Fight over commuter train revival reaches crossroads

A consumer group which would like to bring back the commuter train may contin-ue to challenge Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority's (SEMTA) right to stop the service.

Michigan Association of Raliroad Pas-sengers (MARP) is considering going to the state Supreme Court now that the Michi-gan Court of Appeats has ruied SEMTA acted property when it ended commuter rail service. rail service.
SEMTA stopped the Pontiac to Detroit

train Oct. 14, 1985, because of budget cut-backs. That action was appealed by MARP after Oakland County Circuit Court refused to reinstate the service.

"WE'RE STILL DEBATING which way to go," said MARP chairman Dietrich R. Bergmann, whose 250 member group may announce its future plans at SEMTA'S board meeting Tuesday, Jan. 22.

"We can appeal to the Supreme Court or oncentrate solely on political activities,"

Show lures 1,800 dogs

One of the largest dog shows in the state will take place in the metropolitan area this weekend.

The occasion will be the annual winter all-breed dog show and obedience trial of the Pontiac Kennel Club Sunday, Jan. 20, in the Michigan State Fairgrounds Collecum, Woodward south of Elgh Mills, betroit.

Admission is \$2 for adults and \$2 for children.

MORE THAN 1,800 dogs representing 120 breeds and variettes will be on display and competing for hundreds of ribbons and trophles. The day will culminate with the covered best in show for breed conformation and highest secring dog in the obedience trial awards.

Show promoters are eager to give the public a good view of show dogs, particularly because of the controversy over King Boots, the champion Old English sheepdog which allegedly mauled to death his owner's mother. Birmingham police want King Boots put to death,

Twenty-four Old English sheepdogs are

owner's mother. Birmingham police want King Boots put to death. Twenty-four Old English sheepdogs are entered, show officials said. The largest number of entries is the golden retriever, with "r representatives running through their paces from noon un-til nearly 3 p.m.. Other breeds with large entries at the show are cocker spaniels — 61 American and 20 English; Labrador retrievers, 56; collies, 48; Samoyeds, 41; Dalmatlans, 37; and Doberman plaschers, 34.

THE SHOW will begin at 8 a.m. and

MARP worked to get uniform statewide speeds for trains instead of letting com-

breed judging will be completed by 3:30 p.m. with best in above judging.

Best in above competitions: witners of the seven variety group raporting dogs, hounds, working dogs, terriers, toys, hounds, working dogs, terriers, toys, so sporting dogs, and herding dogs.

Sixteen dog show judges were commissioned by the Pontiac Kennel Club. They will come from as far away as Westbury, N.Y., and Carmel, Callf. The dogs they will review represent virtually the entire United States and Canada.

cerned about the upcoming closing of the John Lodge freeway for reconstruction.

IN ITS DECISION Jan. 3, the Michigan Court of Appeals backed Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Robert Templin's decision not to force EEMTA to reinstate the train service. A further appeal must be made within 20 days of the ruling.

"SEMTA has no clear legal duty to provide rall-based transportation between Pontiae and Detroit," read the decision by Judges Vincent J. Brennan, Thomas M. Burns, and Charles M. Forster.

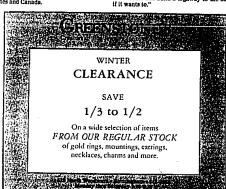
The court ruling said the Oakland court did not have jurisdiction to enter a restraining order against SEMTA.

It said state law gives SEMTA "broad discretions to change its service routes. A writ of mandamus (an order from the court) cannot be issued to direct or control a discretionary act."

Bergmann contends the ruling gives SEMTA "more power than the utility companies in this state have."

"Once financing for a project is in hand, there is absolutely no mechanism by which state government or the electorate can review its properness," said the president of Rallway Systems Engineering Corp.

"SEMTA can build a highway to the sun it it wants to:



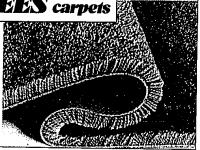
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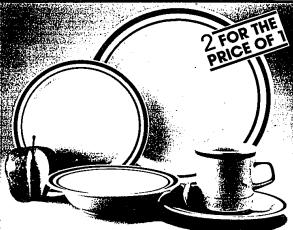




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