Edward Cleoro's forceast for the construction industry here in 1993 — cloudy with a possibility for partial clearing.
Cleoro, president of the Detroit chapter of the Assoclated General Contractors of America and vice president of operations for Milligard Environmental of Livonia, spoke Monday to the Economic Club of Detroit.

"Being able to keep our contracting organizations together during the recession, satisfy our customers and achieve any profit has taken a heavy toil on the construction industry in southeast Michigan," he said.

Three major changes — un precedented competition among contractors, shrinking or non-existent profit margins and shifting of more risks from owners to contractors—are taking place in the local marketplace, Cicero said.

But he found some bright spots.

"If the Clinton Administration

But he found some bright spats.

"If the Clinton Administration delivers on its intention to invigorate our Infrastructure and designs an urban redevelopment program for cities like Detroit, and does it with a kinder and gentler economic stimulus than past presidents who have been saddled with the task of getting the nation out of a recession, then we will have made some purgess."

Later, in an interview, Cieros said that kindler and gentler alluded to taxation. He added that



Edward Cicero: "I hope I don't sound too gloomy. There are many potenial bright spots on the hori-

201."
unfocused, make-work projects just to stimulate the economy could cause more harm than good.
"It should be thought out and well-planned," he said.
During his address, Cicero cited a transportation improvement program planned by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments that could provide up to \$1.5 billion for new roads, improvements and other projects from 1993-95. Gov. John Engler also is pursuing a Build Michigan infrastructure program, Cicero

said:
"So expect to see more Construction Ahead signs as you drive around southeast Michigan in 1993."

drive around southeast Michigan in 1993."
But Ciero said in his talk to the Economic Glub that he's concerned about where the incoming administration is headed on environmental issues.
"If the vice president-elect has his way, the environmental noose could tighten so much that the infrastructure program will never early experience of the ground," he said.
"The Clean Air Act has provisions that discourage construction. Hopefully, the new administration will realize that to make an omelet, you have to break a few eggs."

tration will realize that to make an omclet, you have to break a few eggs."
Cicero also called for tax credits and the ability to withdraw down payments from individual retirement accounts without pensity of first-time home buyers.
"It is no secret that residential construction leads the construction industry into a recession," he said.
Detroit has excellent potential for construction activity, he said, citing recent efforts to build residential subdivisions like Victoria Center.
"I think Diane Edgecomb, president of the Central Business District Association, hit the noil right on the head when she men

tioned during my research for these remarks that "Detroil is sono-compelitive when it comes to taxation. Many voices need to teach out and complain, about that fact," he said.

Cleero also roliterated growth and redevelopment projects at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Willow Run Airport and M-85 forecast by economic development officials.

Cicroc tosed his presentation by urging special help for small business owners, especially those in the manufacturing sector.

"If we don't act soon to help the owners of our manufacturing faction." If we don't act soon to help the owners of our manufacturing fall financing, then we are headed toward disaster, he said.

"Expanding small manufacturing plants creates bread and butter projects for the construction industry," he said.

Later, Cicero elaborated on his remarks during an interview.

"I think you're going to see some growth, but I think it will become and the search of the construction of the search of the s

That isn't the case now, he said.

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clutes caoinets, consertops, appliances and letevision, video and-or stereo equipment, labor.

The trade group has compiled some examples.

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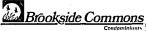
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