

## Metro Area Moves Fast In Pollution Fight

Regional cooperation has helped put Detroit and its suburbs far ahead of any other metropolitan area in the fight against water pollution. This was revealed at an International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada hearing in Toledo last week.

Gerald Remus, general manager of the Detroit Regional Sewage Disposal System, reported, "We were the only ones there presenting a program in which construction is already going on."

HE EXPLAINED to the session that the system, which treats domestic, commercial

and industrial waste for the City of Detroit and communities of northwest Wayne County and much of Oakland County, started \$74 million worth of construction this month.

Before the end of the year, another \$85 million will be spent on construction, or a total of \$159 million.

"We've turned our studies and designs into construction. We don't need to delay any further for results of research," said Remus in an announcement of his commission presentation.

Cooperation of many suburbs, including all Observerland communities, helped

## House Shortage Forecast In '70s

A continuing housing shortage and higher prices are forecast for the next year and decade by a leading builder.

He is Lester S. Burton, president of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit, and a partner in Burton-Shore, of Huntington Woods.

"There is almost no chance of distress selling at the present time," said Burton.

"Money is tight, but it is available. Other points made by Burton:

• Interest rates, though high, are still lower than in most European countries, and there is little prospect they will drop in the near future.

• "Communities which are parts of the Detroit metropolitan area, in many cases, want to maintain a farm-type density of population which is economically unrealistic. He deplored "burdensome restrictions" on land development by those suburbs.

• There will be a shortage of manpower in the building trades during the 1970s. Factory production of homes and home components may be the answer, he said.

make it possible. These are part of an existing service area through contracts with the DMWS.

THE REMAINDER of Wayne County and most of middle Oakland and the southern half of Macomb County are expected to be in the system by 1980.

Member communities don't have to worry about meeting federal and state water pollution control regulations. "We take the responsibility. We're their agents," said Remus.

He said the regional system treats sewage at a cost of \$86 per one million gallons. In comparison, the smaller Ann Arbor system costs \$110 per one million gallons.

"We're getting a lower rate because of volume, and our regional makeup qualifies us for federal grants," said Remus.

HE ATTRIBUTED this area's leading position to the member suburbs' realization that Detroit water contracts were good service. "Sewage just followed along."

His optimism comes on the eve of a rate increase faced by the suburbs Feb. 1. To finance the local contribution to the sewage treatment facilities, an increase of 32.5 cents per 1,000 cubic feet is being charged.

Some communities—Redford Township and Livonia included—balked when the rate increase was first announced. Monday he said that if they were planning to withhold payment, they haven't notified him.



CALL TO ACTION -- Ann Lynas of Redford Township sounds the call as Mame in the upcoming Dearborn Players Guild production of the musical comedy.

### Set Card Party

The Detroit Garden Center has scheduled a luncheon, card and games party at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 5 in room 402 of the center at 133 E. Grand River.

Tickets are priced at \$1.50. Reservations may be obtained by calling the Center at 961-8485.

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