COG Is Called 'Last Hope' Of Urban Sprawl

The new top man of the South-eastern Michigan Council of Governments (COG) calls him-self "a conservative in my approach to metro govern-ment."

ment."

E. Robert Turner, in his madden speech last week afterone month on the job, talked like a 19th century Jeffersonian Democrat when he said last week that "the government closest to the people is best."

ment closest to the people is bost."

Turner called voluntary regional councils "the last hope for urban democracy. If we at the local level continue to fail to live up to our responsibilities, then another level of government"—meaning the federal—"vill assume those responsibilities."

TURNER WAS hired a month to be executive director of ago to be executive director of COG, a voluntary association of six counties and hundreds of cities, townships, villages and school districts in southeastern Michigan.

school districts in southeastern Michigan. A graduate of Dartmouth and He University of Pennsylvania, Turner had been city manager of Bouder, Colo, for six years as the consideration of Burbania of Dartmouth of the Colo, for six years as the consideration of Burbania of Dartmouth of the Colo, for six years as the color of Burbania of Burban

bers include Farmington city, township and school district; Plymouth city, township and school district, Livonia school



E. ROBERT TURNER

district, and Wayne school dis-trict.
Non-members are the cities of Livenia, Garden City and Westland; Redford Township; and Clareneeville and Garden City school districts.

USUALLY, said Turner, a man taking charge of a new agency like COG has nothing at all to work with.
"But 1 have no period of

"But I have no period of grace in my desk are plans for transportation, garbage, sopping centers, iand development, training of law enforcement officers, manufacturing industries, no "manufacturing industries," "They all say the same thing at one point: We recommend that the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments be charged with the implementation of this plan."

COG, though it held its first official meeting in January of this year, is the new partial regard of a 17-year-old organization, the Detroit Metropolitan Regional Plainting Commission, which in turn has three-year-old child, the Transportation and Land Use Study (TALUS).

COG RECENTLY polled member governments about their opinions on what items should get COG's priority.

should get COG's priority.

There were 17 categories
of problems. Fifteen of the
17 got at least one first-place
vote. No problem get more
han four votes, Turner said,
Turner's conclusion: There
is no single overriding problems—or lots of major problems, however, you want to
look at it.

Intil the last few wears in

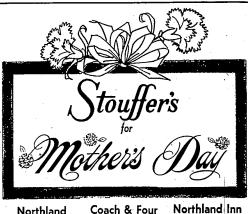
look at it.

Until the last few years in American history, local government has performed "spectacularly," Turner said. But urban problems now are broader than any single unit; honce the need for a broader agency, within the framework of the grass-roots tradition, to tackle those problems or at least to coordinate many separate local efforts.

efforts,
Turner also said he was "impressed with the intensity of interest" that Defroiters and suburbanities have in urban problems—an interest that is far deeper than just the aftermath of last July's riots.
The result, he said, is that "every COG activity will be examined for its black-and-white (racial) implications. This is tradice—but left's face



ROYAL MAIDENS — Karen Louise Kutschke (at right), 28146 David, Farmington, was crowned "Miss Americanism" queen during ceremonies held April 28 by the Farmington VFW Post. A junior at North Farmington High School, the Farmington queen will appear at VFW national and state conventions and will ride in the local Memorial Day parade on May 30. Sue Ellen McArthur (at left), of Livonia, was named "Miss Liberty Bell."



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