

Metric System: Costly But Inevitable

By CHARLOTTE MAJNER
Special Writer

That the United States join the majority of countries in the use of the metric system seems to be an inevitable and costly — endeavor, according to several leaders of area chambers of commerce. U.S. Rep. Marvin Esh (R-Ann Arbor) has introduced a bill that the U.S. convert from

the present duodecimal system, derived from the Romans measuring things in 12s, to the metric system, which measures them in 10s.

"To conduct orderly trade, a society must create and maintain a proper system of weights and measures," says the Encyclopedia Britannica.

JACK ROOSE, president of

the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, thinks that since "the rest of the world is on it, it is inevitable that we will change."

There were other views. "At the present time I don't think there is an advantage. It would take a lot of money to change, and we could use that loot for schools. Most people are not anxious to go along with change and I don't know how helpful it would be. It would be convenient as far as trade," says Paul Rosin, president of Westland Chamber of Commerce.

"The world would be on the same system, and this is the advantage. It is costly to both

the United States and Europe now, but when we change, it would help out both sides," says Ed Lane, executive director of the commerce chamber in Farmington.

JOHN THOMAS, president of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce believes that the metric system is "more precise and has mathematical advantages."

Mrs. Jo Neumann, Garden City's executive secretary of the commerce chamber, thinks that it "would give a little more uniformity to our business dealings."

The metric system began in France in 1789, but it was not

until 1837 that a law was passed forbidding the use of any units other than the metric in that country.

It was devised by French scientists who hoped to establish a suitable system for all times and all peoples. They based the system on permanent natural standards.

The advantages were so great that it spread to many countries. Now the metric system is used in all continental European countries, Latin America and several Asiatic countries and in nearly all scientific work because of its simplicity.

THE DUODECIMAL

system is our present method of measurement derived from the Romans who divided weights and measures into 12 for the greatest convenience.

The ounce originated from the Roman unica or one-12th, and there is a commercial preference for the dozen since 12 articles can be packaged in a variety of ways.

The foot was one of the earliest linear units and at first was the length of any human foot, later becoming the length of a king's or headman's foot. The inch was originally a thumb's breadth and, according to the Roman duodecimal system, defined as one-12th.

The Romans defined the mile as 1,000 paces or double steps, a pace being equal to five Roman feet. By tradition, England's Henry I is supposed to have decreed that the yard should be the distance from the tip of his nose to the end of his thumb.

THE METRIC system of measurement, under proposition now, is a method of measurement based upon the meter and gram. It is a decimal system of weights and measures represented by standards preserved at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France.

The primary standard of length is a bar of platinum alloyed with 10 per cent iridium. The basic unit of linear measure is the meter, comparable to the yard but larger. It is the distance between two lines engraved across the surface near the ends of that bar when the bar is at a temperature of melting ice.

The basic unit of mass is the gram. The standard for the gram is a simple cylinder made of the same substance as the bar. Larger and smaller units are derived from the basic ones in decimal steps of 10.

Stadium Bond Rate 6.64 Pct.

Groundbreaking for the domed Wayne County Stadium on Detroit's riverfront is envisioned for early June as a result of sale of \$126 million in revenue bonds to finance the project.

A syndicate headed by two Detroit firms and four out-state investors was the lowest of two bidders when bids were opened last week by the Wayne County Stadium Authority.

The group bought the bonds for a net interest rate of 6.63959 per cent over the 40-year life of the bond issue.

THE SUCCESSFUL bidders were represented by the Chicago bond management firm of Halsey, Stuart & Co. The prime members of the group included the First of Michigan Corp. and the Bank of the Commonwealth, both of Detroit, plus Blyth & Co. and Drexel-Firestone Inc., both of New York; and the First Boston Corp. of Boston.

The other bidding syndicate was headed by the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York. Its bid of 6.655 per cent was estimated at about \$250,000 higher in interest charges than the successful bid.

Bids were taken after Stadium Authority lawyers advised that two court suits aimed at blocking the stadium did not preclude sale of the bonds. However, they said, one of the court actions which raises a constitutional question must be settled before the bonds "close" in 60 days.

McGovern Campaign HQ Opens

Supporters of Sen. George McGovern, seeking the Democratic Party presidential nomination, have a 15th Congressional District headquarters to get their bumper stickers and campaign literature.

The McGovern campaign center in the 15th District opened Thursday afternoon following ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremonies.

The center is at 6623 Allen Rd., Allen Park and will be directed by District Coordinators Arnold Keller and David Woodrow, both of Taylor, and Larry Knight, of Wayne.

Keller said that the headquarters will maintain hours of 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. seven days a week.

ever listen to your INTEREST?



YOU'LL LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR WITH LIVONIA NATIONAL BANK'S PREPAID INTEREST PROGRAM.

NOW prepaid interest in a way you will always remember because it is there for you to enjoy long before you have earned it -- and there to enjoy long after other interest money has been spent and forgotten.

ONLY at LIVONIA NATIONAL BANK can you receive a high performance General Electric Solid State FM/AM-FM Stereo Component Music System when you open a Stereo Special Account of \$520 for 5 years. Or, you may want to use alternate plans whereby you can deposit more money for a lesser period of time and still get your stereophonic component units.

BUT whichever plan you choose, you will receive your 40 Watt Peak Music Power Stereo upon opening your account and may begin enjoying good stereo music immediately from your FM/AM Radio or from records played on a 4-speed deluxe professional changer.

REMEMBER this beautiful Stereo Music System is yours in place of interest payment prior to your having earned it; consequently, no additional interest will be paid on your account during the time required to earn this quality-crafted system.

SO open your Stereo Special Account today and listen to the sweet sound of music this evening and for many years to come. Hear your sound of music NOW at the Saturday Bank -- you'll be glad you did.

LIVONIA NATIONAL BANK

Member FDIC



Helpful Civic Information to acquaint you with your new community. Call the Welcome Wagon Hostess so that she may visit you.

WAYNE COUNTY
Office 961-7750
LIVONIA, PLYMOUTH
NORTHVILLE, REDFORD
GARDEN CITY AND WESTLAND
OAKLAND COUNTY
Office 842-2120
FARMINGTON AND
SOUTHFIELD

Welcome Wagon