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Water fight

Hearings deal with regionalizing system

By PAT MURPHY
STAF WATEA

Detroit businessman Anthony
Soave may agree to testify next
week at a public hearing on a proposal to regionalize the Detroit
Water and Sewer Dopartment, according to Sen. David Honigman,
R.West Bloomfield.

"I haven't talked with him
(Soave) directly," said Honigman,
who earlier this week said bis
committee is considering trying to
subpoena Soave, who holds the
DWSD sewer contract. "But intermediaries have told me he'd
appear voluntarily."

A chief Soave apokesman, however, said Soave has not agreed to
anything. "I just talked with
Tony a fow minutes ago," said
James A. Sharp, a vice president
of City Management, one of
Soave's main business ventures.

"We've repeatedly tried to contact Sen. Honigman, But neither
he nor his staff will return phone
calls," said Sharp.
A spokesman for Detroit Mayor
Coleman A Young, in the meantime, questioned the authority
and metive of Honigman and his
committee. "It doesn't have subpoena power," said press sceretary Bob Berg. "Furthermore,

Honigman is politically grandstanding."
The question of Soave's appearing at a hearing came up
Monday, as the state Senate's Local Government and Urban Development Committee conducted
the second of a series of hearings
it is holding on Eill 83 at the Ookland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium in Ponitac.
Honigman is chairmen of that
committee and the only member
to appear at the day-long hearing.
S.B. 85 was introduced by
Honigman earlier this year. Like
a similar bill he introduced last
year, it would take control of
Detroit and place it in the hands
of a regional authority made up of
topresentatives of communities in
the 15-county area served by

the 15-county area served by DWSD.

DWSD.

At Monday's hearing, Bill 85 received support from several communities including Rochester Hills, Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield Township and Genesee County. It is also endorsed by Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn.

Those appearing complained of overcharges, inefficiency and unresponsiveness on the part of DWSD.

One witness, Russ Bellant a DWSD plant operator, said to his knowledge the Detroit water and sewer system is run efficiently ac-cording to normal business proce-

dures.

But Bellant's comments were more than overshadowed by the allegations of DWSD chemist Saul Simoliunas who said Saave and others received no-bid contracts because of their connections with Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young.

During a break in the hearing.

man A. Young.

During a break in the hearing,
Honigman said that in light of
allegations from Simoliunas, he
would likely consider subpoenaing Soave along with some of his
business records.

Honigman Wednesday, hoveer, said a subpoena might not be
necessary, "As I understand it, he

(Scave) has agreed to testify under oath. But we (the committee) may still subpoens company records."

records."
The authority of his committee
or any other Senate committee
to subpoene witnesses or
records was challenged Tunsday
in Ingham Circuit Court, said
Honigman.

in Ingham Circuit Court, said Honigman.

The suit contends Senate or House committees do not have subpoena power unless it is conferred by both houses of the Legislature, Honigman said.

"I think committees do have subpoena power," he said, "But the matter is in litigation."

Honigman's committee is scheduled to hold its third hearing on the proposed regional water and sewer authority at 3:30 a.m. Thursday in the Oakland County auditorium.

OU offers self-esteem class

The Oakland University Con-tinuum Center will offer a self-es-teem workshop 7-10 p.m. Thurs-day, July 29, on the Rochester

campus.

It will focus on how to develop a positive self-image and build on abilities. Communications and

self-esteem specialist Kristie McKenzie, who has a master of arts degree, will present the semi-

Fee is \$39. Registrations will be taken through Tuesday, July 27, at 370-3033 or 1-800-370-3042.

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