County board to study alternative to SEMTA

Should Oakland County get a divorce from SEM-TA and operate its own public transportation sys-

TA and operate us own pursues them?
County should no "Let's work with SEMTA."
Northern commissioners said SEMTA doesn't serve their constituents, and an exclusive transportation authority is the answer.



placed a \$10,000 cap on the bids.

Talk withdrawing fraction of the bids.

Paid Kasper

Paid Good And County

A light-rail, partly underground,

rapid transit plan for the Woodward corridor.

"We're talking about wasting \$10,000 to study something we don't have the money to do. Why are we spending all this money for nothing?" demanded Alezander Perinoff, D-Southfield, who voted against the bid proposal.

REPUBLICAN Paid

REPUBLICAN

REPUBLICAN PAUL Kasper of Bloomfield Hills, who supported it, said, "This proposal would give us an alternative transportation method if SEMTA eliminated its service in Oakland County.

This proposal would give us an alternative transportation method if SEMTA eliminated its service in Oakland County.'

- Paul Kasper, Oakland county

"All we're trying to do is get information. We're not committing outselves to anything, We're in a crisis situation. We have people who need public transportation, and if something happens (to the financing), we need a plan. I think \$10,000 is realistic for any consultant to devise alternatives," he added.

Kasper is one of three Oakland County representatives on the SEMTA board.

SEMTA DEPICIALS repeatedly have told tarpayers that the ailing, seven-county authority suffering from state and federal revenues cuts. Service has been be cut 10 percent this yaker, and furne cuts have been be cut 10 percent this yaker, and furne cuts of the service was service unless a new source of subsidity is found. A Nov. 3 hallot proposal is probable.

Commissioner Lawrence Pernick, D-Southfield.

system.
"Let's forget about federal funds being available.
New Federalism is throwing everything back to the
state. We have millions of dollars in plans," Perinoff said.
"The best thing to do is work with SEMTA. To
assume this burden oursleves would be impossible,"
he said.

'Blues' fear drain on reserves

A recommendation denying Blue Cross and Blue Saield of Michigan emergency rate relief doms BCBSM to a \$100 million underwriting loss this year, said Executive Vice President Richard E. Whitmer.

A Michigan Insurance Bureau hearing officer made that recommendation, and now the next step in the process is up to the insurance commissioner.

"The state regulatory process is floundering. We filled for higher rates last September, more than seven menths ago. But according to the hearing of feter's order, we won't get a decision until at least next September, and that's optimistic." Whitmer said.

nert September, and that's optimisme, said.
"Yet in seven other eastern and Midwestern states, Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans all received comparable rate increases within three

months or less.
"We will immediately file with the insurance commissioner exceptions to the findings of the hearing officer.

"THE COMMISSIONER, according to the hear-ing officer, does have authority to grant interim rate relief, and we urge her to promptly do so to assure BCBSM's 4.9 million subscribers that the

NORTHLAND'S

corporation will remain financially stable,"
Whitmer said.
Whitmer said the hearing officer's recommenda-

Whitmer said the hearing officer's recommendation:

• Ignores near-record losses of \$21.6 million in March, one of the worst monthly losses in BCBSM history.

• Ignores warnings of a respected, independent national consultant that BCBSM will lose \$100 million this year unless the insurance bureau approves immediate adequate rate increasas for 450,000 individual/nongroup subscribers.

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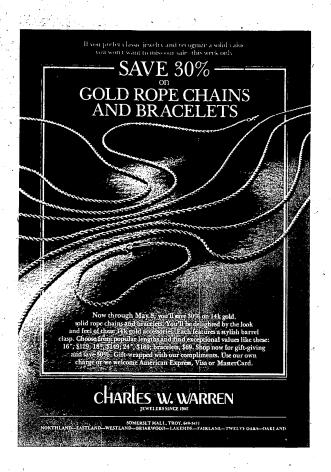
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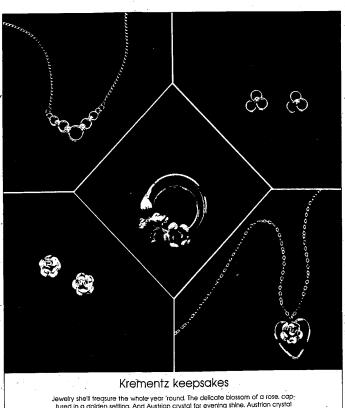
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