

# Metro Fund warns Detroit, suburbs

By TIM RICHARD

Political leaders in Detroit and its suburbs were warned to stop fighting each other or else the entire regional community will deteriorate.

The warning came from Kent Mathewson, president of Metropolitan Fund, Inc., at the foundation's annual meeting last week. Metro Fund is a research and education organization which concentrates on the seven-county southeast Michigan region.

With many of the big names of politics, industry and organized labor in his audience, overlooking Detroit's skyline from the top of the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. building, Mathewson spoke with almost religious fervor about the "civic warfare" and "insane struggle for power between city and suburbs."

MATHEWSON SAID there are three possible outcomes to the encounter. Both sides lose ("lose-lose"), one side wins ("I win-you lose") and both sides win ("win-win").

He called the metropolitan area "actually a single community. We must develop a united posture in southeast Michigan."

Mathewson traced the growth of the region, calling it a "maxi-version of Detroit's own growth, and said both the central city and suburbs can prosper with a "win-win" mentality.

After praising Detroit Mayor Coleman Young's efforts to revitalize the city as a place to live and do business, Mathewson blasted the agreement Young and Gov. Milliken made to carve up control of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

"Similarly, let's look at the controversy over the Detroit Water Board. The city says it has the water, and the suburbs can just bag it if they don't like it. The suburbs, on the other hand, say that the system should be taken away from Detroit and turned into a regional system which the suburbs can operate," Mathewson said, commenting:

"What absurdity! The real issue at hand is simply this: How do we most efficiently and economically supply water to the citizens of southeast Michigan? Who mans the pumps is, frankly, somewhat irrelevant. The issue is supplying water and sewage service to people at equitable rates, not building governmental empires. . . . THERE IS presently an ineradicable tendency to force (business location) decisions into some social pattern of significance. Such a force would be greatly lessened if we moved, in this region, to the Minnesota plan, where new business property taxes are shared on a per capita basis throughout the region regardless of where a new or expanded plant might be built. In our case, be it a Troy or De-



KENT MATHEWSON

troit, Warren or Dearborn, all would share equitably in the economic growth of the region, thereby reducing intra-regional competition of a destructive nature."

While Mathewson blamed local off-

icials for civic chauvinism, he said private citizens take a more functional view, working or shopping in the central city or suburbs without political favor.

But private citizens were blamed for developing "an either-or set of racial standards . . . either the neighborhood was white or it was black . . . either the facility was used by whites only, or it would be surrendered to the black population."

"Fortunately, growing numbers of citizens—both black and white—are moving from that extreme to a more rational reality. We see, for one example, more and more black citizens living in suburban communities, without the extreme reaction of past years."

DON SCHEIBLE, chairman of the Regional Citizens organization founded by Metropolitan Fund, called for a "bill of regional citizenship rights."

An architect in Southfield who lives in Detroit, Scheible said, "Every citizen of this region has a right to expect certain basic levels of service

from government without regard to invisible boundary lines. . . . It should eliminate place of residence as a point of discrimination, just as race, sex, religion, age and national origin are currently eliminated."

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Songstress

\* Vicki Valentine of 30309 Canterbury Drive, Southfield, will sing at the Jack O'Connor Benefit at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Elk's Club in Royal Oak. Proceeds will enable students to further their music education at Interlochen. Ms. Valentine has appeared locally at Hugo's, Jack's Chop House and Gino's Surf.

### Van display

"Van-tasia '76" a custom van and accessory show sponsored by the American Van Association, will be held Oct. 10 to 12 at Cobo Hall.

The show will feature 100 super custom vans competing for top honors and sporting the latest in exterior paint schemes, floor to ceiling carpeting and stereo equipment as well as displays of production vans by Ford, Chevrolet and Dodge.

Several of the nation's top conversion firms will exhibit their latest design and engineering innovations in van customizing, comfort and luxury. Dozens of accessory firms will display their equipment offering everything imaginable for vans. And half a dozen of the best professional van artists in Michigan will be on hand to talk van art and demonstrate their work.

Top network TV stars, rock bands and trucking personalities will make up the entertainment portion of the show, with presentations scheduled throughout the weekend. The syndicated TV personality "The Ghoul" will be present in a specially built "Ghoul Mobile."

Hours are from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.