It. Suburban officials are moving on three levels to regionalize the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) in the wake of federal indictments against a Detroit city official skil contractors. aid contractors.

"The rate increases, combined with
these serious clouds — it's intolerable,"
said Oakland County Drain Commis-sioner George Kuhn, who has long bat-tied the city's sole control of a facility
which serves Detroit and 103 neighbor-ing communities.

ing communities.

The battlegrounds will be U.S. Dis-tlet Court; the Michigan Legislature and possibly the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Kuhn said.

Guncil of Governments, Kuhn said.

IN FEDERAL Court, Kuhn's attorney, William P. Hampton, this week will join the U.S. attorney's office in ciking Judge John Felkens to remove Charles Beckham as director of the IWSD. Beckham and five others were lidited on charges of brilbery and racketeering in connection with a stidge-habiling contract.

But Kuhn said he will go one step beyond the U.S. attorney and ask Felkens also to remove Detroit Mayor Coleman Young as special administrator of the DWDS, which is under the supervision of the federal court since a 1977 apit-pollution case.

"He is all powerful, and he has violated his trust," Kuhn said of Young. Ho went around the city council and unlakerally took power into his own hand the beginning of the case in 1977, whurchen filtels had exter Felkers to

unintertally took power into his own bands."

At the beginning of the case in 1977, suburban officials had asked Felkens to appoint an administrator not connected with the city of Detroit. Among the names tossed around were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Lee A. Iacocca, then out of work after being president of Ford Motor Co-He had a bigher cailing, God bless him, and saved Chrysler, sald Kubn.

Felkens instead picked Young, citing the principle of city home rule and cloaking the mayor with great powers in dealing with the sewage treatment plant.

KUHN SAID he is seeking help from

several senators in getting state legislation to regionalize political control of DWDS. The sever-member governing board, though it has three suburban members, is appointed and removable by the mayor of Detroit.

A regional authority would not be beholden to any one mayor," said Kuhn. He added that state Sens. Richard Fessier, R-Union Lake, and Gibert DiNello, D-East Detroit, are interested in the project.

lo, D-East Detroit, are interested in the project.
"I want them to get all 38 senators surveyed. This should not be a one-man or two-man bill," Kuhn said.
The general plan is to have a ninemember water board with representation based on population — three from Detroit and six from the customer communities.

BESIDES BOARD control, a second target is the Detroit city charter provision which allows only city residents to work for DWSD. A major operating problem has been hiring qualified persons to operate the plant.
"Every engineer, in the state of Michigan has been surveyed twice on working there," said Kuhn. "The pay is infinitely better, but they (engineers) don't want to live there."

tomer communities."
Kuhn acknowledged bis own petition
drive fell 20,000 signatures of what was
needed to place a similar change in
state law on the ballot.
Detroit will resist any effort to reglonalize the DWSD. In a 1981 interview, Beckham called the system one
of Detroit's greatest civic prides.

FINALLY, KUHN will try to enlist the aid of Oakiand County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, who also holds the little of chairman of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Murphy was out of town at the begin-ning of the week.

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He added, "Detroit does not own the

Teachers union lauds Blanchard on budget

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WIGGS

Officials of the Michigan Education Association commended Gov. James Blanchard for advancing "bold and honest proposals to solve the state's fiscal pilght."

"We think he has a realistic grasp of the severity of the problem and has outlined a direct and realistic approach to solving the problems at hand," said MEA President Keith Geiger.

Blanchard proposed a 1.5 percent increase in the state personal income tax rate for operations and a 0.25 percent increase to pay of past bills. Current

rate is 4.6 percent.

"We believe his proposals include solutions which will go far toward finally solving the fiscal problem and will make Michigan solvent again instead of putting yet another Band-Aid on an already-gaping wound," said Geiger.

The association, whose local members are bargaining agents for most suburban and outstate teachers, said it was pleased to hear the governor's commitment to solving the cash-flow problem.

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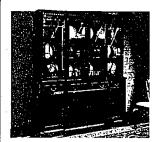
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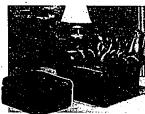
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