

# Local legislators favor alternatives to subway

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"We need buses so we won't be so dependent on private passenger cars," he said. "SEMTA is planning to extend the transit system in phase two."

"I'M NOT for or against subways. I want to be sure Oakland County gets its share of the pot and the county's needs are served. Opposing the subway could diminish what we get for public transportation."

Oakland County Commissioner Lillian Moffet, R-Birmingham, said she wasn't happy with SEMTA's compromise plan. Because of past performances, she added, she's skeptical of the regional agency's actions.

Roger Smith, director of public services for Southfield, said he was disappointed in the county

commission's resolution which, he contended, means less money for local area transportation. One benefit, he claimed, would be better bus service with depots along the Woodward-10 Mile corridor.

Southfield Councilman James McDermott was the most outspoken critic of the SEMTA plan.

"I'm tired of being blackmailed by Mayor Coleman Young," he snapped. "Talk about sacrificing for the greater good. Young has done everything in his power to pull dirty tricks. Trading votes in the legislature is an abortion and the price is too high."

"Wayne County needs Oakland County and Oakland County needs Wayne. We have to take the strongest stand possible so we don't pay a price bigger than the goal."

## Affirmative action debated in area

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Affirmative action is "one special thing in a short space of time" to help blacks play catch-up in the system, he said.

The use of quotas to help blacks play catch-up is discrimination, according to Fontham. Quotas are a violation of the Civil Rights Act.

"And the law says you can't discriminate against any person," he said.

With quotas we are hurting some to help others, he said. And these actions are being perpetrated without any relevancy to the workers' situation, whether they be black or white.

Quotas serve to move "blacks closer to the rich whites while other whites struggle," Fontham said.

"It is absolutely unbelievable that people can say about minority groups, 'Be nice to individuals to make up to the race,'" he said.

That sort of system makes it appear that the minority groups can't advance unless the federal government gives them a quota, he added.

"We have a situation where the federal government has devised a system they enforced nationwide which says 'We think discrimination against some people is OK.'"

IN THE Steelworkers' case, the union representing blacks and whites had knowledge of the pressures and problems within the work place, Gottesman countered.

Gottesman cited a union election in which workers supported affirmative action.

Before the election, Weber, who was second in line among union officers, delivered a 10-minute prepared statement which charged that white workers were paying the price of affirmative action, Gottesman said.

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