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Chrysler proposal draws cautious optimism

By MARY GNIEWEK

Cautiously optimistic is the way one congressman feels about the latest Chrysler federal aid proposal, while local dealer affiliates hang onto any ray of hope for the No. 3 automaker's future.

U.S. Rep. William Brodhead, D-Detroit, called a new bill which would bring \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees to Chrysler "a reasonable compromise I'm cautiously optimistic we can get through."

The bill would require the United Auto Workers to provide \$400 million in concessions while Chrysler would have to raise \$1.43 billion. Then the government would provide the loan guarantees.

The key difference between the compromise and another bill before the Senate is that the latter asks for a three-year wage freeze for Chrysler employees. Chrysler would have to raise \$2.75 billion in exchange for the loan guarantees.

If the compromise bill passes, each union member at Chrysler would lose roughly \$4,000 over a three-year period in wages and benefits. That bill is opposed by Chrysler, the UAW and Treasury Secretary C. William Miller.

"Having to renegotiate their contract will pose great difficulties. Peo-

ple should have thought of that before," Brodhead said.

"In a theoretical sense, they should make sacrifices. But in a free enterprise system, if wages are cut below General Motors and Ford, many workers will leave. It's self-defeating."

BRODHEAD SAID the bill will probably be voted on next Tuesday. "We're working hard, getting more commitments every day. We're continuing to talk to our colleagues in the House about it."

"We're getting positive and negative feedback. It'll be a close vote." If Chrysler does not receive federal aid, it will not be able to produce its 1981 cars, he said.

Farmington area Chrysler dealers don't quite believe the government will keep them hanging much longer. "They'll pull us out of this," said Roger Sterling, used car sales manager at Dick Green Chrysler Plymouth.

"It's hard to say what the future will hold. But I don't think the company will go under. It would put too many people out of work."

According to figures calculated by Brodhead, a Chrysler shutdown would mean a loss of 73,000 current Chrysler employees, and an annual payroll loss of \$2.4 billion.

That does not include 166,000 indi-

viduals who are dependent on Chrysler. There would be at least an \$11 billion reduction in the state's gross national product.

"It will be a disaster for Detroit and the state of Michigan," Brodhead said. "There will be substantial increases in

welfare and unemployment.

"MANY BUSINESSES will be affected, some would be lost to our economy forever, they would go to foreign markets."

Jeff Lindahl, used car sales manager at Town and Country Dodge, has ambi-

valent feelings about Chrysler's financial mess.

"I don't feel any certain way about it," he said. "I just think they (Congress) are screwing around too much, and our economy will go down the drain if they don't act." Regardless of

what happens, Lindahl said he is not worried about the future.

"I'll find another job," he said. "If not selling cars, then shoes. If Chrysler closes down, let the government take care of all of us."



Hey mom, look at us!

Sledding is all part of winter as is witnessed by these three happy youngsters who recently took advantage of the small amount of snow which recently fell. They are (from left) Robert McKenna, Mike

Merem and Todd Santomauro. To see what other folks are doing around town these days in preparation for the holiday season, turn to 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Strike bills pass over opposition

By MARY GNIEWEK

the binding arbitration clause.

"I don't believe it will cause any problems here," said Zan Alley, executive director of the Farmington Education Association (FEA).

"We have always maintained good labor relations."

Ms. Alley cited the recent Armada teachers situation as one reason strike legislation is necessary. Armada teachers occupied a school library for several days in a show of union support before their contract was settled.

"Really must be faced," she said. "We need a resolution process, some organized legal process. The end resolution is through bargaining."

Other related bills which passed the House Tuesday include:

• HB 4897, which orders round-the-clock bargaining for 10 days prior to a strike.

• HB 4754, if a teacher loses pay during a strike, it doesn't violate the teacher's tenure act.

• HB 5135 sets forth certain provisions regarding loss of pay. Both sides receive equal economic penalties in the event of a strike.

A CRITICAL amendment attached to that bill allows teachers to strike 15 days at the beginning of the school year without losing pay.

In addition, teachers could strike another 15 days before intervention by the state attorney general. Farmington School Superintendent Lewis Schulman and Brotherton strongly oppose the lack of economic penalties.

"It sets the stage for two weeks of no school," Schulman said.

A plethora of bills that will give teachers and municipal employees the right to strike passed the state House of Representatives by an overwhelming margin Tuesday.

The main bill, House Bill 4645, sponsored by Rep. Perry Bullard, D-An Arbor, passed 68 to 33. It will now go to the Senate for debate.

The Bill allows strikes by municipal employees and teachers, with 10 days notice to the employer. It excludes elected officials, police and fire-fighters.

The main opposition from school boards and legislators, including the Farmington Board of Education and Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton, R-Farmington, is an amendment which allows binding arbitration.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Mary Brown, D-Kalamazoo, allows a neutral third party to negotiate a contract settlement if a court so orders.

The State Attorney General can seek a court injunction if the strike cuts into the 165-day school year.

"THE PROBLEM with binding arbitration in terms of past experience is that it fails to recognize the district's ability to pay," said Brotherton, who voted against the main bill but supported the others.

"If the schools don't have money, they lay off other people and out programs in order to pay the arbitrator's award. That's a bad situation."

A contingent of Farmington teachers who went to Lansing last week to lobby for the strike bills aren't worried about

Cleveland Amory

Curmudgeon strikes back with satire

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Behind the persona of a roving curmudgeon lurks a man for whom Field and Stream magazine has the utmost disregard.

For Cleveland Amory, author, lecturer and activist for animal preservation, a hunter's scorn is sweet.

Not satisfied with irritating hunters, Amory is busy getting on the wrong side of conservatives, the Canadian government, the U.S. Navy and seal hunters.

Speaking before a group at iBrowse bookstore in West Bloomfield Tuesday evening, Amory first tackled conservatives who are the subject of his latest satire, "The Trouble with Nowadays: A Curmudgeon Strikes Back."

"You can do things in satire you can't do straight," he said. "I thought it was time for a satire of the conservative viewpoint."

His book's narrator, a conservative in his 70s, blasts the modern age from the comfort of his club. The book has

garnered mixed reviews with kudos from Gore Vidal and William F. Buckley Jr.

"The person who took it absolutely straight is bound to be furious," Amory adds, almost gleefully.

And he hesitates to say where the fictional curmudgeon ends and Amory begins in the book.

HE HASN'T tired of his self-imposed role and presented his audience with his view of Christmas.

"It's a bad time of the year for a curmudgeon," he began.

He goes on to knock "vicious" children who suddenly turn sweet for Santa's arrival and bustling doormen and postal carriers hoping for a seasonal tip.

"Such a brigade of brigands descend on you with methods that would put a blush on the cheek of a Barbary pirate," is the way he describes the assault.

Much of his satire is reserved for

hunters through his Hunt the Hunters club.

The club is devoted to the hunting and killing of hunters.

"We're only trimming the herd to make a stronger herd. Have you ever seen hunters starving in the woods? It's

horrible sight."

Good taste dictates that mounting hunters' heads be avoided. Jackets, caps or guns should be tastefully mounted instead.

It's that kind of satirical stance (Continued on page 13A)



Cleveland Amory toiled to sell his book and his Fund for Animals Tuesday evening in West Bloomfield. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Two jewelry stores are target of thefts

Two Farmington jewelry stores were the target of thefts Tuesday, with goods in excess of \$87,000 taken in the heists.

The first incident occurred at Wilsons Jewelers, 33185 Grand River, in the Farmington Center at 3 p.m.

A man wearing a light green coat with a sheepskin collar walked into the store, removed three trays of rings from a display case, and fled into the parking area.

The 33 assorted rings were valued at \$17,874.

The man is described as Hispanic, with black short wavy hair and a slight mustache. He possibly left the shopping center in a 1979 burgundy Thunderbird.

The Diamond Boutique, 37105 Grand River, was hit for a second time this year Tuesday evening.

According to police, two armed men wearing nylon stockings over their heads entered the store at about 8:30 p.m.

One fired a shot into the ceiling, the other fired a shot into a display case while announcing a hold-up.

Assorted rings valued at \$50,000 were taken from display cases before the suspects fled on foot into the KMart shopping area.

Store owner Bob Miller fired at the two men, but no injuries were reported.

Both suspects were white males with slender builds. One, 5 feet 8 inches tall, was armed with a blue steel revolver. The other, 6 feet 2 inches, carried a full-length shotgun.

Diamond Boutique was the site of a \$120,000 robbery in August. Police arrested three suspects in that case.

Hitchhiker robs driver

A hitchhiker allowed a Southfield man to keep his wedding ring after taking the man's pinky ring and watch at knife point last weekend.

Lawrence Fisher, 39, offered the hitchhiker a ride at Northwestern Highway and Telegraph in Southfield, according to Farmington Hills police.

When the car approached westbound

I-696 between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads, the hitchhiker produced a six to eight inch long hunting knife and demanded the valuables before leaving the car. He declined to take Fisher's wedding ring.

The hitchhiker took a gold pinky ring with four small diamonds.

inside

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

To allow for the upcoming holidays, our deadlines for the issues of December 24 through January 3 will be earlier than usual. Advertising space reservation for the Monday papers will be on the preceding Thursday at noon. Classified ads can be called in to our ad-takers until 5 p.m. on Friday.

For the Thursday papers, advertising space reservation will be at 5 p.m. on the preceding Friday. This includes real estate, business directory, classified display and retail advertising. Our classified phone lines will be open until noon on Monday.

All deadlines for news copy will be twenty-four hours earlier than usual.

- Business Section D
- Club Circuit 2E
- Community Calendar 4E
- Entertainment Section C
- Editorials 18A
- Inside Angles 3A
- Obituaries 6A
- Sports Section B
- Suburban Life Section E