded primarily to
the desires of the City of Detroit," the
report said, adding that Oakland County's efforts to develop a regional transit plan "that met the needs of all area
residents equitably" have been ignored.

A SEMTA spokesman said Tuesday

14 days after the report was dated
that "the road commission hasn't
provided us a copy."
He added "it's not logical they can
provide three times as much service
for less money than SEMTA can."
Asked if the road commission had
contacted SEMTA for any background
information, the SEMTA spokesman
said, "We dirit even know they were
working on it."

THE COUNTY board of commissioners won't do anything with the road commission report until it gets Murphy's, according to Commissioner Richard Wilcox, R-Ortowille, chairman of the planning and building committee.

"I've always favored withdrawing from SEMTA," Wilcox said, adding that the creation of an independent Oakland transportation agency will not be easy.

towarus Sometung vi "Next year's summer games are in Moscow, and the winter games will be in upstate New York. Although Ross said Welborn was an "ironic" ally, he added: "We both tend to be quite suspicious of delegating too much authority to bureacracies and are sensitive on issues of individual rights."

ALSO VOTING against the Olympic plan was Sen. Donald Bishop, R-Rochester.

Rochester.
Favoring it were Sens. Robert
Geake, R-Northville, who represents
Plymouth, Livonia and Redford, and
William Faust, D-Westland, whose district includes Garden City and Canton.

Sen. Bill Huffman, D-Madison Heights, who represents a portion of Troy, did not vote.

Heights, who represents a portion of Troy, did not vote.

Geake said he didn't think the subside ya rgument was valid. "It's very important to encourage America's international standing in every way, including the Olympics," he said. "The state-should do whatever it can to encourage physical fitness and athletics."

The resolution was sponsored by State Rep. Thaddeus Stopczynski, Deteroit, who predicted the civil service commission would approve the plan. "It's something we should do for the country," Stopczynski said. "If it involved an outrageous number of people, I wouldn't have sponsored it." Nine other states have approved similar plans, Stopczynski said. "If he hoped the legislature's action would encourage large corporations to do the same.

ROSS AGREED that the civil service commission would approve the Olym-pic plan. "Since the legislature has to pay for it, there's little incentive for

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them (civil service) not to go along," he said.

The freshman senator feared the legislating any state employee involved in an annature contest.

"What if I want to train for the Miss America contest?" Ross said. "What's the difference?"
Geake said the endorsement of the significant of the binding on an annature contest.

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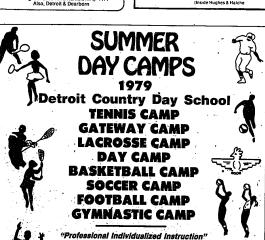
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