

'Educational Summit' moves around the state

Gov. James Blanchard's Educational Summit Task Force will hold five regional conferences this month on its recommendations for education. Donald Bemis of Ulica, chairman of the six-member Task Force, said 16 issues ranging from early childhood education to high-technology planning for Michigan schools will be discussed at the regional conferences. One regional conference is scheduled 4-7:45 p.m. Nov. 20 in Wayne State University's General Lectures Building. Blanchard and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Phillip E. Runkel are expected to attend the Detroit meeting.

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to improve education in Michigan in 1985. As many as 2,500 are expected to attend the five meetings and respond to at least 16 programs developed by the bipartisan task force.

The 16 topics which will be discussed at the five summits include: early childhood education, expanded student testing, a longer school year, high-technology planning, more schools-business partnership and statewide school accreditation and discipline standards.

Others are increased professional development, the establishment of a formal school-improvement process, greater school-to-home communication, a new system of funding student transportation, a plan to certify the

employability of students, the creation of a Michigan Merit Scholarship program and two plans to help schools and universities work together more closely.

"We are looking forward to what leaders throughout the state have to say about our ideas, as well as others they may present," said Bemis, superintendent of the Ulica Community Schools and a trustee of Oakland University.

"All responses received at each summit meeting will be included in our final report to the governor's office in December," Bemis said.

OTHER REGIONAL conferences will be Nov. 12 in Marquette, Nov. 13 in Traverse City and Saginaw, and Nov.

14 in the Kalamazoo suburb of Comstock.

A statewide conference is scheduled for 9 a.m. Dec. 6 in the Kellogg Center of Michigan State University, East Lansing.

The Task Force convened in September after Blanchard asked it to identify educational improvements which need legislative support in 1985.

The group has reviewed both national and state reports on a variety of educational subjects, Bemis said. He emphasized that not all issues of the task force may be supported by Blanchard.

"That's also the spirit of the summit," Bemis said. "We're willing to make suggestions for change, but we believe the experiences and talents of

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Detroit-area leaders can help strengthen the proposals and their eventual likelihood of helping the students of Michigan."

ALL SUMMIT invitees will be sent a book published by the Task Force which outlines the 16 potential 1985 educational goals. The information will again be presented at the meeting, followed by individual discussion meetings and a closing summary.

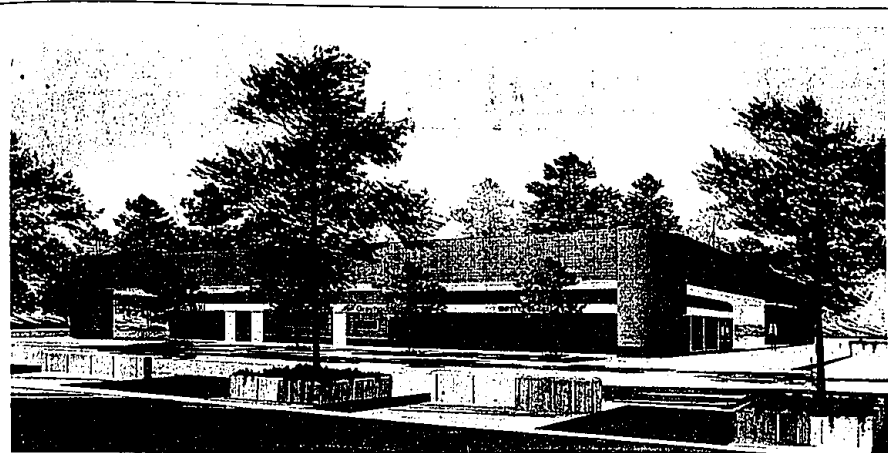
Bemis said most of the issues that will be discussed at the five conferences would have impact on all grade levels, can be accomplished with little or no money and could be instituted statewide.

Leaders in education, parent and volunteer organizations, organized groups,

municipal affairs, business, service clubs, economic development and the community-at-large have been invited to the meetings.

The summit reaction is being invited through written comments, public statements and a questionnaire. All responses will be presented to Gov. Blanchard after a final statewide conference in early December.

Other members of the Task Force include: Louis Beer, a Birmingham attorney; Richard Allen of Alma, a former state senator and a veterinarian; Francis Anderson of Pontiac, vice president of the Michigan Parent-Teacher Association; Mayor Lawrence D. Crawford of Saginaw; and William Vittoe of Detroit, president of Michigan Bell Telephone Co.



An architect's sketch of the new SEMTA transit center under construction in Royal Oak.

New bus center will be area's largest

The largest transit center currently planning for southeast Michigan is now under construction in downtown Royal Oak.

Called the Royal Oak Intermodal Transportation Facility, the transit center is a joint project of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) and the city of Royal Oak.

The 4,000-square-foot, one-story building will serve SEMTA, Greyhound, and a private taxi company when completed next summer. Additional space is available for other transit-related operations.

SEMTA will operate 200 buses daily through the center, on eight separate bus routes serving 13 Oak-

land County communities. More than 800 people are expected to use the facility on an average weekday.

The building will cost about \$1 million. The total project cost is \$1.7 million and includes demolition of the small Greyhound facility which formerly occupied the site, resurfacing of an adjacent 125-space

parking lot, extensive landscaping and other beautification measures in keeping with ongoing revitalization of Royal Oak.

The center is one of 11 new Oakland County facilities to be built under the regional consensus plan approved last February by the SEMTA board of directors.

Byzantines maintained own CIA

The Byzantine Empire kept defenses up by gathering information — from distant ports, naval patrols, envoys, merchants, spies and defectors. Collecting the intelligence was the Bureau of Barbarians, Constantine's CIA, says National Geographic.

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