

Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 73

Thursday, June 28, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

90 Pages

Twenty-five cents

Fight cartel with oil board, says Brodhead

A bill to create a government authority to purchase oil may have a chance to crack the OPEC stranglehold on black gold imported into the country.

U.S. Rep. William Brodhead, D-Detroit, introduced the bill which would make the federal government the sole purchasing agent of foreign oil. He explained the Oil Import Purchase Authority of 1979 in testimony before the energy subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations last week in Washington.

"Under my proposal, oil companies would not be permitted to import oil. Instead, they would place orders with a federal purchasing authority," Brodhead said.

"This arrangement would greatly maximize our bargaining position by placing oil exporting nations in direct competition with each other, a situation which could drive a wedge into the OPEC cartel."

Brodhead reminded his audience that the U.S. is the only major industrial nation which doesn't have a purchasing authority for imported oil.

"The experience of the Western European nations proves that this concept is sound and will work," he said. "Under the alternative I am suggesting, we will have the nation bidding to drive the price down, a solution which is anti-inflationary."

Brodhead pointed out that in 1972 the U.S. imported about 30 percent of its oil. Today that figure is 44 percent, of which 70 percent is supplied by OPEC members.

THE COST of this oil has increased from \$1.80 per barrel in 1970 to over \$14.50 per barrel today.

"For nearly six years, the OPEC cartel has been ripping off the American people," Brodhead proclaimed. "Almost every day we are reminded of our overwhelming dependence on this international oil cartel."

This week the OPEC nations are meeting in Geneva to decide on further oil pricing policy. One magazine has predicted the conference will adopt a 20 percent increase, in addition to the 14.5 percent increase of last December.

"At the present time, oil import decisions vitally affecting our economy are not made by the government. Instead they are made by multi-national oil

companies which act on the basis of maximizing profits rather than the national interest," Brodhead said.

Under the proposal, the authority would consolidate orders and solicit competitive bids from the oil-producing nations seeking to supply the market.

Through competitive bidding, contracts to supply oil would go to the bidders that offered the lowest prices. This arrangement would place oil exporting nations in direct competition with each other.

Brodhead disagrees with objections to the plan based on inconsistency with free enterprise.

"OPEC is a cartel and does not adhere to the canons of free enterprise. Under the present system the oil companies are acting as they are legally bound to do in the interest of their stockholders, to maximize profits."

"My bill would not put government in the oil business, since the government would merely be the agent to transfer oil from OPEC to domestic distributors. This is not socialism or nationalization. It is merely a different system of transferring oil."

Representative Charles Vanik, chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade of the Ways and Means Committee, will hold hearings on the Oil Import Purchase Authority bill before his subcommittee in late July.

Currently the Ways and Means Committee, of which Brodhead is a member, is considering the foreign tax cut proposals.

"I was very disappointed that Secretary of the Treasury Blumenthal suggested only a single change in the foreign tax credit," Brodhead said.

"The legislation proposed would merely prohibit oil companies that accrue foreign tax credits from using them to offset losses on related shipping ventures."

"Since its inception, the foreign tax credit has provided a perverse incentive for oil companies to explore and produce in OPEC countries at the expense of domestic production. The foreign tax credit for oil income should be much more limited, and I shall be working for amendments to the administration's legislation to accomplish this objective."



Stalking the wild

Duffy the dog seeks out a big challenge as he attempts a crossing of the stream through Farmington City Park. Helping him out is Steve

Roller. Witnessing Duffy's first confrontation with nature are Jason Madgwick, Jim Johnston and Dan Rouse. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Protests force new fall date for Grand River improvements

By MARY GNIEWEK

Relief may be coming soon for motorists along Grand River and 10 Mile.

The Farmington Observer reported last week that the Oakland County Road Commission rescheduled a major intersection improvement plan until next year despite objections from the Farmington Industrial Park Association.

Following a meeting between Farmington Hills and Oakland County officials this week in Southfield, the road commission agreed to install traffic signals and road signs this fall.

Pending approval of city and state officials, the intersection will get:

• A traffic signal at Research Drive and 10 Mile. The city must pay one-third of the estimated \$7,500 cost. City Council must approve funds. The cost would be shared with the county.

• Traffic signs proclaiming the right lane of eastbound 10 Mile a right turn only lane between the I-275 bridge and the entrance to the Industrial Park (just west of the Holiday Inn). And installation of merge signs along the bridge area.

• The city and road commission will petition the State Department of Transportation for traffic signals at the I-275 entrance and exit ramps at Grand River. The property is under the state's jurisdiction.

THE MEETING, attended by members of the Industrial Park Association, Chamber of Commerce, department of engineering, and road commission, was arranged by State Rep. W. (Sandy) Brotherton, R-Farmington. Brotherton acted on a request from Industrial Park Association Director Ralph Shoberg.

Shoberg, president of G.S.E. Inc. in the industrial park, charged the road commission last week with giving special priority to the Novi, Grand River intersection, which is also slated for major road improvements.

"We made it clear we don't want to be second priority. We have to scream, make a lot of noise," Shoberg said. "From a safety point of view, something needs to be done soon."

Shoberg said a G.S.E. engineer sustained head and neck injuries in an accident at the Grand River, 10 Mile intersection on Monday.

"It will be five years before the re-engineering, construction project is

completed. But I think the problem will be alleviated some with these three things.

"It may take longer to get through the intersection with traffic signals, but it will be a heck of a lot safer."

Rep. Brotherton sent a letter to Transportation Department Director John Woodford Tuesday asking for traffic signals on the I-275 interchange.

"I want to keep the pressure on," Brotherton said. "The whole intersection is very complicated. It's an awful problem. Signals appear to be a solution. I'll continue to pursue this."

City engineer Tom Biassel said he also drafted a letter to Woodford on Tuesday requesting the installation of traffic signals along the I-275 bridge.

The road commission hopes to begin work early next spring on widening 10 Mile from the I-275 bridge to Grand River from two to five lanes.

Professionals assess system

Juvenile justice termed a failure

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Persons who work within the juvenile system in Farmington share Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes's terse assessment of its effectiveness.

"It's obvious, the system's a failure," Others, like John Pinkerman of the Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA)

tire of following the twist and turns of law as they try to tangle with the problem of juvenile justice. Two years ago, he admits, he quit following the progress of juvenile justice reform.

"The system will change, someday, hopefully in my lifetime," he said. "But the fallout of the system's failures continues to hit the professional lives of the two men.

For Byrnes and his officers the existing system poses the problem of helping the youngster with his problems.

Youngsters who commit a status offense, such as truancy or running away face the possibility of being involved in court and coming out with a police record.

The system helps neither the youngster nor the parent, and sometimes the parents need as much help as the youngster, according to Byrnes.

"YOU HAVE PARENTS with the mentality of children trying to raise a child," he said.

"Juvenile facilities are not the answer. Half-way houses are more effective."

But the fallout of the system's failures continues to hit the professional lives of the two men.

For Byrnes and his officers the existing system poses the problem of helping the youngster with his problems.

Byrnes' attitude toward the half-way

houses is a change in police attitudes toward that solution. He admits that when the first half-way houses cropped up, the police attitude was a negative one.

Runaways caught by the police are returned home.

If the home problem was so bad that the child ran away from it, then nothing is being accomplished by returning the child to a bad situation, according to Byrnes. The reality of the situation is that the police are returning the child to a bad environment.

Youngsters who are caught for committing larger crimes, such as breaking and entering and other types of theft, are often returned to their parents.

BUT THE LARGER problem which exists at home isn't tackled.

Children are sent to probation officers who don't show up or aren't available to the youngster. Or the child is caught in bureaucratic procedures which prevent him from entering a placement center such as Children's Village in Pontiac as soon as they should.

There are few places to send youngsters for counseling. Runaways have few shelters available to them. The counseling efforts which do exist are understaffed, and underfunded, according to professionals.

But the counseling centers do exist as one way of circumventing the courts and avoid giving the child a police record.

"Sometimes I think if you label a juvenile delinquent, in six months he'll go out and prove you're right," said Pinkerman.

Labels affect children. An insecure teen may begin to believe he really is as bad as the adults tell him.

Pinkerman and the FYA are one stopping off point for youngsters who are having problems with parents, themselves and the law.

ALTHOUGH HE prefers to work with the parents and the child, that often isn't the case.

"The parents who really need it (counseling) don't come," he said.

While the Farmington Police see about 11 runaways in the 151 youngsters they contact within a year, Pinkerman and his staff see between 150-200 youngsters. Most of them are about 14-15 years old, an age that is the national average for children in trouble.

Some of the teens run away from a problem, others run toward another person. They seek an adult or a friend their own age to support them at a bad time.

While some parents have unsolved problems of their own to cope with, others are immobilized by a sense of guilt. Their job depresses them. They come home to problems with the child that they don't have the energy to face, Pinkerman suggests.

These parents are afraid of seeing themselves as bad parents. They see going to counseling as an admission that they have failed, personally. Other parents don't care.

For some youngsters with family problems or those who have been disciplined by their discouraged family, Pinkerman suggests a temporary foster care facility. But the facility would be the only one the child sees, instead of being bounced from home to home.

FOSTER CARE should involve more than caretaking services. Psychological and medical care should be part of the package, according to Pinkerman.

But both Pinkerman and Byrnes admit that there is a small percentage of youths who won't be reached by counseling. They refused to be reached.

"The bottom line is that there are some children that no one is going to reach," said Byrnes.

District makes the grade in poll

By MARY GNIEWEK

Declining enrollment and a lack of money are the major problems facing the Farmington School District this year, believes a random sampling of district voters.

At the same time, a majority of the 137 who responded to the survey rate the Farmington Schools and Board of Education as doing a good job and are supportive of the middle school format to be implemented in the 1980-1981 school year.

The results of the poll, conducted in April by then school board candidates Michael Shipley and James McGilley, were released to the board at its regular meeting last week.

Of the 137 polled by phone, 75 percent were chosen from a list of residents who had voted in the August, 1976 primary. The remainder were selected at random from the telephone book.

Of those surveyed, 27 percent were from Farmington, 15 percent from southeast Farmington Hills, 31 percent from north Farmington Hills, and 27 percent from west Farmington Hills.

The majority were between the ages of 40 and 62, have been area residents for five to 15 years, and do not presently have children attending Farmington public schools. Sixty percent were female, 40 percent male.

Asked to rate the Farmington schools, 49.6 percent said they were good, 24.8 percent said excellent, 7.3 percent fair, and 3.6 percent said poor. Fourteen percent had no opinion.

THE SCHOOL BOARD received an overall good performance rating from 40.1 percent of those polled. Seventeen and one-half percent believe the board is doing a fair job, 7.3 percent rated it excellent.

The major school problems pollsters named were: declining enrollment and loss of students, 21.2 percent; lack of money, 20.4 percent; lack of discipline, 14.6 percent; poor curriculum, 14.6 percent; and high taxes, 9.5 percent.

Other problems, such as administrative and boundary change policy, were mentioned by 27.5 percent of those polled.

Knowledge of the board's intention to begin a middle school concept in 1980-1981 was known by 65.7 percent of those surveyed. The middle school will put sixth, seventh and eighth graders in the same school and send ninth graders to high schools.

Supporting the change to middle schools were 55.2 percent.

Each pollster was read a list of statements and asked to agree or disagree with the content. They included:

• Getting money from Lansing for our schools ought to be a top priority of the school board. (51 percent agreed, 40 percent disagreed; 9 percent had no opinion.)

• The schools ought to do something to meet the special problems of single and working parents even if it costs money. (51.1 percent disagreed, 37.2 percent agreed; 11.7 percent had no opinion.)

• I think the student population will (Continued on page 6A)

inside

Longer Hours For Placing Ads

Beginning Thursday, July 5, you will be able to place a want ad in your hometown newspaper until 7:30 p.m. every Monday and Thursday evening. These extended hours are in addition to our regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Now we have more hours to serve you better. Call us today.

1644-1070

Business	8D
Community Calendar	3C
Down to Earth	17A
Editorial Opinion	18A
Engagements and Weddings	4C
Entertainment	1D
Exhibitions	2D
From the Wine Press	5C
Inside Angles	3A
Obituaries	2A
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section C