

# Hope yet for Livonia Cadillac plant

By LEONARD FOGER

Plans for a \$102 million Cadillac engine assembly plant in Livonia may have been stalled by the Detroit City Council, but there is a chance the project may be saved.

That is the word from a spokesman for Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit. The spokesman indicated that Young may lobby councilmembers to change their vote which prevents Livonia from giving GM a tax break to relocate the plant here.

The veto power is provided in a 1974 state law aimed at encouraging industries to build or expand in Michigan. Under the law, any city facing the loss of a business because the owner has been offered a tax break to move somewhere else in Michigan can block the tax break.

Ironically, the Livonia City Council recently approved the first of two important steps in providing for the 50 per cent tax break.

The council Wednesday—after the Detroit vote—set a Jan. 15 public hearing on the Cadillac plant tax break.

Actually, GM can still locate in Livonia, where it has an existing engine machining plant on the east side of Middlebelt, north of Plymouth Road, but if it does, it will do it without a property tax break which would amount to \$15 million over a maximum of 12 years.

The other options Cadillac has, said Mayor Edward McNamara Wednesday night in a press conference, are to move to another state, or convince Detroit councilmembers to reconsider its veto.

McNamara has received reports that GM is considering a site in Louisiana, although GM officials have denied that.

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its city on GM's terms, referring to the expected tax break approval by the council.

McNamara also commented that the state law allowing for the tax breaks is bad and should be changed to remove the penalties for cities which approve the break for local plants.

The mayor also said that the state should reimburse the cities approving tax breaks for their financial loss.

McNamara said the law allowing the tax breaks is a form of unfair competition since other auto companies are paying their full share of taxes while GM gets a 50 per cent tax break on new additions.

The mayor said that Detroit officials

and GM "must make the next move" in the dispute over jobs and tax breaks.

JAMES GRAHAM, press secretary for Mayor Young, said he has been told that the engine assembly plant will be either in Livonia or out of state and referred to reports from GM officials that sites in Ohio and Memphis, Tenn., are being considered.

Graham said that Young will "lobby" members of the Detroit council during the holiday recess in a move to get them to change their minds and approve the waiver so Cadillac can move to Livonia and get the tax break.

## WSU will reap street parking fines

Wayne State University took a step toward collecting its own fines for parking violations on university property when it recently established a parking violations bureau.

Parking tickets now written by WSU Public Safety Officers are forwarded to Detroit Traffic Court. Fines range from \$5 to \$25, depending on the violations. WSU officers, who are commissioned by the City of Detroit, write 20,000 tickets annually.

After the university parking violations bureau begins operation next spring, it would receive, process and administer funds received from fines paid voluntarily within a specified period—probably 15 or 30 days after the offense.

Those funds would be used for maintenance and improvement of the university's parking system.

Tickets not paid within the specified period would be forwarded to traffic court. Revenue from those cases still would go to Detroit.

## Drinking age hike suit moved

A court challenge to Michigan's recently approved constitutional amendment raising the drinking age from 19 to 21 has been shifted from Wayne County Circuit Court to United States District Court.

State Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley asked

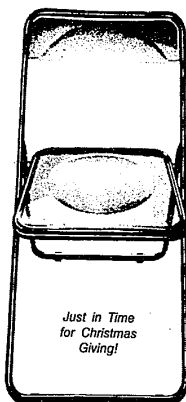
for the change late last week. A show-cause hearing had been scheduled for Dec. 11 before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Irwin Burdick.

The case has yet to be assigned to a federal district judge and a hearing date remains to be set.

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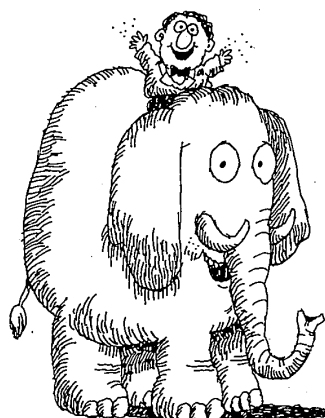


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