

# Stadium road widening soundly defeated

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—Despite overwhelming sentiment against the proposal to spend county funds on a Pontiac stadium-related road project, county commissioners spent another hour Thursday discussing the controversial issue before voting it down.

After more than two months of considering the request to help widen Opdyke Road in front of the stadium, the final vote was a resounding 21-3 against the proposal. Even a compromise resolution to lend money for the project fared little better, collecting only four votes.

Unless an unexpected funding source arises, it now appears that the Opdyke project will be scrapped.

Neither the county road commission, which has pledged \$500,000 to the project, nor the City of Pontiac, which has pledged \$250,000, has expressed a willingness to supply the additional \$140,000 needed.

Without the widening of two-lane Opdyke, a horrendous traffic jam awaits those planning to watch the Detroit Lions play in their new \$41 million home. It had been estimated that even if Opdyke had been widened, it could take five hours to disgorge the 15,000 automobiles and 400 buses expected.

BY THE TIME the Opdyke proposal reached commissioners for a final vote Thursday, opposition had become so great that even several avowed supporters of the request suddenly switched sides.

Commissioner Joseph Montante (R-26), of Orchard Lake, who three days earlier was so enthusiastic about the stadium he said it surpassed even the Colosseum of Rome, voted against either granting or loaning the money.

Board chairman Fred Houghton (R-6), of Rochester, one of the early supporters of the request, also voted against both measures. Several commissioners, like Patrick Novak (R-25), of Farmington Hills, and Robert Page (R-13), of Birmingham, who said they favored a loan, finally joined the majority against that alternative.

The only commissioners voting for the proposal were the three who introduced it two months ago: Richard Wilcox (R-1), of Ortonville; Jack Douglas (D-7), of Pontiac; and Hubert Price, Jr. (D-8), also of Pontiac.

Wilcox is also a member of the Pontiac Stadium Building Authority.

## Man charged for false tax return

Charles L. Peters, president of the Higbie Manufacturing Company in Rochester, Michigan, and a resident of Bloomfield Hills, was arraigned April 14 in U. S. District court on four counts of making and signing false income tax returns.

Peters, 48, who is also a vice-president of International Telephone and Telegraph Company, stood mute to the charges. He was released on a \$1,000 personal bond by U.S. Magistrate Barbara Hackett, after a plea of not guilty was made for him.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Loren Keen said Peters was charged with overstating medical and dental expenses by \$13,400.88 and charitable donations by \$971.50 during a four year period from 1968 through 1971.

If convicted he faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for each count, plus prosecution costs.

Higbie Manufacturing, one of the biggest companies in Rochester, and a subsidiary of ITT, makes tubing for automobiles.

Peters lives at 1286 Marymar Lane, Bloomfield Hills.

## Broomfield on task force

WASHINGTON—Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-18) has been named to a special Republican task force which will develop a House Republican Legislative Program.

House Minority Leader John S. Rhodes of Arizona announced the appointment April 4.

The task force will be made up of the House Republican leadership, ranking Republicans on House committees, and five "wild card" appointees.

Broomfield is ranking Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

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most exclusively with loaning money to the road commission for the project, since by Thursday defeat of an outright grant was a foregone conclusion.

Most of the opposition to the loan was that no provisions were made for when—or if—the money would be paid back.

"In my opinion, a loan is when you

give money to someone and they agree to give it back to you," said Commissioner Henry Root (R-14), of Troy. "A gift is when they don't agree to give it back. This is a gift."

Commissioner Mary Dearborn (R-22), of Birmingham, said a loan was unrealistic because the road commission hadn't asked for it.

Pointing out that no road commis-

sioners were present despite a request that they attend Thursday's meeting, Mrs. Dearborn said:

"I'm not surprised the road commission is in hiding. They don't want a loan."

She added that the county board was "backing out" by asking the road commission to accept a loan and assume 60-70 per cent of the cost of the

Opdyke project. "We (the county board) shouldn't have the nerve to shove this off on (T.M.) Mrs. Dearborn," said.

Three days earlier, the chairman of the road commission, Fred Harris, was emphatic on the question of accepting a loan.

"If it's a loan, we ain't buying," he said.

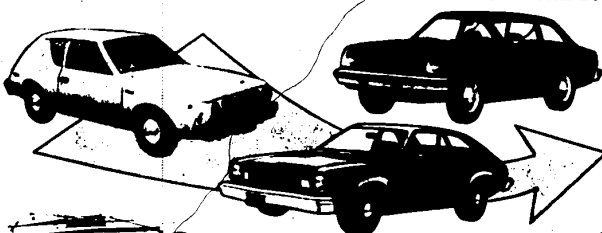
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
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