

Feds can't pay for river cleanup—Rep. Ford

By Tedd Schneider
staff writer

Local governments can still seek help from the federal government on environmental projects such as the Rouge River cleanup but the government can't provide money, according to U.S. Rep. William D. Ford, D-Taylor.

Ford said Monday that funds traditionally earmarked for such projects have been disappearing under the defense-heavy budgets proposed by the Reagan Administration in recent years.

He suggested that the government can help, though, by passing legislation such as the Clean Water Act.

"Legislation that helps police industry" may be the only tactic left

for those hoping to curb Rouge River and other environment abuses, he said.

MANY SEWAGE treatment systems built only 20 years ago can't handle today's industrial waste, much of which is non-biodegradable products, Ford said. "We need more sophisticated and extensive treatment programs."

Ford, who is seeking a 12th term in Congress, addressed a wide range of topics during an interview with editors and reporters from the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

His district includes in Wayne County the cities of Belleville, Garden City, Romulus, Taylor, Wayne, Westland, and parts of Livonia, Dearborn Heights and Southgate.

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— U.S. Rep. William D. Ford
D-Taylor



Ford, who serves as a ranking member of the House subcommittee on post secondary education and on elementary, secondary and vocational education, said priorities in the House may be shifting in favor of

education funding for the first time since 1980.

HE SAID \$1.2 billion for education programs was added to the 1986-1987 budget.

He cautioned that the way to ensure survival of vocational education programs is to use local and state funds in addition to federal money.

Ford said the Wayne-Westland Schools' vocational/technical center named after him, is a good example of a project realizing its goals through multi-level funding.

The congressman also commented on tax reform, federal revenue sharing and national health insurance during an hour-long interview.

Ford said he had mixed feelings about the tax reform proposal passed by the Senate Finance Committee last week (the Packwood proposal).

"OVERALL, IT'S a good direction to go," Ford said. But he said, "What's good for people (in Louisi-

ana, Oklahoma and Texas) who are interested in oil wells, may not be good for blue collar-service industry families in the \$20,000-\$40,000 (annual income) range."

He was mildly critical of local mayors who refused to speak out against President Reagan's budget proposals and now wonder what they can do to replace Community Development Block Grants and other funds which have been cut.

"Frankly, they are a day late and a dollar short," Ford said.

Ford said some kind of national health insurance program is still needed. But, he said, the political climate is no longer right for such a program, which, he said, has long been favored by liberal Democrats in both the House and Senate.

Kemp, GOP take aim at Democratic stronghold

By Diane Gale
staff writer

U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp, R-New York, in Michigan last week to rally Republicans in suburban Wayne County, called the GOP the party which best represents "growth, jobs, opportunity and the American dream."

Kemp was in Canton Township as one of a host of national state Kemp and local Republicans who stopped in to blitz the 15th Congressional District, which includes in Wayne County the cities of Belleville, Garden City, Romulus, Taylor, Wayne, Westland, and parts of Livonia, Dearborn Heights and Southgate.

The district has been represented for 22 years by Taylor Democrat William D. Ford.

In an interview, Kemp said the GOP as making new appeals to traditional Democratic voters such as blacks, college students and young people.

"We should be a people party," Kemp said. "There are some people in our party who still want it to be an elitist party."

"We have to show our young people the party of the future is the Republican Party and the party of the past is the Democratic Party."

U.S. Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia said, "It's important that the Republican party become the party of opportunity in the country — reaching out to new voters to the left wing by the end of summer."

The contract was awarded to Ajax Paving Industries of Madison Heights for \$229,398.

The firm will add a left turn lane and resurface the existing lanes on Orchard Lake.

Orchard Lake to be widened

The Oakland County Road Commission has awarded a bid for widening of Orchard Lake Road between 11 Mile Road and the I-696 freeway in Farmington Hills.

Road commission chairman John Gnaur Jr. said the project will begin in the next month and be completed

by the end of summer.

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ple across the district to get involved," said picnic organizer Terry Bennett.

Bennett is concentrating on enlisting people who will run as Republican precinct delegate candidates in the Aug. 5 primary election.

Working as a delegate is an "opportunity to get involved in grass root politics," Bennett said.

State Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia,

said she believes the 15th district is the district "to watch."

She said that if the 15th changes from voting for Democrats to voting for Republicans "then Michigan will change. It's a real indication of the future of Michigan."

Speaking to the crowd at the rally were Republican gubernatorial candidates William Lucas, Dick Chrysler and Dan Murphy.

Kemp declined to say who he supports in the gubernatorial race. He said, however, he was "pleased to see" William Lucas running.

The GOP speakers also spoke about a need to elect a Republican to replace U.S. Rep. William D. Ford, D-Taylor, who has represented the district in Congress for the last 21 years.

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