

SEMTA Gets Funds For Busses

State Commerce Director Richard E. Whitmer has announced the approval of two state public transportation assistance grants totaling \$482,000 for the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

The state grants, together with local and federal funds totaling \$4.4 million, will enable SEMTA to buy more than 100 new buses, Whitmer said.

THE TWO state grants approved today include:

- \$315,105 to help SEMTA acquire 102 new air-conditioned, 50-passenger diesel buses at a cost of \$4.3 million. They will replace old equipment now in use on several Detroit-area bus lines. Fifty-four of the radio-equipped buses will be owned by the Detroit Street Railway while the remainder will be owned by SEMTA and leased to Great Lakes Transit Corp., Metropolitan Transit, Inc., and Lake Shore Coach Lines.

- \$167,070 to help finance purchase of 16 new air-conditioned diesel buses costing \$668,280. The radio-equipped buses will be used to provide service between suburban residential areas and shopping malls, medical centers, government offices and business districts and between nearby residential areas and rail stations served by Grand Trunk.

The two grants are the fifth and sixth approved by the Bureau of Transportation of the Michigan Department of Commerce since it was established last summer.

So far, more than \$1.1 million in state grants have been approved to assist public transit authorities in Detroit, Lansing, Jackson and Muskegon.

S'craft Slates Music Festival

More than 5,000 junior and senior high school musicians are expected on the Schoolcraft College campus the Saturdays of Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. They will participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival for District 12 of the Michigan Band and Orchestra Assn. Jack Pierson, band and orchestra director at Ford High School, Dearborn, is chairman of the event.



U.F. LEADERS--Discussing the implications of the United Fund's new guidelines for health and community services are these prominent board members (from left): Alfred Pelham, board chairman of Great Lakes Mutual Life; Ben C. Malback Jr., Redford Township resident and president of Barton-Malow Construction Co.; and Robert T. Ross, retired Ford executive.

Why County Will Study All Soil

By W. W. EDGAR

The most far reaching soil study ever taken in Wayne County is to get started this spring.

The survey, approved by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, will require approximately three years, according to Gerald E. Warren, chairman of the County Planning Commission.

Details of the plan were worked out Thursday afternoon in Bellefonte at the annual meeting of the Wayne County Soil Conservation District, where it was learned that the study will touch on most every one of the Wayne County's 622 square miles.

THE STUDY is designed to analyze the fertility, chemical composition, marketable resources, load bearing and drainage capacity of the soil, plus the crops that would grow best in various locations.

The results will be compiled in a report that will be made available in public libraries and from many of the governmental agencies.

Under the approved plan the study and the soil sampling is to be done by sci-

entists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University.

While discussing the plan, Warren explained that it is easy to assume that Wayne is an entirely urbanized county.

"However," he said, "there are upwards of 1,000 farms in the county and there are some crops, such as sod and fresh vegetables, for which Wayne County is one of the state's biggest producers."

"FOR THIS reason," he continued, "the soil conservation study is just as important to urban interests as it is to the rural interests, because its purpose is conserving and wisely using the soil we have."

Then he added, "We can't get any more."

Wayne was one of the last counties in the state to establish a conservation district. All other counties had been organized in 1968.

Under the agreement for the new study reached with federal and state governments, the county will pay half the cost of the study, up to a maximum of \$54,200. The

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County Park At Maybury?

Wayne County's Board of Commissioners is exploring the possibility of acquiring Detroit's Maybury Sanatorium property for public park development, rather than letting the land go to private developers.

Commissioner Ervin A. Steiner Jr., of Grosse Pointe Farms, made the proposal at the board's meeting Jan. 21.

The board referred the matter to its public works committee, which is headed by Steiner, for study and a recommendation.

THE CITY of Detroit has put the 865 acres of rolling, wooded land in Northville Township up for sale, with a,

March 1 deadline for bids. The property is valued at approximately \$3 million.

Numerous individuals and groups have urged that some way be found to preserve the property for park use.

Detroit's Common Council decided to sell the property to the highest bidder, opening the way for residential, commercial or industrial development, because of the city's severe financial problems.

Steiner's committee will meet with officials of the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources to discuss the possibility of applying for state recreation bond issue to help finance acquisition.

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