# The ravage of American farm land spells disaster

When I am on the Interstate near Brighton I recall the fuse when the interchange there was first proposed. Some laughed at farmers who complained of the valuable acres they were forced to sell. Others laughed at travelers who complained about the long wait at the old intersection during deer season.

season.

That one interchange now seems a minor part of Michigan farm land converted to highway and urban use. The early complainers don't seem so ludicrous today.

# Max Lerner will speak in Emanu-El series

Author and columnist Max Lerner leads off Temple Emanu-El's Sunday pspeakers' Series at 7:30 pm. Sunday in the temple at 14450 10 Mile Road.
Lerner holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Human Behavior at the Graduate School of Human Abenavior, United State International University at San Diego and is also professor emeritus at Brandeis University. He is a frequent lecturer at The New

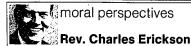
If we continue at the 1967-77 rate of converting prime farm land to urban, industrial, commercial and transportation uses, Michigan will lose 11 percent of its prime farm land before this central prime farm land before this prime farm land before this central prime farm land before this central prime farm land before this central prime farm land before this prime farm land before this central prime farm land before the prime farm land before the prime farm land before the prime farm land befor

of its prime farm land before this cen-tury ends.
A total of 77 percent of our nation's tart cherries are produced in the region around Grand Traverse Bay. In the last ix years, bulldozers and chain saws have destroyed half a million Michigan cherry trees. One by one the orchards are disappearing. The micro-climate required for tart cherries simply can-

School, N.Y.C., and the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State. He travels extensively, lecturing, and his column is syndicated by the Los Angeles Times.

His most recent book is "Ted and The Kennedy Legend: A Study in Char-acter and Destiny" published by St. Martin's Press.

Admission is \$3, asked at the door.



# moral perspectives

NATIONWIDE one million acres of America's prime farm lands are urban-ized each year. That equals four square miles of our best agricultural land eve-

ry day.

Prime land is the best land in terms of soil quality, low susceptibility to ero-sion, growing season and moisture sup-ply. These best farm lands are also the easiest to convert to urban or highway

Farming marginally productive land Farming marginally productive land is costly. More fertilizer, more tractor fuel, more erosion, more irrigation and lower productivity adds up. We all pay. Projections of the human costs of our current land conversion are sobering. These are not guesses or predictions,

but simple projections of facts. By 2000 America will consume all the food it produces and will not be able to help feed hungry people in other countries.

The price of our food will go up sharply, not to mention inflation but in straight real costs. Some foods we enjoy simply will not be grown in quantity enough to get to the stores.

Southeast Michigan may soon not be able to provide the taste of fresh sweet corn, raspberries, musk melon or enjoy cut flowers sold in markets.

WORLD POPULATION is expected to grow from four billion to 6.35 billion by 2000. Poorer nations will experience the worst crowding and food shortages.

Mexico City, for example, may reach 30 million.

or diet will literally lower the gth and intelligence of millions. national tensions will make to-

strength and intelligence of millions. International tensions will make to-day's headlines seem calm. What can we do? We can urge change in federal policies going in two experiences of the control of t We NEED a new land ethic which wellopment can make leaving prime land alone into good dollar sense. Economic incentives to farmers can get them out of the current pressure where many cannot afford not to sell.

We can do even more closer to home. One county in New York has purchased the development rights for 3,300 acres. Local government can identify prime farm land and protect it from urban sprawl.

When NEED a new land ethic which is few years we will be as involved in each great we now in oil shortages. The first step is not legislative or lead in the first step is nort and hinges on the first step is moral and hinges on the step is a raway in any capitol city. The first step is moral and hinges on the first step is moral and hinges on the step is a raway in any capitol city. The first step is moral and hinges on the step is not legislative or lead and it doesn't wait for power brown and the step is not legislative or lead to the step i

tury.

ways or any construction we must stop thinking it is only one little project. A few more little projects promise our children disaster early in the next cen-

## Conference ponders plight of unemployed

Eastern Michigan University's Divi-sion of Continuing Education will participate in a conference to discuss pro-viding new careers for unemployed auto workers.

Eastern Michigan University's JuitJuny, Mercy College, Wayne State University and EMU, will be held at Mercy 
icipate in a conference to discuss proiding new careers for unemployed 
tuto workers.

The conference, co-sponsored by the

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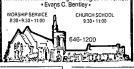
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