

# Federal government sends programs without money

Local governments in Michigan are joining a protest against "unfunded federal mandates."

It's Washington's habit of requiring locals to do more things without providing the money to do it. Result: local officials answering to local voters must cut their programs — such as fire departments and senior citizens centers — to pay for what Uncle Sam orders.

"We want to make it clear that we have no quarrel with the intentions of laws enacted by Congress. What concerns us is lawmakers in Washington can lay claim to our local tax funds. It undermines people's trust in their local officials," said Justin King, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Boards, speaking for the Michigan Council of Local Governments, an organization that includes counties, municipalities, townships, regions and school boards.

"At the local level, residents see their local services cut, yet hear their officials call for increasing

local revenues."

The House amendment to Michigan's Constitution requires the state to pay for any services it mandates by local government. But the U.S. Constitution has no such provision.

King cited these examples:

- The 102nd Congress proposed 244 bills containing mandates.
- Pavilion Township, near Kalamazoo, spends \$250 for its auditor to process the W-2 forms for elec-

tion workers and volunteer firefighters, people who traditionally are paid nominal sums. The average annual withholding per election worker was \$3.65 and the average Medicare withholding for a volunteer firefighter was \$8.22. Administrative costs to process the Medicare tax exceeded the amount sent to Washington.

■ Counties are facing a new round of costs associated with a tightening of federal blood-borne

pathogen regulations. Oceana County will have to lease three new ambulance facilities at about \$15,000 a year to meet federal employee and vehicle decontamination standards.

■ In 1976, Congress passed the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, agreeing to pay 40 percent of the excess costs involved for educating students with handicaps. Congress currently pays only 11 percent.

■ There are tremendous costs of unfunded environmental mandates to local governments. At least 38 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants reported that new clean water regulations will cost an estimated \$260 million to implement plus \$70 million a year to operate and maintain.

The Michigan Council of Local Governments includes: the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Association

of Counties, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Township Association, Michigan Association of Regions and the Michigan Association of School Boards. National Unfunded Mandates Day is a nationwide event sponsored by the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the International City-County Management Association.

## Woman lauded for volunteer work at camp

In recognition of her many years of volunteer work on behalf of children, Carol Falberg of Beverly Hills recently was given the Carolyn Murphy Distinguished Service Award by Camp Oakland Youth Programs, Inc.

The honor was presented jointly by U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee of Flint and Camp Oakland's Assistant Director Cassandra Bowers at the agency's annual meeting in Oxford.

The award, a crystal globe on a stand, is named for Carolyn Murphy, wife of former Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy, because of her outstanding volunteer service.

Falberg's many volunteer activities at Camp Oakland include formation of the Camp Oakland Action Team (COAT). The volunteer group stages regular birthday parties for the residents of Camp Oakland's Girls Ranch and Boys Ranch.

The honoree began her association with Camp Oakland shortly after its founding in 1951. A co-founder was the late Oakland County Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore, and Falberg was employed as a social worker overseeing girls who were wards of the probate court.

Through the 40 years of its existence, she has been active in Camp Oakland events. She is a member of the board of directors.

Camp Oakland Youth Programs is a private, non-profit corporation providing residential or day student care and counseling for 138 boys and girls. Its adolescent boot camp serves 25 youth 17 and under who have been in trouble in their communities.

## Food donations sought for poor seniors

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency needs donations of food for the third annual Adopt a Senior for Thanksgiving program.

The program provides baskets of food to low-income, home-bound and handicapped senior citizens in Oakland County. OLHSA is accepting donations of small turkeys, roasting chickens, hams, cranberry sauce, bread stuffing, canned fruits and vegetables.

Donations may be dropped at OLHSA's office, 196 Oakland Ave., Pontiac. Or call 858-1679 to have someone pick up your donation.

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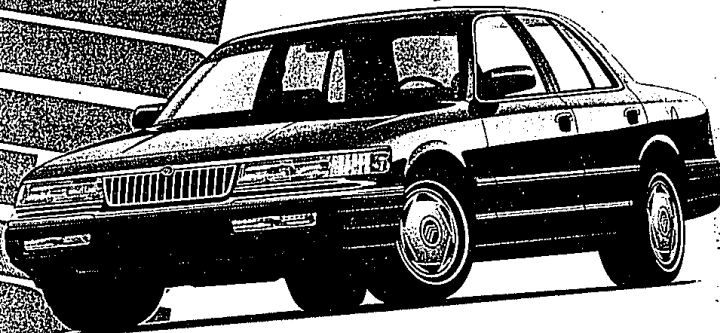
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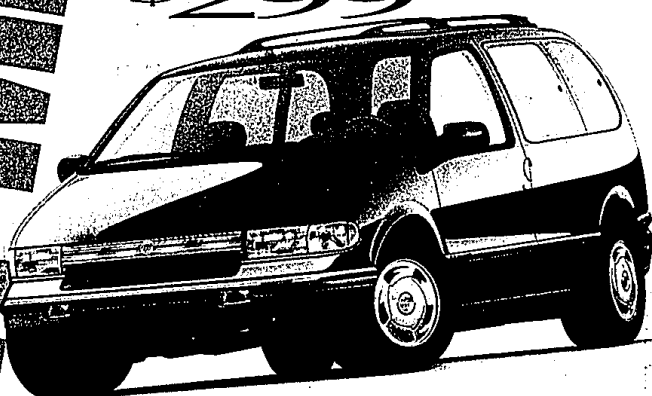
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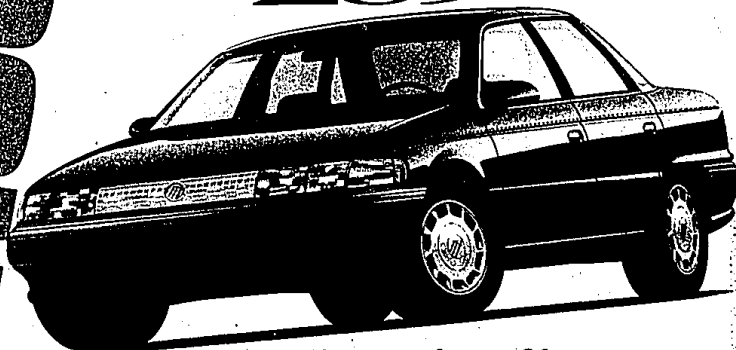
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