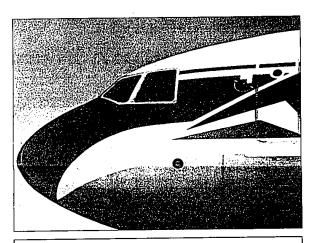
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Merchants from page 1A

Act 120 could help

The state's property tax cut for schools will cause the shortfall.

The DDA is considering replacing the money through Public Act 120, which allows cities to establish principal shopping districts for the purpose of development and redevelopment. The act also allows cities to levy special assessments to pay for such projects.

Farmington city manager Frank

cets.
Farmington city manager Frank
Lauhoff, DDA board president
Robert Fitzpatrick and DDA director Judy Downey explained the
act and the need for it in an informational meeting Wednesdey in
city council chambers.

Downtown business owners — some of who would be paying the assessment — were in attendance as were residents.

DDA director Judy Downey told business owners and residents the \$130,000 would pay for administrative salaries, market-

ing, maintenance and business development. The act requires money from a special assessment to be spent on predesignated proj-ects within the district.

"We want to maintain what we've already done," Downey said.

said.

DDA officials were quick to point out the assessment would be small compared to the 33 mills in property tax that were levied by the schools.

They also said TIF revenue —
property taxes which the DDA siphons off — generated from any
new taxes levice by the state or
the schools would be used to
offset the assessment.

offset the assessment.

The DDA still receives TIF revenue from taxes levied by the city, the Huron-Clinton Valley Authority and Oakland County Community College. Also, there is a 2 mill levy on commercial and residential property in the Central Business District.

Special hearing expected
A special hearing will have to
take place and city council has to
experience and city council has to
experience and city council has to
prove the special assessment. A'
hearing is expected in December.
The special assessment would
be based on state equalized valuation of commercial property.
There are 106 parcels within the.
Central Business District.
Also, Lundoff said they are tentatively looking at something
around a 9-mill levy.
That's of little consolation to
Sandra Burchart, owner of Victorian Lace Elegance Ceramics &
Country Accounts in the Village
Mail. She said the past two
months have been brutuil business wise.
Burchart said she opposes any
special assessment.

We have to take all of the flak

Burchart said she opposes any special assessment.

"We have to take all of the flak from the city over signs ... Burchart said."When we suggest something that will bring people downtown, no one ever follows up on it."

Debate from page 1A

power,

"She does bring star quality to
this administration," Clift said.
"She certainly is in the forefront
of the health-are debate."

Barnes said that unlike President Clinton, who has said the
health care system is "broken,"
the believes it to be the best in the
world, a system that should not
be fundamentally changed.
"The trick will be to change it
without jeopardizing what's good
about it "he said.
The issues of the uninsured,
portability of health coverage, insuring those with pre-existing
conditions and lowering the cost,
which accounts for 14 percent of
the nation's gross domestic product, are important issues, Barnes
said.

Answer from the audience
Barnes said he worries about
the Clinton proposal's lack of
choices and cited the misdingnosis of a headache in U.S. Sen.
Arlen Specter. Specter insisted,
despite his doctor's continued assurances that there was nothing
seriously wrong with the Pennsylvania senator, that he be given a
magnetic resonance imaging
exam, or MRI, an expensive pro-

cedure. The MRI turned up a potentially life-threatening brain turner, which was removed.

"What will happen if you can't go on (for further treatments)?" he said.

But in the audience, Dr. Christine LePoudre, who has a practice in Farmington Hills and is on Botsford's staff, had an answer.

"As long as there are lawyers out there, everyone will get an MRI," she said.

Barnes said he also worries about adding another group of bureauerats to oversee health care. Clift countered that the last presidential election was about there are led of government as an agent for change.

"This is just the opening bid," she said of the proposal. "George Bush would still be president if hed taken on a single domestic policy, This election showed that an activist government is what people want."

Clift added that the driving

an activist government is what people want. Cilft added that the driving forces behind health-care reform were the increasing costs already being paid by the working middle class and the realization that aspects of the plan, such as rationing, are already a reality for most working people.

"This represents a huge piece of social engineering, much like social security," Clift said.

of social engineering, much like social security." Cilft said.

'Lots of trial balloons'
Cooper said he thought the media had been fair in presenting health-care issues, but they were reporting on one of the most complicated subjects in American life.

"The Clintons put up a lot of trial balloons in the media because they wanted reaction," he said. "That has been very successful at telling them what will be supported."

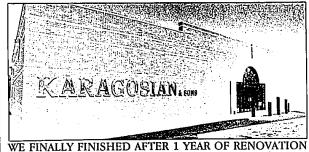
Cooper said Hillary Clinton has done a thorough job on the plan but added that he worries about the role of the proposed National Health Board.

"This will overshadow the Federal Reserve," he said.

Because the public's appetite for addressing the issue has been "whetted," Congress will have to act or face the political consequences next year, Cooper said. Clift agreed.

"It (proposel) will have been out there for a year," she said. "People want an end to gridlock. These people (Congressmen) will want to save themselves as much as they want to save the country."





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