



EAST MICHIGAN

# Environmental Action Council

TARGET: EARTH

912 So. Woodward Avenue • Birmingham, MI 48011

Extra Edition

February-March, 1972

## EMEAC GOES TO COURT

On February 15, the Board of Directors of EMEAC voted "to attempt to intervene" in the so-called Monroe Creek Suit. This could be a landmark case with far-reaching environmental implications.

George E. Snyder of Buesser, Buesser, Snyder and Blank has donated his time and legal talent to handle the intervention for EMEAC and to make the presentation in court on March 6th.

Dr. John Tanton, Petoskey physician and conservationist, originated the suit against the Department of Natural Resources and others to challenge the decision to allow a dam to be built on Monroe Creek (Charlevoix County). The purpose of the dam is the creation of a lake around which a 1300-home residential subdivision would be built. The dam would destroy bottomlands, the fishery and deer yard. Trout Unlimited has already joined the suit.

The suit is very complicated and has many competing issues. However, the issues that compel the Council to attempt to intervene are

- 1) the DNR is acting in opposition to an Environmental Impact Statement that was unfavorable to the project; and
- 2) some 40 acres of state-owned land were traded to make the project possible.

Certainly the Monroe Creek case demonstrates the need for an enforceable state-level Land Use Policy and for strong protective legislation on lakes and streams.