

Could create 50 jobs

Spending deferral may restore some employment act jobs

A hiring freeze imposed on Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Title VI positions may thaw soon as a result of action taken Thursday by the Thumb Area Consortium Administrative Board.

The Board voted to defer spending of \$75,227 to next year in order to help cover costs for new jobs, should the freeze be lifted, Consortium Executive Director Frank Lenard said.

The freeze was imposed April 25 by the U.S. Department of Labor because of a possible cut in appropriated funds and the fact CETA had exceeded its 149,000 positions nationwide.

However, the freeze came at the worst possible time, according to Lenard. With unemployment rates rising people need jobs, such as those provided by CETA, more than ever.

Lenard said he asked the

labor department what could be done to get the freeze lifted and was told the group would have to defer spending from this year's Title VI program.

Although not sure when, or even if, the freeze will be lifted, Lenard told the Board, modifying its Title VI budget should have a positive effect on the department's decision.

If the ban is lifted, Lenard said approximately 50 CETA

will open up right away in the area, to be funded with money it would still have available for the current fiscal year.

"We have the jobs, what we don't have is the bodies," he said.

While it could be longer, Lenard said he may hear this week whether the ban has been lifted.

As soon as it is lifted, the Tri-County Public Service Agency will begin hiring the people to fill jobs, consisting mostly of park and road crews.

The board approved four position requests which will either be filled when the ban is lifted or when workers elsewhere are shifted to the new positions, Lenard said.

The jobs are for two workers in the Snover Memorial Park, one in the Sanilac County Historical Society museum and one to help with the Tuscola county dog census.

Workers can be shifted from job to job and still comply with the hiring freeze, he stated, but new workers cannot be hired to replace those that leave the CETA program altogether.

OTHER ITEMS

The board also voted to accept \$87,555 from the U.S. labor department to offset its vocational educational program.

The consortium arranges to pay for books and tuition of eligible students at three colleges: Delta College, Northeast Michigan School of Commerce and St. Clair County Community College.

The department of labor money will only be used to offset costs at SCCC, Lenard said, to ease administering of the new grant.

He said the labor department funds should take care of costs for approximately 60 students.

The board also approved a plan submitted by Lenard for the 1981 fiscal year.

The tentative plan would give the Tri-County area \$5,673,306 to work with next year.

Chairman Calvin Reibling of Huron county appointed a committee to work with Lenard to devise wage and salary schedules for consortium employees for the upcoming fiscal year.

The committee, consisting of Royce Russell of Tuscola county, Bruce Kuhl, Huron, and Harold Hopson, Sanilac, will work with Lenard to set up a program by the end of the 1980 fiscal year, Sept. 30.

Lenard said he wants to start working on pay scales and work schedules now so plans will be ready by the deadline.

MONITORING UNIT

The board voted to set up an independent monitoring unit that will watch over all program operations and administration, Lenard said.

The three-man unit will work from within the consortium office but will be independent of its operation, he added.

The manager of the unit

will report quarterly to Lenard who will then report the findings to the Board.



DOWN BY THE RIVER -- The Pinney family had this cottage for many years on the north bank of the Cass River, across from where Sanilac County Park No. 3 is now, west of M-53. It was built by Elijah H. Pinney, probably before the turn of the century, according to Fred Pinney, Elijah's grandson. The family sold the property in 1930, so the cottage disappeared some time after that. Photo belongs to William Kitchen, who said the house was moved and later torn down, and was taken by his brother, Jason, about 1912.

Gasohol use urged

A special committee commissioned to study options and prospects of gasohol has urged the state to proceed with initiatives for production and increased use of the gasoline-alcohol blend as an alternative energy source.

The committee's final report made recommendations to aid production and spread the use of the product to make the state and the nation less dependent upon foreign oil.

Sen. John Hertel (D-Harper Woods), chairman of the Senate Environmental and Agricultural Affairs Committee, said the special committee found use of gasohol as feasible and its production and use helpful in meeting energy needs and aiding the economy of Michigan.

He said the committee's work provided scientific and realistic answers to questions, with the facts being meaningful in the state and nation.

James W. Leenhouts, committee chairman and business development manager of the Research and

Development Division of Dow Chemical Co., said the committee studied various aspects such as marketability, effects on internal combustion engines, actions in other states and the federal government, technology, by-products and their use, the food versus fuel question and economic effects.

He reported that from the

areas of study, the committee is recommending the state promote and encourage the use of gasohol in automobile transportation.

He added the committee supports orderly gasohol development while maintaining the proper food balance and maintaining a positive liquid fuel balance.

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League claims cuts hurt poor

The Michigan League for Human Services has declared Gov. William G. Milliken's proposals for dealing with the budget strain due to

the recession puts too much of the burden on poor people, who are the least able to cope with the recession themselves.

The league was critical both of the 1980-81 budget proposals and of some of the social services cuts already implemented in the current year.

Zolton Ferency, representing the league, said the governor's proposals mean those who are deprived will have to suffer more heavily than others.

William Marshall, of the Michigan State AFL-CIO, agreed saying his greatest concerns are over the cuts and the upcoming budget reductions coming from those who can least afford it.

The most criticism was leveled at a proposal to save \$40-\$45 million by simply eliminating general assistance payments during April through September for persons under 45 who are classified as employable.

That would affect more than 40,000 persons or about half the general assistance caseload.

Marshall said the premise of the recommendation—that jobs are more plentiful in the summer—is without basis, since the addition of jobs is more than matched by the number of persons seeking jobs. He labeled the proposal as unconscionable.

Also criticized was a proposed 50 percent cut in funding for the emergency needs program, when inflation and rising unemployment along with lagging increases in public assistance grants point to a need for more funding, the league said.

At the same time, the league criticized the governor for budgeting in recommendations to increase payments to Medicaid providers, with \$53.2 million of the increase to reflect an inflation adjustment.

In urging a comprehensive look at the tax structure, Ferency said the league believes, in times of economic distress, tax benefits or loopholes should be closed rather than welfare benefits being eliminated or reduced.

The league suggested taxing military pay, already approved by the state Senate, and lottery winnings, and extending the sales tax to services such as entertainment, laundry and dry cleaning.

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