

Officials deny tradeoff for M-275 go-ahead

By TIM RICHARD
and TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County made no deals to win State Transportation Commission approval of the M-275 freeway plan.

So say County Executive Daniel T. Murphy and Managing Director John Grubba of the Oakland County Road Commission.

"I don't know who's starting that rumor," Murphy said last week when asked if he would mute his criticism of a rapid transit subway in the Woodward corridor, as proposed by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

"Tuesday night it will be pretty damn clear we haven't made a deal," said Murphy last week.

He referred to his plans to testify against a subway in a public hearing scheduled by SEMTA for Dec. 4.

MURPHY SAID he had had lunch the day before the M-275 vote with Lawrence Patrick, a Detroit newly appointed to the state Transportation Commission this year by Gov. William G. Milliken.

The county executive said they discussed only the merits of M-275 — a 22-mile, \$98 million freeway which would extend I-275 from Novi across rural western Oakland County to I-75 at Clarkston.

Patrick, a Republican, voted in the 4-2 majority for the freeway the following day.

Murphy was reminded of a deal which Wayne County Board Chairman Richard Manning, D-Redford, had tried to cut with the city of Detroit involving the SEMTA plan and the "super sewer" which western Wayne interests want. Manning says William Cilurfo, Mayor Coleman Young's assistant, reneged on the deal.

Said Murphy: "You can't trust Cilurfo from here to here," indicating a 10-foot space on the carpet.

GRUBBA CALLED M-275 and a subway "separate issues."

The chief operating officer of the road commission, long a vehement opponent of SEMTA's rapid transit plans, approved "I will not tone down" his remarks on the subway.

He said he talked to William Mar-

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— Daniel Murphy, county executive

shall, state AFL-CIO president and a member of the State Transportation Commission, prior to the vote. But Grubba denied making a deal with Patrick or Marshall, who was already

considered a pro-M-275 vote. At the Nov. 28 transportation commission meeting, Marshall said, "I'm just as serious as anyone else in getting on with developing a balanced trans-

portation policy in the state."

He heaped scorn on "textbook environmentalists, who write a few textbooks and pamphlets and call themselves 'experts'. Most of those so-called experts never worked a day of their lives at hard labor."

Significantly, Marshall is a former member and chairman of the SEMTA board.

Patrick Nowak, assistant to County Executive Murphy for intergovernment-

tal affairs, said after the vote "there's always a possibility the feds could kill it (M-275). But I don't view that as a strong likelihood."

He referred to possible opposition from the U.S. Interior Department and Transportation Secretary Neil Goldschmidt.

Although, freeway opponents are banking on Goldschmidt to turn down M-275, Nowak said Goldschmidt "does not knee-jerk react to freeway building."

Iranian crisis — a '70s Boxer Rebellion?

History is repeating itself in American foreign relations in the Iranian crisis, according to a Michigan State University professor of humanities.

Edward Graham, who specializes in Chinese history and China-American relations, says striking similarities exist between the current Iranian crisis and those occurring during the Boxer Rebellion in China in the summer of 1900.

The trouble in China, he said, began with attacks by anti-foreign and anti-

Christian financial mystics against Chinese converts and missionaries from the west.

"THEY CALLED themselves The Society of Harmonious Fists," Graham said, "because they practiced a kind of kung-fu exercise intended to make them invulnerable to enemy weapons. The Westerners called them Boxers."

The Boxer movement spread to the Imperial court, presided over by the 65-year-old Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi. "a shrewd but sometimes irrational

woman capable of great cruelty and hatred of foreign ways and, like the Ayatollah, often inaccessible."

With the mob violence given official backing, the MSU professor explained, the whole foreign community was besieged in the legation area. Americans, British, Japanese, Germans and others shared a sense of outrage and danger, as did a few hundred marines and soldiers also in the compound.

"Unlike the present situation which finds America isolated from her allies, and which requires us to stay with a

course of frustrating negotiations in order to safeguard the hostages," Graham added, "the foreigners at Peking in 1900 were together and could make a fight of it."

The Peking legation was relieved on Aug. 14, and most of the foreign personnel had survived.

"The bitter outcome of the Boxer catastrophe," Graham, "calls up questions of our capacity to learn from such episodes. When we become the targets of resentment, we're surprised and hurt. We need to learn to be less naive."

Silk cage

To avoid being eaten by their mates, some male spiders wrap the female in silk or eat enough of her web to severely limit her mobility, says the National Wildlife Federation.

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