# Senate stonewalls effort to air JOA

By Tim Richard

staff writer

The Michigan Senate stonewalled for defending these electrons to question a proposed joint operation generated (JOA) by Detroit's two daily seement and the seement of the seement of

the merger: "Are these public utili-ties? Do we have a right to in-

AREA SENATORS voted the

same on both resolutions:
Yes — Doug Cruce, R-Troy; Jack
Faxon, D-Farmington Hills; Rudy
Nichols, R-Waterlord; Patrick
McCollough, D-Dearborn.
No — Fessler and R. Robert
Geake, R-Northville.
Absent — William Faust, D-Westland.

Absent — Wilmain Luca, land.
Geake said he followed the lead of senate Republican floor leader Phil Arthurhuliz of Whitehall. Without explanation, the GOP leader moved to send Cropsey's resolution to com-

mittee.
BUT CRITICS of the JOA were vo-

cal.

Faxon blistered the papers for charging just 15 and 20 cents per copy when the prevailing price of papers owned by Gannett (parent of the Detroit News) is 35 cents in out-

state Michigan.

Critics noted that a 5-cent price increase six days a week would yield the 600,000-circulation Detroit Free Press more than \$\$ \text{million a year and return it to profitability. The Detroit Free Press, labeled a "failing newspaper" under federal JoA application rules, reported a series of \$\$7\$-million-a-year losses.

"Theres no 'failing' business operation here," said Kelly in a lengthy floor speech.

"What is their ultimate objective? Quality reporterial services? Or one motivated by a potential to put the squeeze on advertising customers? Or to squeeze suburban papers?"

CROPSEY, WHO chaired a judicircled judicircled judicircled judicircled a judicircled increase increase and expenses of the said and the said

Or to squeeze suburban papers?"
CROPSEY, WHO chaired a judiciary committee hearing in Detroit last week, asked:
"Can the Detroit Free Press be

considered a failing newspaper in the face of its recent additions to staff on the national and international review, its recent investment of \$22 million in a new plant, its 51 percent increase in advertising revenues over the past three years, its failure to raise advertising rates and its decision to lower its (outstate) rice, and its continued circulation increase since 1977 "If the Free Press is, as claimed, a failing enterprise, why does the News seek through the JoA, to solit

News seek, through the JOA, to split all profits on an even basis after the first five years?"

Sen. Joe Mack, D-Ironwood, said state government has a stake in the

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# SEMTA expands Oakland service

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority, SEMTA, will provide new bus service to employment centers in Oakland County be ginning today, General Manager Alpert Martin Said.

The service Improvements will primarily benefit employees at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield complex in Southfield and at the Oak/Tec—Comerica complex in Auburn Hills.

"These service Improvements are being provided without additional being provided without additional costs to SEMTA's overall budget," All the Oak/Tec—Comerica composition of the Country of the Countr

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celed, and SEMTA will extend the Arrow route to provide direct shuttle service to the complex from down-town Pontiac.

town Pontiac.

The new routing will serve employees of Electronic Data Systems and other companies, as well as Comerica. More than 2,000 people are employed at the Oak/Tee com-

plex, which is at Squirrel and Ham-iln roads in Auburn Hills.

"The new service is the result of an exhaustive examination of our system to find possible minor changes which would add up to sig-nificant service improvements with-out adding new buses or incurring other major expenses," Martin said.

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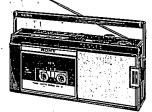
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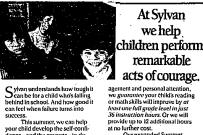
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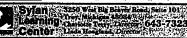
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