

Detroit mayor speaks in suburbs

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young told the students of Detroit Country Day School yesterday that as future leaders he hopes they will have "a more advanced attitude" toward cooperation between Detroit and its suburbs.

"If we're to have a great region and a great state, we must have a great metropolitan area," he said. And this

can't be achieved without that cooperation, he added.

He blamed the lack of cooperation in the past as the reason Detroit is the only major metropolitan area in the country that doesn't have, or isn't in the process of building, a mass rapid transit system.

The Detroit metropolitan area doesn't have such a system — in the planning stages since 1976 — "because some in the suburbs are opposed to a

subway in the city of Detroit," charged Young.

But things are getting better, he said. "I'm beginning to cross Eight Mile Road more often here of late. That's probably a good sign."

YOUNG SPOKE to the student body of the highly ranked private school in Beverly Hills as part of an urban studies course being taught in the history department.

In addition to the rapid transit issue, he discussed the poverty in the city, unemployment and the "poor quality" of public education in the city, state and nation.

He reminded the students that educationally they are "a distinct minority. The opportunities you have should be made available to all Americans, it should not be the exclusive right of just a few of us."

Asked later by a student in the audience how he would improve the quality of public education, Young replied that nothing could improve it like "spending as much on it as is spent on yours."

Still discussing the need for mass rapid transit and cooperation with the suburbs, Young said, "We seem to be arriving (at the point) that it is a necessity."

The area "can't attract new business, new enterprises without the ability to move our people around," he continued. "While we've been arguing (with the suburbs over a plan) other cities . . . have been building."

THE CURRENT transit plan calls for a downtown subway linked to an elevated train north along the Woodward corridor to Eight Mile where it would become a surface rail system to Pontiac.

A student asked Young what he would do to close the increasing gap between the haves and have nots.

Young said, in his opinion, government has the responsibility to assure everyone a quality education and a job. "If you ask me where the money would come from (to achieve this)," he continued, "it would come from the military, from the defense budget."

Referring again to lack of cooperation between the suburbs and Detroit, he spoke of the "doughnut theory . . . You know what a doughnut is," he said. "It's a tasty morsel with a hole in the middle."

"Some believe we can develop our metropolitan area that way, with Detroit as the hole and the suburbs the meat around it. Well it ain't like that. It must be a full cookie if we're going to succeed."



Coleman Young
Detroit mayor

Residents may write to protest tax bills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When Board of Review time rolls around in March, Farmington Hills residents may appeal their tax assessments by letter rather than in person. Under Public Act 539 of 1982, the Farmington Hills City Council last week authorized the Board of Review to accept written appeals "from resident property owners without appearance by the taxpayer, or his or her agent."

Prior to the 1982 public act, letters of appeal were accepted only from non-resident property owners, said Robert Romer, city assessor. Resident property owners were required to appear or send a representative before the Board of Review.

"A lot of it involves convenience,"

said Charles Rosch, finance director, referring to the new tax appeal process.

The appeal option is designed to help those who would otherwise have to take time from work to attend the Board of Review or hire an attorney to represent the taxpayer, Rosch said.

But Romer cautions taxpayers who have a major problem with their tax assessment to appear in person as well as to send a letter to the Board of Review.

"If it is anything that technical they should appear before the Board," Romer said.

A letter protesting a tax assessment is also necessary if a resident wishes to appeal beyond the Board of Review to the state Tax Tribunal, Romer said.

"The letter will keep the door open," Romer added.

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