

SEMTA's woes don't dismay 3 jobseekers

By Kathy Parrish

Why would anyone apply for a job that could disappear in six months?

It's exactly that "challenge" that attracted the three men competing to be the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) general manager.

While well aware of SEMTA's troubles - which could mean shutting down the ailing system within a year unless there's a state or federal bailout - the final candidates are eager to hop aboard.

"I'm not looking for job security, I'm looking for a challenge and willing to take a risk," 38-year-old William G. Stead told SEMTA's board of directors Tuesday during his hour-long interview. The candidate, a civil engineer, is director of operations for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Boston, Mass.

George Billman, 58, a Miami civil engineer, called SEMTA's problems "symptoms of lack of management control."

"I FEEL very strongly this can be a premiere system in this continent," Billman said. "The challenge is there. But I also see the ability to get things done."

SEMTA acting general manager Albert Martin, who recently opted to be a candidate for the job, said he wants to carry through his past year's work.

"Most of the problems of the Downtown People Mover have been solved and the bus system maintained effectively," explained Martin, 43.

"All of my energy and thoughts went into handling the job in the most effective manner. And I've done what I set out to do."

Underway since October, 1984 the national search was handled by consultants Plante & Moran. The Southfield firm was paid \$40,000 to scout out top notch candidates for SEMTA general manager.

Michael J. Brice of Plante & Moran described the process as "lengthy and very challenging." Despite SEMTA's decline, which has attracted national press coverage, the firm was pleased with the calibre of candidates.

DAILY REVELATIONS about the Downtown People Mover's defects and spiraling costs didn't scare off applicants. In fact, the final 13 were all "people capable of handling this kind of thing," Brice said.

'I'm not looking for job security. I'm looking for a challenge and willing to take a risk.'

***—William Stead
MTA operations director***

"They were all very capable, exciting and competent individuals."

Plante & Moran narrowed the field from 75 to 13, with the SEMTA board's search committee choosing Billman and Stead for final interviews.

Stead, who was recruited by Plante & Moran, is chief operating officer for the nation's fifth largest mass transit system serving 545,000 passengers each weekday. He also was chief of staff for New York City Transit Authority.

Billman is principal engineer with Raymond Kaiser Engineers, Inc., Miami, Fla.

Both men have worked on Semta projects. Stead worked on projects related to the proposed Woodward Avenue rapid transit corridor. Billman was project director for the Detroit Light Rail Program.

FORMERLY SEMTA's director of human resources and personnel administration, Martin was added to the list of candidates this month. His background is in personnel administration.

Brice said it was "appropriate" for the acting general manager to be considered. "In fact, we've known Al Martin for years and years. I could say honestly he has gone through an informal interview process through the board's and our knowledge of him."

"And it's typical for current staff always to be considered."

But some SEMTA board members expressed concern over a candidate who had not gone through the whole selection process.

"It doesn't seem fair. Why go through the entire process when he's not a candidate in the first place?" asked Fred Todd, chief financial officer for Wayne County.

GRAND OPENING COME SEE OUR NEW BEAUTY CENTER

Look what we can do for you now! For only \$25.

We've added a new Beauty Center to our Beauty Salon at Oakland. And to introduce our new line of services we're making this exciting offer, all for just \$25. Here's what you'll get:

- FACIAL
 - skin analysis
 - deep pore cleansing
 - personalized masque
 - brushing and vacuuming
 - contouring make-up application
 - DIGITS PEDICURE
 - collagen/paraffin treatment
 - foot massage
 - DIGITS nail glaze finish
 - RELAXING MASSAGE
 - by our certified masseuse
 - hand, arm, shoulders
 - \$5 OFF TANNING SESSION CERTIFICATE
 - Wolfi system tanning bed
 - BEAUTY BASICS TRAVEL BAG
 - filled with Glamby hair and skin products.
- Offer expires June 1st. One visit per client please. Hudson's Beauty Salon, 585-3291, Oakland store only.

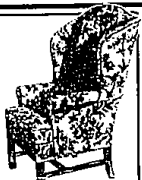


hudson's

© 1985 Dayton Hudson

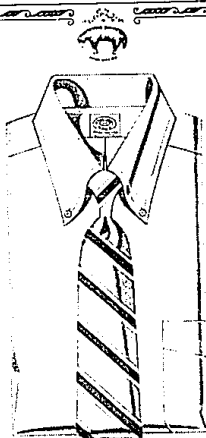
EXCELLENCE

You demand it of yourself, expect it from your upholsterer. At A.E. Hoskinson's, we give you excellence in upholstery.



A.E. Hoskinson

EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY
3337 AUBURN ROAD, AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN 48306-3213



Now our famous oxford shirt has a "slim-fit" version, too

In addition to our celebrated full-cut oxford shirt, our own skilled shirtmakers now make this "slim-fit" shirt. It's of the same long staple Pima cotton oxford cloth with the same button-down Polo collar. The only difference is the way it fits the body. Instead of the fullness our original is famous for, it's sealed down to fit closer in the chest and waist. So, if you'd like a closer fit, simply ask for our "slim-fit" oxford shirt. In white, blue, yellow and pink. Collar sizes 14½ to 17½; long sleeves 32 to 36. \$32

Use your Brooks Brothers Card, American Express or Diners Club

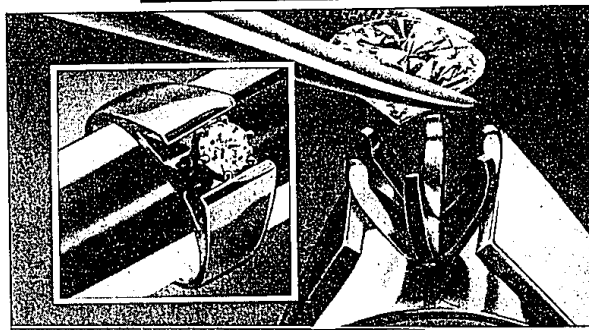
ESTABLISHED 1818

Brooks Brothers
CLOTHING

Furnishings for Men, Women & Boys
645 GRISWOLD, PENNSCOT BLDG.,
DETROIT • SOMERSET MALL, TROY

See your diamonds expertly reset during our

JEWELRY RESTYLING EVENT



WHILE YOU WAIT

See your diamonds and precious stones transformed into a new and exciting piece of jewelry right before your eyes. Our experts will reset them while you wait. Choose from a variety of styles ranging from the classic to the contemporary in 14k yellow or white gold. We offer designs for rings, earrings, bridal sets and men's rings. An appraiser will be available for insurance and estate evaluation. Please call for an appointment.

OAKLAND - MAY 17
SOMERSET - MAY 18
BRIARWOOD - MAY 20
TWELVE OAKS - MAY 21

WESTLAND - MAY 22
LAKESIDE - MAY 23
EASTLAND - MAY 24
FAIRLANE - MAY 25

CHARLES W. WARREN

JEWELERS SINCE 1902

SOMERSET MALL, (313) 549-3411
EASTLAND - WESTLAND - BRIARWOOD - LAKESIDE - FAIRLANE - OAKLAND - TWELVE OAKS

Use our own Brooks Card or we work with American Express, Visa or MasterCard.

Save a life. Learn CPR.

American Red Cross

+

Together, we can change things.