County weighs SEMTA pullout

In a surprise move, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week voted to withdraw from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SERTA) unless every "subway vestige" is removed from the region's transit join to antib join to make the end of Thursday's commission incetting after when board members voted to suspend their own rules and

The resolution adds the county will quit SEMTA if the transit plan "falls to take the transportation needs of suburban residents equitably into account."

COMMISSIONER Dennis Aaron, D-Oak Park, called the resolution "saber rattling."
"This is not a self-executing instru-ment. We can't withdraw without an-

Dump-site soil tests planned in Oakland

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week approved a \$146,000 contract for soil tests of four sites under study for possible use as sanitary landfills.

sanitary landfills.

The contract was awarded to the engineering firm of Camp, Dresser and McKee, which identified the four potential sites under an earlier, \$450,000

contract.

contract which primarily will involve soil boring, is to test whether subsoils at the four potential sites are suitable. Engineers are seeking subsoil that is relatively impermeable, like clay, so rainfall running frough the discarded trash does not contaminate the groundwater.

ating about one-third of the trash to produce steam and electricity, which the county plans to sell in a bid to offset the costs of burning.

County residents generate about 4,000 tons of trash a day. County executive Daniel Murphy recently estimated that annual trash tonnage is equivalent to "about 15 Silverdomes-full." Sanitary Isladrills are required under a 1978 state law.

No firm cost figure was set in the contract with the engineers. However, a maximum of \$146,832 was establish-

ed. Two of the potential sites are in Lyon Township, near South Lyon. Another is in Groveland Township, between Holly and Ortonville. The fourth is in Oxford Township, about five miles north of Lake Orion.

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other resolution," Aaron said. "What will happen If we withdraw? Let's find out what will happen if we do the things we're claiming we want to do." Aaron voted in favor of the resolu-

Voting against the resolution were Commissioners Hubert Price Jr., D-Pontiac, and James Doyon, D-Madison Helghts. Commissioner Donald Geary, D-

Commissioner Donaio Geary, DeFerndale, Chose not to vote. Among six absentees were Larry Pernick, De Lathrup Village, and Alexander Perioff, D-Southfield. All other area commissioners supported the resolution.

DOYON, WHO said he opposed the subway but was unwilling to withdraw from SEMTA, engaged in a lengthy back-and-forth debate with Commis-sioner Paul Kasper, R-Bloomfield

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Hills, before the resolution came to a vote. Kasper is the board's designated member of the SEMTA board. "This thing has gotten out of hand in

"This thing has gotten out of hand in that they have been caught up in a pub-lic works project," Kasper said. "I don't think we should pass off on the people of this region a public works plan and call it a transit plan. "We're continuing down that finan-

"We're continuing down that finan-ical irresponsible road for where SEM-TA won't be here for anybody. SEMTA in my opinion will not fill the needs af-ter fiscal year '82."

Kasper criticized what he said was a recently approved \$11-million-deficit SEMTA budget.

Doyon said Oakland County can have a "significant amount of impact" on SEMTA's transit plans because county Road Commissioner John Gnau Jr. was President Reagan's state campaign manager.

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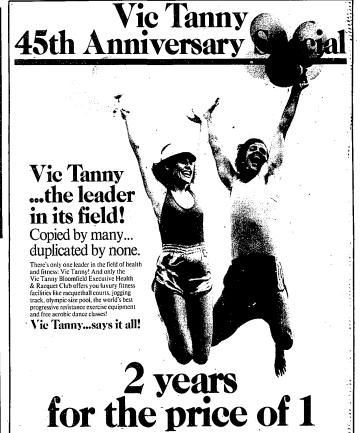


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