

ERTS 'Drawing' County Land Use Map

SOUTHFIELD
Computer processing techniques and a 500-mile-high satellite are being jointly used to produce a land use map of Oakland County.

Land use maps of high accuracy are being produced rapidly with application of computer techniques of The Bendix Corp. of Southfield. The process begins by using computer-compatible tapes of imagery and measurements acquired from the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS). With this data, Bendix engineers have produced a land use map of Oakland County which is more than 90 per cent accurate in classification of deep and shallow water, tilled and untended grass, barren earth, urban areas, trees and wetlands.

A computer printout shows the areas covered by each target category in per cent of total area processed, acres and square kilometers. Decision image products produced from the ERTS tapes included 70 millimeter prints, each image showing a single target category enhanced from the background. Color-coded decision overlays were also generated in which each target was color-coded and provided on a transparent overlay. A third product was color-coded imagery, a composite land use map of all targets on one image, wherein each target was assigned a distinctive color.

The overlays from ERTS tapes offers a significant breakthrough in the rate at which land use maps can be produced, explains Robert Johnson, director of advanced earth resources program for aerospace systems in Ann Arbor.

Each resolution element with an ERTS tape can be placed typically into one of 10 target categories with a few micro-seconds. The complete tape can be interpreted within minutes and computer-generated map overlays can be produced within two or three days.

Johnson says that automatic generation of land use map overlays and corresponding acreage tables from ERTS data permits immediate detection and identification of land use change. These changes, in turn, can be used to update the base map on a routine basis. The ERTS data is relatively inexpensive, adds Johnson, and available on a routine basis.

"National, state and local governmental agencies, as well as conservationists, environmentalists and private citizens, are becoming increasingly concerned about utilization of the land."

"Uncontrolled development can lead to blight, eyesores, over-development and eradication of priceless assets that should be passed on."

"The land was considered inexhaustible in the past. It is now realized that land development must be planned if the conflict between utilization of our resources and maintenance of the quality of our lives is to be resolved. The land use map provides information essential to this planning."

Johnson added that present techniques for generating land use maps are manual, expensive and time-consuming.

City Attorneys Opposing Petty Crime Jury Trials

By JACKIE KLEIN

Southfield City Attorney Sigmund Beras is heading a committee in support of eliminating district court jury trials for petty offenses in the State of Michigan.

Beras is preparing an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief on behalf of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) in support of a recent court ruling that would halt jury trials for offenses such as violation of traffic and city ordinances.

The action is aimed at clearing jammed court dockets and eliminating stalling tactics in traffic point violations which could result in license suspension.

Last summer, Calhoun County District Judge William Burke denied a jury trial to a defendant charged with serving liquor to a minor. This is a misdemeanor under a Battle Creek city ordinance.

The case was appealed by the Legal Aid Society to Calhoun Circuit Judge Creighton Coleman who upheld the district court ruling. The case is before the Michigan Court of Appeals where the MAMA brief will be filed.

Supporting Legal Aid is Wayne State University, Michigan Legal Services Association.

"Should Judge Coleman's decision be sustained," says Beras, "there would be large financial saving to cities and easing the dockets of overburdened district courts."

"The crux of the matter is whether a defendant is entitled to a jury trial on demand in a home rule city where the maximum penalty is up to 90 days in jail, a fine up to \$500 or both."

Beras says there is the possibility of a middle ground where jury trials could be granted for specified violations such as more serious offenses that carry a stigma.

The policy has been that any offender may demand a jury trial and it is granted by the judge, says Beras. "The issue of the right to a jury has never been questioned. There isn't a definition of 'petty offense' by the United States or the Michigan Supreme Courts."

Coleman's ruling, said Beras, was based on a trilogy of 1968 U.S. Supreme Court cases which found defendants charged with offenses carrying a maximum six month jail penalty and a maximum \$1,000 fine weren't entitled to a jury trial.

The Supreme Court, however, hasn't made an all-encompassing ruling.

"The Michigan Constitution provides that in every criminal proceeding, the accused should have the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury," says Beras. "But criminal proceedings haven't been defined."

About 35 city attorneys have indicated their support of the brief, says Beras. About seven oppose the theory of denying jury trials for petty offenses.

Strong viewpoints on both sides were expressed, says Louis C. Andrews, secretary-treasurer of MAMA. "One attorney said it's ridiculous to have a jury trial on a parking ticket case. He's less sure about more major offenses such as reckless and drunk driving."

"Another said since the point system was established, offenders are asking for a jury trial hoping to delay and avoid points on their driving records."

"One said the court was running into many requests for jury trials in ordinance cases. Most demands are considered frivolous and for the purpose of plea bargaining."

The opposition was just as vehement, says Andrews. "The issue will eventually be decided by the Michigan Supreme Court because of its importance to jurisprudence," says Beras.

Moore Leads Justice Study On Juveniles

PONTIAC

Oakland County Probate Judge Eugene A. Moore has been named to lead an ad hoc committee on juvenile justice.

Gov. James H. Brickley has named Judge Moore chairman of the committee which will advise the Michigan Commission on Criminal Justice to help ensure adequate attention and consistency in preparation of goals and standards in the area of juvenile delinquency.

The committee will monitor the progress of each of the commission's five task forces as they develop material related to the juvenile justice system.


Also named to the committee were: Charles Groesbeck, chief inspector, Warren Police Dept.; Lorraine Beebe, executive director, Michigan Consumers Council; Myrtil Sowell, chief defender of the Legal Aid and Defender Assn. of Michigan; and Milton Robinson, chairman of the Youth Parole and Review Board, Detroit.

Work of the ad hoc committee is to continue until the commission's goals and standards project has been completed.

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