

# Suburbanites Ask Rumor Control Units

Establishment of rumor control committees in suburban communities was recommended by a conference of 22 suburban officials and the Wayne County Board of Supervisors Thursday.

These would aid in the work already begun by an out-county rumor control center located in Westland and the Detroit rumor control center, according to a county board spokesman.

AMONG THE suggested projects for such committees would be preparation and distribution of a letter similar to one drafted by Southfield Police.

That letter urges that in the event of civil unrest that citizens (1) remain calm, (2) stay in their homes, (3) let police handle it, (4) buy a dog, not a gun.

Other duties of such committees would be to check rumors telephoned in by citizens and give a factual reply.

This is being done now from the out-county rumor control center, 3100 Henry Road, Westland. Citizens calling 761-6800 receive replies based on checks with various county police agencies.

It was set up, more quickly than planned, on the night Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. That first shaky weekend 4,000 calls were handled.

OBSERVERLAND communities of Livonia, Redford Township, Westland and Plymouth Township were represented at the conference by municipal authorities, Farmington Township's newly-created New Farmington Committee was represented by Larry Pontius, although Oakland County was not an intended participant.

From Livonia, Police Chief James Jordan, Police Captain Dennis Swift and Public Safety Director Donald Nicholson attended.

Redford Supervisor Aldrick Bellaire and Police Chief Edwin Gleza were there. So were Westland Mayor Thomas Brown and Police Chief Garrison Clayton. Plymouth Township Director of Public Service Paul J. Albright attended.

John Gaffield, board of supervisors chairman and Mayor of Dearborn Heights, and Mel Ravitz, Detroit councilman on the board, called the conference.

Views of suburban officials were aired and means of the county aiding local community efforts were offered.

Among the latter, it was revealed that a \$200,000 federal grant is being sought to finance training programs for persons involved in coping with white suburban fears.

If granted, the money will be used to establish programs at the University of Detroit and Wayne State.

Another conference is possible in the near future.



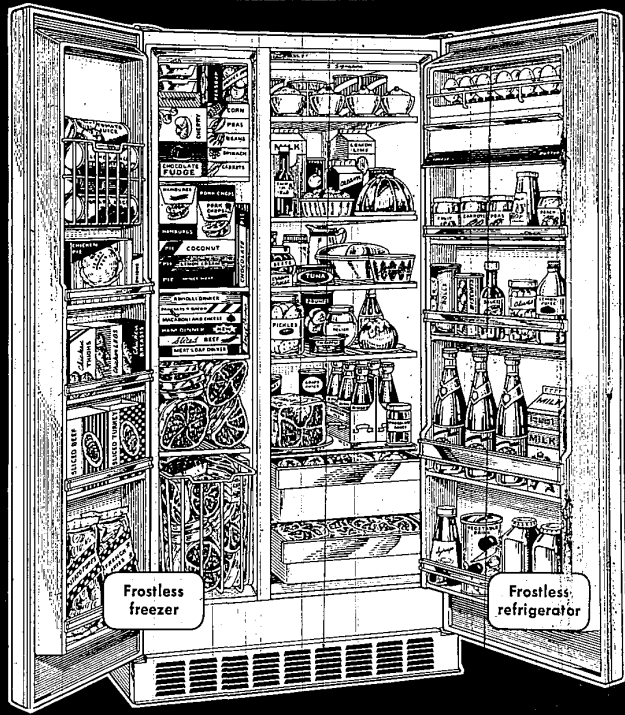
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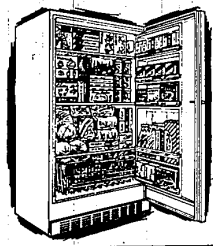
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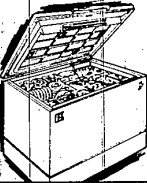
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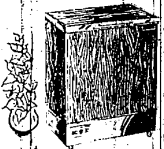
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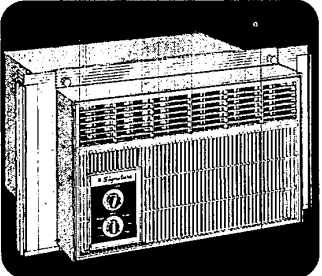
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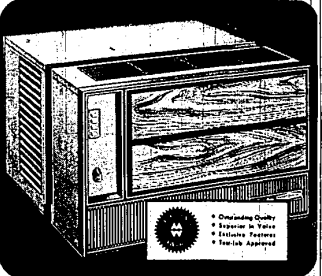


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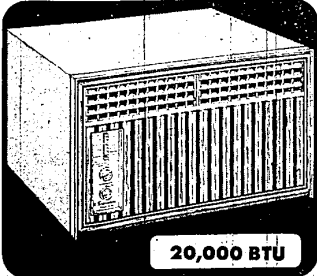


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