

# Safety Needed For School Busses

EDITOR:

Congressman William S. Broomfield of Royal Oak recently sponsored a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that deserves the support of every concerned American. It would require that all school busses be equipped with seat belts and safe seat backs of proper height and padding to substantially reduce injuries.

Last year more than 4,000 school children were injured in what one educator calls those big "sheet metal coffins."

Presently no state nor the federal government requires seat belts and padded backrests in busses. Congressman Broomfield stated that the American Society of Oral Surgeons reported over 1300 children were injured when they were thrown against the seat ahead of them. Often this seat back is framed with a dangerous steel bar.

John Porter, superintendent of public instruction for the State of Michigan, stated in front of the Economics Club of Detroit on March 6 that approximately 50 per cent of Michigan students ride busses.

House Bill 13143 has been referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. It asks that the secretary of Transportation establish standards which require that school busses built after June 30, 1972 be equipped with safety equipment. Buses built before this date shall be equipped with proper seat backs and lap belts.

The bill would require federal grants be made to local school districts to upgrade their buses.

In my opinion, this is a significant bill and it deserves the support of all Americans and deserves it NOW.

Please write to your Congressman today.

JOSEPH ST. CYR  
American Institute of Architects  
Livonia

## READERS' FORUM

Please type (or write clearly) and limit letters to 300 words.

- Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.
- The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

### UN Seeking School Control

EDITOR:

In November of 1960 the 11th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) prepared a treaty entitled "Draft Convention Against Discrimination in Education."

A few months later a Committee on Mission and Organization of the U.S. Office of Education issued a booklet entitled "A Federal Education Agency for the Future." Together the U.S. Agency Booklet and the UNESCO Treaty presented a three point program for U.S. education:

1. Massive and continuing federal aid to education will eventually eliminate state, local and private financing of schools and colleges and thus transfer to the federal government total responsibility for education.
2. This responsibility will be placed in an agency of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare with such broad administrative powers that will not be answerable to Congress or to the public.
3. The federal agency will, however, be answerable to the United Nations. It will make regular reports to UNESCO under the general supervision of UNESCO requiring American educational institutions to conform with what the international socialists and communists of that organization demand.

U.S. Congressman John Ashbrook and four other representatives filed as part of a formal Congressional

Committee a report regarding the UNESCO Treaty: "UNESCO's proposed new treaty is now before the State Department. It would deliver the entire American educational system into UNESCO international control. It would close every private and parochial school in the United States. It would automatically remove education from under domestic law and control. It encompasses every phase and facet of American education...."

Another reason why we should get the U.S. out of the UN and the UN out of the U.S. MRS. CLAIRE BOMER Westland

### What Happens With Bussing

EDITOR:

I, as a student, would like to express my opinion on bussing. I moved to Michigan from another state, where our schools were always integrated and everyone was satisfied. But then a few people in high positions were not happy because an exact percentage of each race wasn't exactly distributed in each school. So they shuffled the kids and bussed them from one end of the district to the other. That district spent more time and money on bussing than on our education.

As a result the neighborhood concept of the school was lost. The kids lost their school spirit. Vandallism resulted

### Boy Scout Show Set For June 9-11

This year's giant Detroit Area Council "Scout-O-Rama" will be held at the Michigan State Fairgrounds June 9-11. Robert R. Cosner, general chairman, announced. Theme will be "America's Youth on the Move." Cosner, vice president - power train group for Ford Motor Co., said more than 25,000 cubs, scouts and explorers from about 1,000 packs and troops from throughout the Detroit metropolitan area are expected to participate in the weekend event.

Sponsors hope to attract more than 200,000 visitors to the biennial exhibit. Several acres of fairground will be covered with indoor and outdoor displays of activities and projects conducted by organizations making up the Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Features will include sporting events; swimming, boating and lifesaving activities; parades and band concerts; Indian

### Burr Assigned To Travis AFB

LIVONIA U. S. Air Force Sgt. David A. Burr, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Burr, 30477 Bobich, Livonia, has arrived for duty at Travis AFB, Calif.

Burr, an aircraft electrical repairman, is assigned to a unit of the Military Airlift Command which provides global airlift for U.S. military forces. He previously served at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand. The sergeant is a 1968 graduate of Stevenson High School.

because some kids felt they had no school they cared about.

Most of all, parents lost interest, parents who volunteered their help and time no longer bothered. Some of these extra responsibilities placed on the teachers were too great and most of our best teachers left, many quitting even before retirement.

So I am for improving and keeping the neighborhood school no matter how many of each race go there.

ROBERT EWALD Livonia

### Big Budgets, Higher Taxes

EDITOR:

In view of the increasing concern of our citizens regarding assessing and property taxation, we feel that a few facts should be revealed. To begin with, Article IX, Section 3, of the state constitution states in part: "The legislature shall provide for the determination of true cash value of such property; the property shall be uniformly assessed, which shall not, after Jan. 1, 1966, exceed 50 per cent of true cash value."

The following is a statement from George Montgomery, a Detroit Democrat and chairman of the House Taxation Committee, and former Republican Rep. James Folks, who formerly headed the taxation committee.

"State equalization does not increase the local property tax bill, but rather higher budgets and increased spending by the local units of government are the real reasons for the increasing local property tax bills."

There is no statutory compulsion on any unit of local government to impose the maximum tax rate available on the increased state equalized values. The tax rate is determined by the actual needs of the local units of government and an in-

crease in the state equalized valuation does not mean that there must be an increase in the local property tax bills. An increase in taxation is necessary when the needs of the current year are not satisfied by the budgets of the previous year.

In many cases, citizens are told when they visit city hall, that the county has raised the factor for equalization on property in the city, and there is nothing that can be done. The truth is that taxes have been raised because, the local officials regard equalization as a "bonus." They raise their budgets to satisfy the increase in taxes instead of lowering the tax rate to keep

taxes at or near the old level. TOM CROWE Westland

### Strange Set Of Values

EDITOR:

Our men in Vietnam have waited long enough for our support; too long to be shot down by a machine bullet of death for the unborn. At least these men have the courage to accept freedom's responsibilities. How unlike the Americans (?) at home who are discarding all. A strong set of values to say the least. JOAN M. WEINER Livonia

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