

# SEMOG begins waste water management

By JACKIE KLEIN

Armed with a \$5.5 million federal grant, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMOG) is embarking on a waste water management plan for the seven-county area.

At a meeting in Southfield Monday, Leland W. Hooker, SEMOG manager of environmental programs, said the two-year plan to implement Section 206 of the Water Quality Control Act of 1972 was the most significant action the regional agency has undertaken.

"The detailed work program must be submitted to the general assembly of SEMOG and then to the governor who will present the plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington," Hooker said.

"The fuse was lit July 1 and the charge is set to go off July 1, 1977.

This will clear the path to dramatic improvement in water quality. Attacking waste water management is one segment of the environment and a vital one."

THE TARGET, said Hooker, is a plan to handle waste water which may or may not be accepted by the EPA. SEMOG will recommend the management agency or agencies for area-wide treatment facilities, he said.

"Although we refer to this as a two-year plan, we realistically have about 11 months to prepare it," Hooker said. "Local agencies must have input in its development, we need time for public meetings and comments and the work program must be filtered through the region before it goes to the governor."

Because of the time shortage, Hooker said, existing data must be used in lieu of major water quality studies. SEMOG will augment its staff for the study. The ultimate goal of implementing the plan is to meet the EPA's 1983 criteria for providing fishable, swimmable waters throughout the nation.

The plan, he said, is flexible and may be reviewed and updated annually. The major goal is to provide a cost effective plan to manage waste water with the cooperation of all segments of government.

"GEOGRAPHICAL AND political units have the funds for enduring and systematic action so they can define problems at the planning stages and fight their battles early," Hooker said.

"The act provides for a link between the management of waste water, solid waste and residuals, management of water supply and land use, alternatives to control the quantity and quality of water before treatment and construction of facilities at the least cost to local units of government."

"This includes the assessing of an area-wide charge to all users so waste facilities will generate enough revenues to be self-supporting."

Although local government input is vital to the program, Hooker said, fragmented planning is discouraged.

The use of land and water are inseparable, he said, and major planning affecting local units will have to conform to an approved EPA plan to obtain federal assistance.

"In order for the plan to be approved, it must include identification of treatment based on a 30-year need, construction priorities and time schedules, regulation of facility locations and identification of agencies to construct, operate and maintain them," he said.

"FINANCING, ECONOMIC, social and environmental impacts of the plan must be designated as well as land use regulations to control non-point sources of pollution."

Hooker stressed that the initial 200 plan isn't a research investigation but a plan that may be implemented to lead the way to remedy sources of pollution.

Bruce Lery, 206 project officer of the EPA, said the plan is designed to select waste water systems, their location and facility capacities as well as techniques for disposing of residual waste.

"Section 206 won't slow down the construction of facilities," he said. "SEMOG and the EPA couldn't stand the heat."

Fred Houghton, (R-Rochester), chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, has been designated chairman of the 206 advisory committee of the council of environ-

mental strategy of SEMOG. He indicated a 46-member task force would be involved in the program.

Mayor David Shepherd of Oak Park, vice-chairman of SEMOG who heads the council on regional development, said local units of government are best equipped to make area-wide decisions on water and land use management.

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## Strike bill passes

A teacher strike bill was passed late Wednesday by the Michigan House and sent to Gov. William Milliken. The governor has promised to veto the bill.

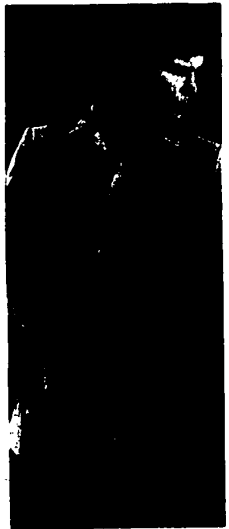
The compromise bill permits teacher strikes of up to four weeks. The first two weeks could be made up, but teachers would not be paid for the second

two weeks of the strike.

The House concurred with Senate amendments to the original teacher strike bill.

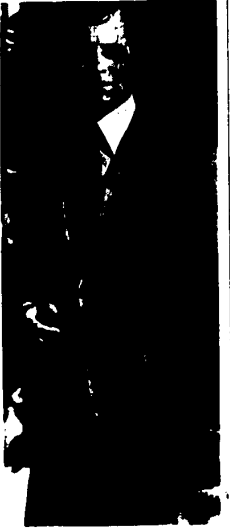
Earlier, the state supreme court agreed that the Crestwood School District could fire teachers who struck last fall. The ruling was based, in part, upon the absence of legislation such as was passed Wednesday.

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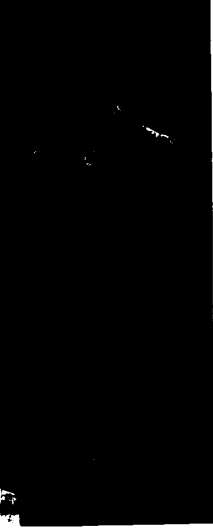
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