

Beating the freeze could be an economic breakthrough for state

By TIM RICHARD

Great Lakes shipping could operate all year long if the United States government would buy three new icebreakers from friendly Finland, said the former American ambassador to that northern Baltic Sea nation.

Mark Austad, who served in Helsinki from 1975-77, said congressmen, businessmen and the general public on "America's fourth coast" fail to realize what the closing of Great Lakes shipping three months of the year is costing them.

"The Army Corps of Engineers tells me 60,000 direct jobs go down when the lakes are closed up," Austad told the Detroit Economic Club this week. "That means \$2 million less a day in direct wages, \$10 million a week, plus \$6 million in unemployment compensation."

BILLS TO purchase ice-breaking ships are in both the senate and house appropriations committees in Washington, he said.

Declaring he has no monetary interest in such a purpose, Austad said the U.S. Coast Guard is "a major stumbling block. They've had nine years and haven't come up with (an American-made) ice-breaker."

"Lockheed tried—and it was a comedy of errors."

"We don't need 100 ice-breakers. It would be foolish to tool up to build them."

Austad put the cost at \$50 million to \$55 million, and the delivery time at "two years, if they were pressed to do it." While the congressional bills don't mention where ice-breaking ships would be purchased, Austad said Wärtsilä Co. of Finland is the best in the world and is selling ships to all major seafaring nations.

"THE PEOPLE of the Great Lakes haven't spoken up yet," he said. "I don't think they ever realized they could keep open their lakes."

"If they open the lakes, there will be a resurgence of barge building. Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) told me, 'You don't close down the lakes for three months; you close it down all year. A shipper needs dependability.'"

"Neither coast (Atlantic or Pacific) is excited about this. You're competition for them. The railroad and trucking lines aren't excited. It's competition for them."

Austad said Montana coal could be brought in more easily by lake freighter, and grain and oil could be shipped all year. Without open ports, industries such as steel and the utilities must engage in costly stockpiling to assure supplies of raw materials.

The only ice-breaker on the Great Lakes now is 35 years old, he added. The new ice-breakers would carry crews of about 50, be powered by

22,000 horsepower engines and be capable of cutting through ice 60 feet thick.

"A LABOR of love" was how he described his feelings about helping Finland.

The tiny nation resisted "tremendous pressure" to buy commercial airplanes from the Soviet Union and instead purchased DC planes from American manufacturers.

"I kinda think we owe them one," he said. "She doesn't squeak. If you know the Finns—and in Michigan you do—they're a shy people."

"We can't help them militarily or politically, but we can help them economically," he said, recalling that Finland faces constant problems with the Russians and is the only country to repay its World War I debt to the U.S. A broadcaster by occupation and inaugural affairs arranger for Republican presidents, Austad has returned to Metromedia, Inc., in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he is vice-president for public affairs.

LUXURIOUS CASHMERE

Two-way cashmere, the ultimate in casual wearings. You'll thoroughly enjoy its soft and lightweight features. Full fashioned in a rich range of colors that include yellow, powder blue, navy, white. S.M.L.X.L.

\$75

Copper & Copper
CHICAGO • DETROIT



WOODWARD AVE. • SOMERSET MALL
1571 Woodward Ave., Phone 964-2300, Detroit, 48226

Fine Furniture Since 1917

Visit Our Pennsylvania House Gallery

Stewart-Glenn
CLOCK GALLERY



CHRISTMAS
STORE HOURS
Mon., Thurs., Fri., 'til 9 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Sat., 'til 5:30

GRANDFATHER CLOCK SALE
NOW
SAVE 25% and MORE
ON OUR ENTIRE STOCK
Sale Price Includes Delivery and Set-up

STEWART-GLENN CO.
"YOUR FULL SERVICE STORE"
has no extra charge for:
• Careful Inspection & Set-Up
• Courteous Delivery Service
• Generous Storewide Parking

STEWART-GLENN
2400 N. WOODWARD, BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Just South of Square Lake Road • 353-5344
Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9 a.m.

Ask our Interior Designers
to help you with your
decorating problems
Use our 4 Pay Plan
(no interest)
or use your Master Charge
or BankAmericard

For The Holidays
And For Always

Ω
OMEGA



This men's 14 kt. yellow gold diamond pave watch. A perfect gift for the man who loves luxury. See our collection of Omega mens and ladies diamond watches from Eight Hundred Ninety Five Dollars. Illustrated watch \$2400.



MEMBER AMERICAN
GEM SOCIETY
REGISTERED JEWELER

George Ohrenstein
Jewelers Ltd.

Creative Jewelers - Precision Timepieces
Diamonds - Precious Stones
HARVARD ROW MALL

11 Mile & Lahser

353-3146



Thursday, December 8, 1977

(Wb.T.S.F.R.) 5A

VALUABLE
ALL
SHEET MUSIC and BOOKS
10% OFF
Thru December 25 with this coupon
HAMMELL MUSIC, INC.
15630 Middlebelt
Livonia 427-0040

COUPON

Ageless art! Enchanting bottle dolls, rich in early American history, are now being lovingly handmade by senior artisans. Each doll is created of natural wax materials and signed by the artist whose skill and creativity continue to flourish. The unbanned dolls, dressed in gingham and calico, '40s The Linn Pavilion

The Spirit of Christmas' Present at Lakes Fifth Avenue

Troy Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge
open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM until 9 PM.

DEC. 10

In the spirit of the season, Birmingham offers "Personality Saturday" on December 10. All around town, merchants will present gift ideas and product demonstrations. Personalities and special guests will introduce the unique, the special, the unusual. Shops in Birmingham create an atmosphere that is relaxed and personal. Individual attention. Selections. Collections. Find the perfect gift. Experience the art of shopping. The season is definitely Birmingham. Join us the following Saturday, December 17, for "Winter Wonderland". The Civic Plaza will be filled with excitement and fun. Fashions and fantasies. Hot cider and chestnuts. The style is definitely Birmingham.



BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RETAIL DIVISION