

# County road funds won't offset need for freeway

By APRIL KORNMEIER  
LANSING — Now that Oakland County will be receiving increased federal funds for the improvement of its mile roads, state and local officials cannot agree as to whether this boosts or denies the need for the proposed Northwestern freeway.

Under the 1973 Highway Act, the federal government agreed to share two-thirds of the expense of rebuilding certain city, county and state roads to ease the transportation glut in the urbanized areas.

This would mean an additional \$10 million for road improvements in Oakland County over the next three years.

STATE HIGHWAY department officials have been discussing informally this federal windfall with Rep. Michael Novak, D-Detroit, who is chairman of a House committee now considering a bill to reduce the present high priority of the Northwestern freeway project.

This project, heavily supported by the highway department, would create 9.3 miles of freeway from the existing Northwestern Highway at Telegraph Road northwest to planned M-275 in Commerce Township.

"We've tried to point out to Rep. Novak that there is this money available under federal funding to aid these primary roads in Oakland County," said John Knecht, assistant to the state highway director, in an interview Monday.

THE VARIOUS projects in Oakland County would get their federal funding, regardless of

whether Northwestern goes through, he said.

But if a freeway didn't go through, it would be a matter of good planning to give attention to those roads in the county which would serve the interchanges, he said. Three of those interchanges lie in West Bloomfield Township.

"A freeway is only as good as its terminal facilities," he said.

THE INITIAL determination of where the county would spend its share of the \$4 million yearly is up to the county road commission.

The widening of Orchard Lake Road to five lanes for one-half mile from West Bloomfield High School north to the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks was one of seven county projects in 1974 financed under the 1973 Highway Act.

Requested as a federally financed project within the next five years is the desperately needed widening of Orchard Lake Road from Northwestern to Maple Road.

THIS STRETCH of Orchard Lake Road would be a feeder road to Northwestern Highway. If it were constructed, but county officials said the need for widening is there, with or without the freeway.

Asked if this widening of Orchard Lake Road was projected in anticipation of the freeway construction, John Grubba, managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission, said it was not.

"But if the Northwestern extension does not come at all, we simply will not be able to meet the

traffic needs in that area with our resources," he said.

CHAIRMAN NOVAK of the House Roads and Bridges committee said the additional federal financing for the urban roads is a partial alternative to the construction of the Northwestern freeway.

"The state is getting too much money from an overzealous effort to pave the state in concrete," he said Tuesday.

He said the federal funds plus a redistribution of the allocating of road funds from the gas and weight tax to give a greater slice to the county might be a viable alternative to the plight of many suburban areas.

"FOUR MILLION is better than nothing, but I would have to get the whole picture," he added. His committee did not review House Bill 5697 to reduce the high priority construction status of the freeway at their April 3 meeting.

## Gerald Ford asked to chamber dinner

The Farmington Sequimontial Committee has invited Vice-President Gerald Ford to attend the dinner-dance June 1.

In a letter to John W. Anhalt, chairman of the sequimontial committee, the Vice-President's director of scheduling noted the difficulty in scheduling so far in advance but added:

"However, every consideration will be given to include your thoughtful invitation in his (the Vice-President's) schedule, and you will be advised further as the date draws nearer."

## Man is arraigned on breakin charge

Charles Thomas Farhat, 21, of Warren, plead not guilty to charges of breaking and entering Saturday at his arraignment in Farmington District Court.

Farhat was taken to Oakland County Jail in lieu of a \$20,000 bond set by Judge Michael Ford. According to Farmington Hills police, Farhat is charged in connection with the breaking and entering of Lafayette Radio, 29400 Orchard Lake Rd. on March 29.

Police said they found a smashed plate glass door at the store and a tape recorder on the ground behind the building.

Using a tracking dog from West Bloomfield, police said they were lead to Farhat, who had already been apprehended by other officers.

## Cancer group honors residents

The Michigan Cancer Foundation presented distinguished service award plaques to Dr. Gerald S. Wilson of Lathrup Village and William F. Randolph of Birmingham at its Jan. 30 annual meeting of the board of trustees.

Both men were cited for their continued efforts on behalf of the Michigan Cancer Foundation, the community and the board of trustees.

Dr. Wilson recently completed his term of office as chairman of the board and Randolph finished a tenure as chairman of the executive committee.

# BUDGET SAVERS

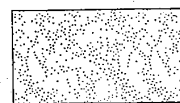


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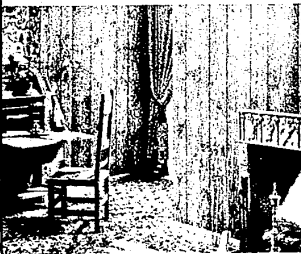


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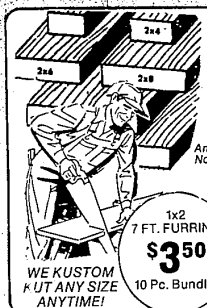
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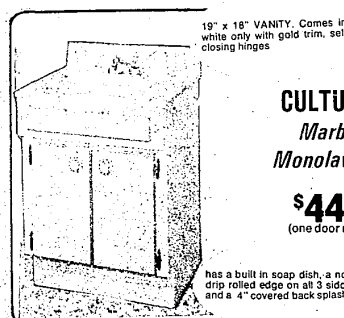
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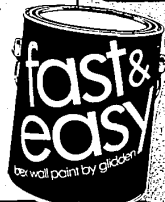
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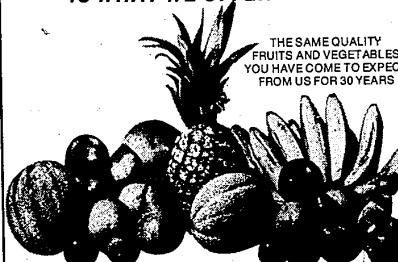
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