

today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 94 48 pages, 4 sections

what's inside

Money For Police

Gov. Milliken has announced awarding of a number of state grants for law enforcement, including two Oakland County grants and which will provide direct benefits to the Farmington Area. A total of \$1.5 million was doled out statewide, but you can find out how much will have an effect on local law enforcement and how by turning inside.

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Fence Off Children?

Discussion among Farmington School trustees about donating a portable classroom for use by the Drug Rap Line sparked a debate, including a suggestion by one trustee that secondary students using the portable be fenced off.

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Teacher Strike?

The Farmington Education Association, bargaining agent for the district's teachers, report bargaining is at a standstill and claims the big argument is on class size. But, hopefully, the intervention of a mediator will forestall possibility of a strike this fall.

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Book Hours

The main book store of the Farmington School District has been swamped with students coming to pick up books. Because of the extra-long lines, the book store has arranged special hours Friday and Saturday.

Friday hours will be 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday's from 9 a.m. to noon. The book store is located at 33000 Thomas, next to Farmington Junior High.

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Reveal Township Policemen 'Politically Active' For Nolan

By EMORY DANIELS

The attorney for Farmington Township Supervisor-elect Earl Teeplees claims that township policemen have been "actively" engaged in political activity.

Bernard Kahn, Teeplees' attorney, says the activity has been pointed out to Chief of Police Irving Yakes, and the officers involved have not yet been disciplined.

KAHN CHARGES that a township patrolman circulated petitions during working hours for Tom Nolan, township trustee running for treasurer, and a petition for Nolan was signed by township policemen.

In an amended complaint to be filed this week in Oakland County Circuit Court, Kahn also alleges a high-ranking township police officer was witnessed tearing down Teeplees' campaign posters.

In addition, Kahn told the court, a letter sent from the police department during the August primary campaign was political in nature.

THE CLAIMS WERE made by Kahn in answer to a request by Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan for a summary judgment against Teeplees.

Before the election, Teeplees filed a suit with Circuit Court asking for a restraining order to prevent Farmington Township from disciplining him for the "mere filing of a petition."

The court never made a ruling, and the township board, after the election in which Teeplees won the supervisor's post, instructed Brennan to seek a summary judgment to determine the validity of the township's police manual.

The police manual bars policemen from engaging in political activity of any kind. Kahn claims the only action by Teeplees was passive and merely involved signing an affidavit confirming his willingness to run for office.

KAHN'S AMENDED complaint asks Circuit Judge James Thorburn not to issue a summary judgment but instead to let the case go to trial to air all related events, including political activity by patrolmen other than Teeplees.

In his amended complaint, Kahn states: "The police officers of the Township of Farmington have constantly engaged in political activity prior to the Aug. 4, 1970 primary election, during said election and subsequent thereto."

Kahn included in his filing copies of a petition

circulated for Nolan, who as a township trustee participated in approval of the police manual and is a member of the police review board.

The petition, which nominated Nolan for township treasurer, was circulated by Officer William T. Hoelt during working hours according to Kahn.

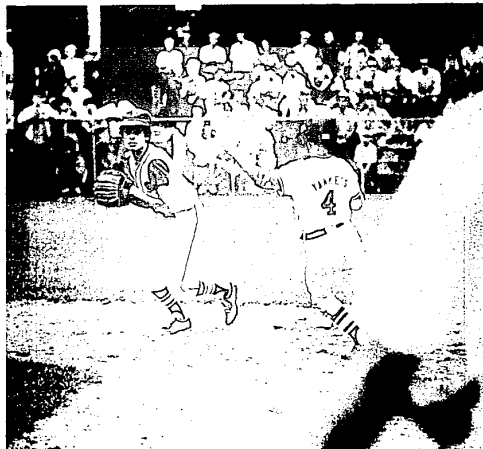
The petition, signed by Hoelt as circulator on June 9, contained signatures of patrolmen, sergeants, corporals and lieutenants of the township police department.

Among township policemen who signed Nolan's nominating petition were: Lt. William Kelly; Lt. Thomas Schreiber; Sgt. Jack Brown; Sgt. Arlo Newell; Sgt. Stephen Santo; Cpl. Thomas Godwin; Cpl. Richard Krueger; and Patrolmen Hoelt, Peter Larson Jr., R. Marchwitz and C. W. Johnston, and Detective George Maier.

Kahn said that for Nolan to complain about Teeplees' political activity "is at the very least cynical hypocrisy..." when petitions for Nolan were circulated by a patrolman and signed by police officers.

THE COMPLAINT ALSO claims Officer Hoelt had a bumper sticker on his car which he drove to

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SAFE AT SECOND—The South Farmington second baseman stands anxiously by the bag waiting for the ball to arrive, but the South Highland (Ind.) Yankee is destined to arrive first. South Highland won Saturday's game 10-0 against the South Farmington team. The Indiana team now represents the U.S. in the Williamsport, Pa., elimination tournament for the world's title. (Photo for the Observer by Pam Spaulding of the Kokomo Tribune)

Champs Return Home

The South Farmington National All Stars almost made it to Williamsport, Pa., to compete for the world's little league championship but lost out in the final stages.

After defeating a tough Hyde Park, Ill., team 5-4 on Aug. 20, the South Farmington nine lost to an even tougher South Highland, Ind., squad.

The Michigan champs had their impressive winning streak abruptly snapped by the South Highland Yankees who turned in an impressive 10-0 victory.

South Highland will now represent the United States in the world's championship tournament this week. That tournament will be televised next week on Wide World of Sports.

South Highland gained the chance to play South Farmington by defeating Fort Des Moines, Ia. 2-1 in the semifinals.

For complete game details on Saturday's loss to South Highland, turn to the Observer Sports section inside today's Farmington Enterprise & Observer.



CONCERNED MOTHER — A mother of a South Farmington all-star player expresses her loyal concern as she watches the Michigan Champs accept a 10-0 defeat, only one game away from winning for the world's title in Williamsport, Pa. (Photo for the Observer by Pam Spaulding of the Kokomo Tribune)

Board Votes Its Preference For Private 'Study' Sessions

By WYLIE GERDES

The new Farmington Board of Education split for the first time Monday night on a major policy issue -- and the 5-2 voting pattern is one likely to occur again.

Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi's proposal to limit the school board's study sessions died on a 5-2 vote with only Gary Lichtman adding his vote.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, Vagnozzi proposed that the board end its regular secret study sessions on Monday evenings when it does not meet in public session.

In the place of the closed-door sessions, Vagnozzi suggested the board hold "committee of the whole" meetings open to the public.

Only when personnel, salary negotiations and land acquisition are discussed should meetings be held in private, Vagnozzi said.

The proposal fell before a majority likely to control the board on upcoming issues. Board President John Washburn, Ken Perrin, Richard Peters and newcomers Ron Emmitt and Mrs. Kay Stirling voted against the open meetings proposal.

Perrin was the leader of the opposition in the long discussion on the controversy, part of a long and tense meeting.

The board vice president read a three-page typewritten statement setting forth his reasons for opposing Vagnozzi's plan.

Perrin then submitted a resolution declaring the intent of the board to hold open study meetings on major proposals whenever "practical and appropriate."

Perrin's resolution was shuttled to the policy and public relations committees by a 5-2 vote, Perrin and Washburn opposing the move.

WHILE NOTING subjects such as the recent civic arena proposal and the Family Life Education Committee reports should be given public hearings before board action, Perrin agreed with Vagnozzi that personnel, land acquisition and negotiations should be discussed privately.

"In our study session, when we discuss a particular situation, we try to examine all the ramifications of any contemplated action."

"These are often wide-ranging, in-depth discussions which frequently get into the areas of personnel and/or cover the effects which contemplated actions may have on future negotiations."

"If such discussions were held at public meetings, we would have to avoid such areas and come back to them at private study sessions. This would result in a loss of continuity of the discussion and have an adverse effect on our ability to reach a logical conclusion."

PERRIN ADDED that the private study sessions have been the practice of the board for "well over 10 years."

"We should remember that formal action on proposals is taken only at the regular public meeting of the board. It has been the practice, and I assume it will continue to be the practice, for members of the board to discuss these proposals at these public meetings," Perrin notes.

Peters agreed that no action or discussions occurred during the study sessions that weren't repeated in public meetings.

"The press may report secret meetings, but I have never felt this has taken place," Peters said.

Vagnozzi and Lichtman disagreed.

"While actual decisions were not made, the semblance of decisions were made," Vagnozzi said.

"There has been consensus reached at these private study sessions," he added.

Vagnozzi said the FLE reports on sex education, drug abuse and minority understanding are examples of topics discussed in a study session differently than at the public meetings.

He called the reports given in study session "much more detailed and much more useful than what was reported in public."

LICHTMAN AGREED with Vagnozzi that informal agreements seem to have been formed in study sessions.

"I can't quite agree that no clandestine decisions have ever been reached in study sessions," Lichtman said.

Another reason advanced for the defeat of the open meetings proposal was the public session would burden trustees already deluged by school matters.

"The motion before us (Vagnozzi's proposal) would result in a requirement for many additional meetings, to the detriment of the work we are trying

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