

FACTS and OPINIONS

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older families whose children have grown up, and people living alone . . . it makes eminently good economic sense for Suburbia to encourage a mixture of building types . . .

... as for symbolic buildings, what do we see in Suburbia? It is true there probably are some monuments along the nearest highway. But while the churches of our early New England towns and villages were tall enough to be visible from almost everywhere, the sprawl of today's Suburbia has pushed the churches so far out that their spires are no longer visible farther than a block away. The Howard Johnson, more often than not, is more visible . . . one of the important functions of a tall building in any community is to serve as a point of reference, to permit people to find their way about without trouble . . .

"The meaning of all this is two-fold; first, we do not seem to possess the sort of common faiths that shaped cities like Florence (whose only tall buildings were symbols of religion and of government) and, second, one reason we are not so committed is that nobody living in Suburbia is conscious of the physical symbols of democratic government—the one faith we do CLAIM to hold in common . . .

"We find ourselves with 50 million suburbanites most of whom are totally disinterested in local government, refuse to participate in it, and frequently don't even know what community (if that is the word) they belong to."

The concluding words are not The Editor's, but those of Peter Blake, angry architect and author of "God's Own Junkyard" . . .

"The only local issue that arouses any degree of passion is taxes—and that one tends to generate more furor than constructive illumination . . .

... Just about the ONLY factor that determines the shape of the American city today is UNREGULATED PRIVATE PROFIT: profit from speculation with land, profit from manipulating land and buildings, and profit from the actual construction and subsequent lease or sale of buildings . . .

... our planning commissions generally bend for everyone with political connections, and permit variances . . .

... our elected officials think of little beyond taxes and their chances at the next election."

'Village Green' Debated by Board

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John Feeney, President of historic Old Homestead Civic Association, which borders on the 160 acres, stated that "we'll take this upstairs" (i.e., court) if the board approves the development. A successful Broadway-play applause greeted him and countless others as they soaked their way through criticism of the plans.

Gil Frimet, describing himself as an unpaid attorney for 64 residents listed on a petition, indicated he felt there was a "conflict of interest" in the plans. He pointed out that Curtis Hall, Farmington Township Supervisor Norman Laughon, President of Star Cutter and long-time owner of the acreage, and Duke, the developer and new owner, were all members of the same board for a local bank.

Chairman of the Zoning Board, Percival Guardhouse, said the developer was trustworthy.

Mr. Leman, the Board's professional outside Planning Consultant, reported that a study made of the proposal indicated that it was "reasonable and a definite asset to the township." He said a new school would adequately handle the school children and a site had already been planned.

Star Cutter President Laughon, in the audience, spoke for the project. He expressed dismay toward his dissenting neighbors. He pointed out that when his company came in there were no zoning regulations, but that if it were to want to come in today, "you'll never have us." Yet, he said, his firm is respected by the community to

New Water Main Opens

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interval between Sept. 10 and Oct. 10," said James Leuders, project engineer for Oakland County.

The arrival of water from the Detroit Water System — which pumps it from Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River and later will be pulling from Lake Huron — represents fulfillment of a project conceived long ago by Hall and other members of the Farmington Township administration. It has been delayed by labor strikes and other events beyond any local control; and residents have waited anxiously. They are weary of the water restrictions of all sorts, including in some cases the necessity of actually carting water by containers to their homes.

School Board

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Paul bus would pick them up. Contracts were awarded for additions and electrical and mechanical construction at the North Farmington and East Junior high schools. Proposed general construction will amount to approximately \$814,840 with an additional amount going to electrical work, new boilers and equipment.

The Board discussed the recent collapse of their bus garage hoist which injured one worker. The hoist being only five years old, the seven-member board decided to have their attorney look into the possibility of filing a claim for damages on grounds of faulty construction of the hoist.

It was decided to bypass having the hoist repaired at an estimated cost of \$400. The Administration instead was instructed to take bids on a new hoist to replace the one that failed.

Eight bids were read for the construction of a bus garage and maintenance building with two lots at an identical \$56,250.

Theft

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suddenly demanded that Mrs. Mullins turn over her money, she said. She refused, according to reports, and was checked with a handkerchief and beaten. "Helen" is reported to have found the money on Mrs. Mullins' person and stripped it from her brassiere. The pair also took a diamond ring valued at more than \$500, the report states.

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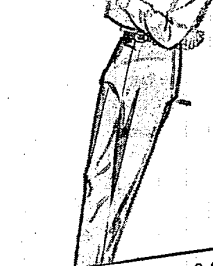
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