Ford Motor Co.'s transmission plant on Plymouth Road in Livonia currently is the No. 1 example of industrial expansion in the area. When finished, the building and machinery will represent an investment of more than \$300 million. (Staff photo)

## Tax break brings industry back

Despite reported fears that the met-ropolitan area is losing industry to Ohio, business seems to be booming, at least in western sectors of Wayne

at least in western sectors of Wayne and Oakjand counties. When squabbles over a controversial tax deferment plan caused at least one industry to move to Ohio, government officials worried that their tax bases were being eroded. Under the 1975 amended version of the state property far plan industries.

Under the 1975 amended version of the state property tax plan, industries which expand or build new facilities have their tax payments cut in half on the new additions for a 12-year period. The plan is designed to encourage industry to eramain in Michigan intended of locating outside the state. Disagreement over the plan began

net revenue generated by industrial development.

In order to entice industrial development in that state, Ohio passed a similar tax abatement plan and has tried to capitalize on local dissension over the plan.

over the plan.

BECAUSE MIGHIGAN municipalities have only just begun to issue the tax abstements, it is unclear whether plan will succeed in Reping industry in Michigan Early indications. Early indications because the plan will succeed in Reping industry in Michigan Early indications. In Lavina, Ford Motor Co. is building a \$300 million expansion to intransmission plant on Plymouth at Levan, creating 2000 more jobs under the nex tax break program. In Westland, General Motors expanding its warebuse facility on Newburgh which is operated by Lea-

seway of Detroit. GM has declined to specify the dollar value of the expansion, which will lower more than 80 feet when finished later this year. The facility will be completely automated.

"It is better to keeps jobs in the state and at least get 30 per cent of the property taxes instead of nothing at all," 'r ermarked Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara.

He added that the law may be unfair to those industries which have paid their full share of property taxes for years.

their full share of property taxes for years.

Other major expansions or additions include a \$1 million development adja-cent to the warehouse of Action Distri-bution Company, 33601 Veronica in Livoria. The present beer distribution warehouse will be nearly obulled with the expansion.

The company also is constructing a \$2,518 quare foot truck repair building on that site.

Owner Ben Celani said he moved his company from Garden City to Livonia because of better access to transportation.

IN THE CITY of Wayne, Ford Motor Company has built a multi-million dol-lar expansion at its Michigan Truck tholigan Areuse at New-burgh. That expansion caused a 15 per cent increase in payroll at the plant of 2,300 employees for a total of \$39 mil-lion.

lion.

The 120,000 square foot expansion was expected to produce an additional 12,000 four-wheel drive vehicles for the company in 1978. Other expansion areas include conveyor systems and a 90,000 gallon paint tank.

On a smaller scale, industries in areas such as Canton, Garden City, Redford Township and Farmington also are expanding.

### Ford addition means 2,000 jobs

The western Wayne County suburbs an claim credit to the second most

can claim credit to the second most expensive private development in the region's recent record books—thanks to Ford Motor Co.

The world's second largest auto maker is on schedule in building the addition to its transmissip plant at Plymouth Road and Levan in Livonia. The expansion, which started last year, is scheduled to be in completed next spring. The Bill million project is second in scope only to Detroit's Renaissance Center, which carrries a \$337 million price tag.

Ford completed the 318,000 square foot structure earlier this year. The next 12 months will be used to equip the structure with the machinery that will produce a new transmission for its 1890 downsized models. Actually, the machinery will cost nearly \$300 million of the \$373 million addition. The transmissions, called Ford Integral Overdrive, is known inside the company as FIOD, and will be used on cars like the Fairmond, Granada, and Monarch.

The plant, which had 2.7 million square feet of floor space before the addition was started, will continue to make the C-6 transmissions, which are

installed in fullsized Fords and some vars and trucks.

THE EXPANSION has some obvious economic benefits for the area, particularly those employed in the building trades and machine building business.

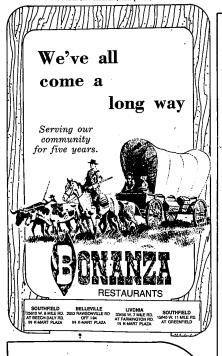
ing trades and machine building busi-ness.

Additionally, the expansion means more jobs when the addition is com-pleted, and the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-lating of the properties of the properties of the pro-lating of the properties of the properties of the pro-lating of the properties of the properties of the pro-lating of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-perties of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-perties of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting of the properties of the properties of the pro-ting

million a year will increase about one-third to \$125 million annually.

A Ford spokesman said the addition will have 150 new machines and Si major systems installed. Those designs were started even before the addition was begun in the winter of 196-77. He will be the third that the said will be the the third that improvements in fuel comp yes, current automatic transmissions," needed to meet federal government gasoline mileage standards.

The new transmission will have an overdrive fourth gear.



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