

SEMCOG urges wider auto emissions tests

By TOM LONERGAN

A vehicle inspection program to curb air pollution should not be limited to the metropolitan Detroit area. That's a point the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) wants the state to realize before the wheels are set in motion to require car inspections for faulty pollution control equipment. The program takes effect in 1982. At SEMCOG's annual meeting last week in the Michigan Inn, Southfield,

general assembly delegates urged the state to require vehicle inspections in communities of 200,000 or more throughout the state and that the program not be administered in areas smaller than a regional planning area. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed that the program be required in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties, or the seven-county SEMCOG region, which would bring in Livingston, Monroe and St. Clair counties. The DNR and departments of state

and transportation are determining the specifics of the vehicle inspection program, required for state compliance with federal Clean Air Act amendments of 1977. The Michigan Legislature passed the new inspection law in April. "THE REALITY is 'inspection and maintenance' is not a popular law," said SEMCOG executive director Michael Glusac. "The only reason the legislature adopted it was because they had the hammer of the GM plant (pro-

posed for Orion Township) and VW plant (proposed for Sterling Heights) hanging over their heads." The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had a ban on approving new industrial plants in Michigan until the state had adopted a vehicle inspection and maintenance law. General Assembly delegates — local government officials from the seven-county SEMCOG region — were not unanimous in urging broader coverage of the inspection program. Delegates from Livingston and Washtenaw counties dissented in a voice vote on the resolution. GLUSAC SAID SEMCOG could still have an effect on where the program is required because the proposed rules — which will also cover the specifics of the testing, inspection fee and exemption for low-income people — must be approved by the legislature's joint rules committee. Glusac said the DNR has "literally prevented (SEMCOG) staff from having any voice in the issue." SEMCOG had wanted vehicle inspec-

Immigrants to flood U.S. — MSU expert

In the next 20 years, about half the increase in the U.S. population will be highlanders, says a Michigan State University professor. William Lazer, an MSU marketing professor, predicts one of the biggest influxes of immigrants in the past 75 years. He was one of five professors who recently completed a project looking at what the country would be like in the year 2000. Lazer estimates that about 13 million to 14 million immigrants will relocate in the U.S. by the year 2000, including about six million who will cross the border unauthorized. About five million "illegal immigrants" are now living in this country, he said. The forecasters predict the official U.S. population, not including the 11 million illegal immigrants, will be 245 million by the year 2000, up from 220 million this year. Hispanics, including the 114,000 Cubans who entered this country this year, will account for a major part of the immigration, say the forecasters, and Hispanics will become the largest minority in the country by 1990. The immigrants will relocate mainly in the southwest and a few of the larger cities, says Lazer. "It is quite possible that around the year 2000 Los Angeles could become the nation's largest city, and the sun-belt cities could account for seven of the top U.S. cities." "The face of America will change in at least one other significant way — the population will be older. The number of 20 to 35-year-olds will decline by 25 percent in the next

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