

Detroit chamber backs transit tax

The Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce has announced its support of the principle of a sales tax increase dedicated to transportation for southeast Michigan.

"A modern comprehensive transit system will offer more to our economic well-being and future than any other single project," said Chamber President Frank E. Smith at the chamber's December board meeting.

"To implement the plan," however, said Smith, "a dedicated local source of funding is needed. No transportation system is self supporting."

A STUDY commission by the chamber and other groups early in 1984 recommended a sales tax of 1 percent dedicated to transportation purposes.

The action by the chamber board left unanswered questions about the amount of a sales tax or whether it should be regional or statewide.

For many years, the Greater Detroit Chamber has advocated a comprehensive regional public transportation system for southeast Michigan, with a publicly approved source of revenue to subsidize operations.

"We prefer the sales tax at this time," said Smith, "because it appears to have greater public support than other options and because its revenues will grow to meet transit needs into the future."

The Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Study, commissioned by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Associated General Contractors of Detroit, and the AFL-CIO of Detroit, and completed in March, 1984, by Public Sector Consultants of Lansing (PSC), details the social and economic benefits that would accrue upon implementation of SEMTA's regional public transportation "consensus plan."

AMONG THE benefits it sees are:

- Uniting the region's multiple business activity centers.
- Making the region more competitive for attracting and retaining business.
- Generating \$5.9 billion of regional sales revenues and personal income by adding 5,200 permanent jobs.
- Increasing mobility and making cultural, medical, and educational facilities more accessible.

"IT IS TERRIBLY important that the business community as it is represented by the chamber has indicated that it is willing to back this issue in the interest of southeast Michigan's future economic vitality," said Smith.

"This represents the next step toward realizing a mass transit system — identifying a local subsidy source which can be proposed to the voters."

Winkelman board approves sellout

The board of directors of Winkelman Stores Inc. announced it has unanimously approved the announced proposal by Petrie Stores Corp. to acquire in a merger transaction the remaining Winkelman's shares.

The company expects to submit the transaction to its shareholders for approval at a special meeting soon. The company added that the merger might be completed as early as next February.

Winkelman's operates 70 women's specialty stores, primarily in Michigan, with sales of \$83.4 million for the nine months ended Oct. 31. Winkelman's has been included in the Petrie Stores results of operations since Nov. 1, 1983.

Petrie Stores operates approximately 1,375 women's specialty retail stores in 48 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and District of Columbia, with sales of \$619 million for nine months ended Oct. 31.

Under the proposal, each share of Winkelman's stock will be exchanged for Petrie Stores common stock having a value of \$15 as determined by closing prices of Petrie Stores stock.

Petrie Stores common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Winkelman common stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange.

correction

The Moral Perspectives column in the Dec. 20 issue, titled "We Could All Learn from Christmas," was written by the Rev. Robert Schaden, and not Rabbi Irwin Groner. The error occurred in some editions of the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

Chrysler aids famine victims

Chrysler Corp. donated \$25,000 for relief aid to famine victims in Africa.

"We are shocked and alarmed by the human suffering in Ethiopia and some other African countries," said Michael M. Glusac, Chrysler director of government affairs. Glusac presented the \$25,000 check to Anthony J. Vinci, chairman of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Chemists form pioneering firm

Scientists at a biotechnology company recently founded by a group of Oakland University researchers are developing new drugs for the treatment of life-threatening blood clots.

Denis Callewaert, an OU biochemist and a partner in Proteins International, said the drugs may improve the chances of survival of patients suffering from several ailments. Among them are heart attack, pulmonary embolism (clots in the lung) and deep-vein thrombosis.

Callewaert said research on one new drug has been added by a \$50,000 small business innovation research grant from the National Institutes of Health.

RESULTS 90 far are promising and have led to a number of patent applications, Callewaert said. The firm has applied for a phase two grant of \$500,000 to perform further laboratory research and development work.

Clinical tests on human patients are still "down the road," he added.

Proteins International was founded in 1983 by Callewaert and Robert Stern, also a member of the OU chemistry department. Cynthia Sevilla and Norma Mahle, part-time research associates at OU, are limited partners.

The OU chemists participate in company research part time. The firm also em-

ploys one of the university's biochemistry graduates full time. It is located in a Rochester Industrial and research complex.

PROTEINS International is conducting research on two other projects:

- Isolation of proteins from human urine. The proteins are of pharmaceutical interest. The urinary protein kallikrein can be used to treat high blood pressure. Another may prove useful in treating emphysema.

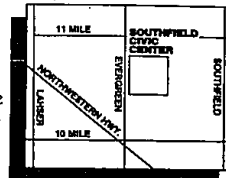
- Development of a test that would allow physicians to determine the level of a patient's immune response to cancer cells.



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