

# U-M to Oakland: Aid 'home grown' exports

By Tim Richard  
Staff writer

Oakland County, "the jewel in the state's economic crown," will weather easily the impact of General Motors plant layoffs in 1988.

University of Michigan economic forecasters made that prediction, adding advice for keeping Oakland's stable "home grown" service businesses.

The cheery forecast and reports of a business attitude survey came during an economic outlook luncheon Wednesday in the Troy Hilton, sponsored by the county's Economic Development Group, National Bank of Detroit and Pontiac State Bank.

"FOOD FOR thought" for economic policymakers came from Dr. Stuart Hart, of the U-M Graduate School of Business Administration. Noting that 90 percent of all Oakland firms, and the better performers, are "home grown" companies, Hart suggested:

• Seed capital and venture capital to keep locally born companies

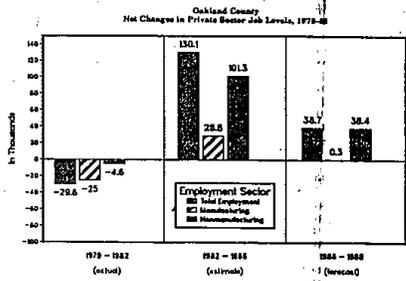
are more important than property tax abatements to recruit non-local firms.

Local firms are concerned about international competition and "need help understanding trade barriers" in the export market.

"We're happy with the research," said county executive Daniel T. Murphy. "We started in 1985 to work on diversification. Our manufacturing jobs will come just because this (Oakland) is the place to locate. We have to work with the supplier companies now. We don't want to let down. I have to do a lot of convincing with the board of commissioners" to maintain county money in the Economic Development Group, he said.

Donald Grimes, that the loss of GM jobs will be just about balanced by new manufacturing jobs. "By the end of 1988, the impact of the GM closings (announced in November) will be about 4,500 jobs," Grimes said. "The impact in Oakland County is less than 1 percent, and even that loss would be masked by the very strong economic expansion that is expected to continue here."

The 1986-88 expansion will be mostly in non-manufacturing jobs (see chart). Of the 38,700 new jobs expected to be created in two years, 38,400 will be in non-manufacturing. "Much of this growth is in the business services category," he said, citing legal, architect, engineering



and business services. Grimes said the forecast was made prior to last month's announcement that GM will shift truck and coach work to Janesville, Wis. "But that doesn't occur until 1989, so it doesn't show up here (in this forecast)," he added.

OAKLAND AND Washtenaw counties, for which U-M also has done regional economic forecasting, paced Michigan's 1982-85 recovery, based on very health non-manufacturing sectors. The two counties, stretching along freeways from Rochester Hills to Ann Arbor, form a "high-tech crescent" leading Michigan into the economy of the future.

## Rep. Stokes to discuss Iran-Contra affair

"Manipulating the Media: Whose Right to Know?" is the Freedom of Information program planned Monday, March 9, by the Detroit Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc. Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, will discuss the problem of balancing what he knows and what he feels free to disclose from his position as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a member of the Select Committee investigating the Reagan administration's Iran arms deal.

Jennifer Moore of WDIV-TV will moderate the program. A question-answer session will follow. Cost is \$9 for students, \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served from 6-7 p.m. The program begins at 7:15 p.m. in the Ford World Headquarters auditorium on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, March 4. Write or call WICI-Detroit, Barbara Ahlberg, 35918 Rewa, Mt. Clemens 48043; 761-1277. Checks should be made payable to WICI-Detroit.

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