

## Health, transportation in doubt

## SEMOG's planning power may be weakened

By TIM RICHARD

The planning power of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments may be reduced in the fields of health and transportation.

SEMOG leaders learned last week their seven-county agency is ineligible to operate a regional Health Systems Agency under a 1974 federal health planning act.

Michael Glusac, SEMOG's executive director, said federal regulations require that 50 to 60 per cent of board members of a Health Systems Agency must be "consumers" and the number of public elected officials cannot exceed one-third of the board.

Because SEMOG's executive committee and general assembly are composed of elected officials entirely, the seven-county regional body appears ineligible, Glusac said.

EVEN SEMOG's role as a review agency for federal grants may be weakened, Glusac said.

"There are no provisions for Health

Systems Agency efforts being consistent with multi-purpose planning agency plans. As a result, the guidelines make SEMOG plans subservient to HSA plans with no guarantee that the respective plans will be consistent with one another," Glusac said.

Glusac said HSA "will have significant powers, including the ability to make grants for health service development and to approve or disapprove the use of health-related federal funds within the region."

Glusac said in an interview it appears the HSA designation will go to the Comprehensive Health Planning Commission, "a body that SEMOG spawned six years ago. We started it when we found consumers, hospitals and providers (doctors) weren't talking to each other."

Chairman of the Comprehensive Health Planning Commission is Mel Ravitz, a former SEMOG chairman.

IN A RESOLUTION offered by Lathrup Village Mayor Richard Cogger, the SEMOG executive committee asked the State Legislature for a con-

tinuing role in appointing the board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

But in a significant step, SEMOG asked only for a role as "an appointing authority" rather than as "the appointing authority."

It means SEMOG is prepared to accept the agreement between SEMTA, Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit and Gov. William Milliken in which the Detroit mayor would be allowed to appoint several SEMTA board members.

Under present law, SEMOG appoints six members, the governor three and the mayor none. The SEMTA-Young-Milliken deal would give SEMOG five suburban appointments, Young five and Milliken three, with Milliken's choices subject to the approval of six of the other 10 members.

Cogger pointed to legislative bills that "would shut the door on us (SEMOG) entirely" in having a role in shaping the SEMTA board. He said the SEMOG resolution was aimed "only indirectly" at the SEMTA-Young-Milliken deal.

Significantly, the Cogger resolution passed the SEMOG executive committee unanimously by voice vote. Even William Cilluffo, Mayor Young's personal representative on the SEMOG committee, supported it.

COGGER's resolution said in part: "SEMOG recognizes the strong link that must continue to exist between the citizens of the region, the regional planning agency (SEMOG) and the regional public transportation agency (SEMTA) if the people of southeast Michigan are to have an effective public transit system."

"SEMOG is the metropolitan plan-

ning organization for federal transportation money and, as such, serves as the forum for cooperative decision making by principal elected officials of general purpose local governments.

"SEMOG is the only vehicle in the region which has representation from all levels of government—county, city, township."

"We strongly urge that any legislation restructuring the SEMTA board continue to include SEMOG's general assembly as an appointing authority."

IN A RELATED matter, the SEMOG executive committee unanimously endorsed Mayor Young's

choice of Walter E. Douglas to the SEMTA board for a term ending the first of 1977.

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## Young Republicans form Ford coalition

Members of the Michigan Federation of Young Republicans formed a coalition Friday to back the 1976 candidacy of Pres. Gerald R. Ford.

The new group, called "Friends of the White House," was formed to counteract support among some Young Republican leaders for California conservative Ronald Reagan. Reagan is not an officially announced presidential candidate.

"This action comes in response to statements issued by a group of so-called Young Republican leaders in Charleston, South Carolina, last Saturday in which they declared their support of Ronald Reagan for president," said Robert C. Law of Livonia, chairman of the Michigan Young Republicans.

R. Jeffrey Schorr of Troy, Young Republican national committee member, said impressions that a Reagan candidacy had strong support among

group members nationally were inaccurate.

Schorr said last week's comments had received national attention.

Law charged the Young Republican leadership was out of touch with the general membership.

"As far as the YRs are concerned, these people are a small minority speaking only for themselves," Law said.

The announcement of "Friends of the White House" was timed with a presidential visit to Detroit Friday.

## Postal Christmas under way

Nearly two months in advance of the date, the nation's post offices are beginning their Christmas season.

Postal managers are meeting to prepare more than 188,000 employees in 10,000 post offices in central region to handle about 2.5 billion pieces of mail—about one-third of the nation's total.

The Postal Service has set the following suggested mailing deadlines for this holiday season.

- Nov. 20, surface parcels to Alaska and Hawaii.
- Dec. 10, surface parcels within the 48 contiguous states.
- Dec. 15, cards and letters within the United States including Alaska and Hawaii.
- Dec. 20, priority mail (air parcels of more than 13 ounces to Alaska and Hawaii).
- Dec. 21, priority mail within the 48 contiguous states.

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