Radioactive waste is her 'hottest' job yet

a viable site, the odds are high that Michigan will be selected." McAn-inch said. She noted that Michigan produces the most low-level radioac-tive waste in terms of volume and

EVERLY Meaninch is selden idle. Over the past 15 years, she has pursued an interest in governmental affairs in Plymouth city government, the Southeast Michigan Council of governments (SEMCOG), the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority and a four-year stint as president of the League of women Voters of Michigan. The former mayor of Plymouth is devoting her energies (50 hours per week) to her 'hottest' assignment yet — resolving the state's radioactive waste disposal dilemma.

"I want this disposal issue handed right. That is why I got involved," said McAninch, who chairs the Michigan Radioactive Waste Suste Control Committee.

The seven-member panel was cre-

Committee.
The seven-member panel was created by the Michigan Legislature in December 1985. It is comprised of four nuclear waste experts and three members of the general public and is charged with advising Gov. James Blanchard and the Legislature about the diseased. the disposal of the state's low-level radioactive waste.

"MY GOAL is to open the deci-sion-making process to all the people in Michigan" said McAninch, a mother of four and grandmother to two youngsters.
"My biggest concerns are the po-litical and emotional problems sur-rounding the siting of a radioactive waste disposal facility. Tim not as concerned about the technical prob-lems. This type of wate has been safely contained in the past," she said.

safely contained in the past," she said.

The disposal issue came to a head in 1980, when the federal government mandated the states to manage their own low-level radioactive wastes by 1993. Low-level radioactive wastes are byproducts of nuclear power plants, hospitals, universities, research institutions and industry.

Michigan formed a regional compact with Iowa, indiana, Missouri, Michigan Minessoti and Ohio to address the problem. On Feb. 27, Michigan, Watsonalio, Michosalio, alon diffuncies were named the four tinalities in the "host state" site selection process.

"UNLESS ANOTHER state in the Midwest compact volunteers and has

ridioactivity of the compact states. 17wo communities in Wisconsin have tentatively volunteered. Whou is 8 percent of Michigan's low-level radioactive waste volume is generated by nuclear power plant operation and maintenance. This waste is comprised of used filters, resins, clothing, tools and reactor components.

components.

Spent fuel rods are not included.

McAninch and her committee recently completed a series of public
meetings around Michigan to
palain the site selection process and
solicit volunteer communities to host
the waste facility. An incentive
package of approximately \$2 million
yearly is available for the host community.

TWO UPPER Peninsula commun-lties and six in Lower have request-ed more information.

"H I were living at a potential site, I would be concerned and would want more information," said McAn-inch. "There are tough political and economics issues such as property values and the potential loss of rec-

reational business that need to be addressed.

She contends the emotional issues are birder to address. "The psychological fear of nuclear weato is as real as the order to address." The psychological fear of nuclear weato is as real as the physical safety consider altons."

McAnlach said most of the objections to locating a low-level radiancier waste facility in Michigan focus on the storage of Class C wastes have the bighest level of radiacativity and decay to safe levels within 500 years.

"The criticism leveled at the Class C waste has been well thought out and responsible," McAnlach noted.
"Our committee is looking at the is-

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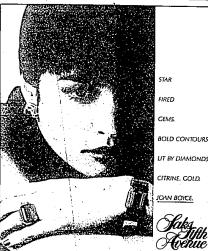
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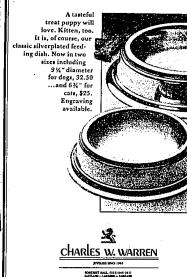


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