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FACTS and OPINIONS

by Paul Chandler

Several of the faithful have phoned today to inquire if I knew this State Rep. Daniel West, who is in all the trouble this week for having posed as a lawyer, a Ph. D., and a few other things, when in fact he has been a convict and, more recently, a hustler specializing in wrestling funds from the Internal Revenue Department.

Rep. West and myself sat often (for two years) side by side in the close quarters of the House Towns and Counties committee. The representative from Detroit cannot never open his mouth. His general mental attitude seemed to be daze... though occasionally for no obvious reason he would be angry and turn without warning upon some witness who would be pleading for or against a particular bill.

"Okay, Jones, what's your angle?" would be a typical bark from Rep. West on such occasions.

But overall, one had the impression that Rep. West didn't understand the subject matter and was maintaining the better part of discretion by keeping his mouth shut. He rarely missed a meeting.

I presume I would have to admit, if the arm was twisted, that I thought Rep. West was sort of dumb.

In retrospect, this doesn't seem accurate. His mind apparently was on other things.

Now, of course, serious citizens are asking the horse-and-the-horn-door type question: "How could it happen that anybody like West could be elected?"

The general quality of men who are elected to public office in the United States of America is so much shabbier than the typical citizen realizes, that we are teetering today right exactly on the edge of national tragedy.

Many elected posts go completely by default to men otherwise unemployed or almost so... a career man in private business will not give up a steady job, frighten his family to the end of their wits about their security, in exchange for an office where the pay is low, the hours atrocious, the personal abuse and character destruction constant, and the guaranteed longevity no more than 24 months.

In the void, political jobs are snapped up by such as will accept risk because they want the publicity... the grandeur of having one's "name in the paper," or having powerful forces in the society come to one's aid, or some other matter of special interest. This involves a psychological drive for recognition which is something the psychiatrist can better discuss. (Look up "paranoia" in Webster's dictionary.)

Others drift into politics because some big labor union or business monopoly buys their mind (and soul), provides the vote machine and campaign funds, and seats them in the legislative chairs somewhere.

Sometimes men flee into politics because their home life is stormy and it is a satisfying way to spend a few evenings a week away from the hearth.

Others, with scant guile in some cases, hope to use the office to make some fast, easy money. This can come by the simple method of selling one's vote, or it can come more subtly by using the prestige of the office as a stepping stone to other things in life.

There are other typical cases, but the point to

Half-Day Classes Face 800 Farmington Pupils

By Joy Stinson
 Controversial debate surrounded two important issues brought before a special meeting of the Farmington Board of Education held last Monday evening.

Facing fireworks were the proposed Larkshire Elementary school and a recommendation to hire a reading resource person for the elementary schools.

Half day sessions for 400-800 Farmington elementary children may result from the bids for the proposed Larkshire school being over the planned budget by approximately \$60,000.

According to Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison, this is the first time in four to five years that bids have exceeded a budget.

After considerable debate, the Board decided to accept the low

bid with an alternate that offered a \$19,900 reduction.

Negative votes on this motion came from Board vice president Richard H. Peters and Treasurer George A. Nasholt, Jr.

Wallace Construction Company will be the general contractor for a total of \$27,874, an alternate of minus \$19,900 and a two per cent management fee. Mechanical contract went to Zemi-Maguire for \$161,220, less \$1,540. Electrical, Gillis Electric Company at \$82,445 and Kitchen Equipment, Canton China Company at \$23,370.

The \$19,900 alternate which the Board has decided to accept eliminates the carting away of soil which was to be replaced by four inches of top soil and the seeding and fertilizing of the lawn.

Much of the heated discussion surrounded the ethics of a recent proposal which instructed the architect to rebid the bids and try to find ways to bring them within the \$600,000 budget.

Robert Kasparuk, a representative of Linn Smith Associates, presented their findings as to possible rebid actions.

Board Trustee Vernon P. Fisher said he didn't consider changes in a contract after the bids had been read ethical or possibly even legal. He strongly felt an alternative should be found to the negotiation of reductions between architect and contractor that has been going on.

As a possible solution he suggested the rebidding of the job. Vice-President Peters agreed that the Board should rebid the job if they were going to stay within the budget.

On the other hand, Fisher said after giving it thought, the rebids might come in even higher than before. And, an already late construction project would be held up even more.

Additional discussion centered around the scheduled opening for Sept. 1965. If time were taken to rebid, Kasparuk assured the Board that construction would become impractical until spring because of the frost depth. This situation might even exist with the present action to accept the low bids.

General consensus of the administration, Board and Kasparuk seemed to be that the general contractor might burden some of the cost of a change in

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Parking Issue Angers Council

The parking lot which Bill Root Chevrolet has constructed on Mayfield Street, south of Grand River, sparked a series of angry exchanges at the Farmington City Council, Monday, Dec. 7. The board will meet again Friday on this issue. It will meet privately, with neither the City Manager nor City Attorney present.

It seems well established that Root went ahead with construction before obtaining the necessary permits. Residents of the adjacent Warner-Farms subdivision — with whom Root is clearly unpopular — have pressed this point to a showdown. At the meeting, the City Attorney, Robert J. Kelly, delivered a legal opinion on the matter.

He said that in his opinion it was indeed necessary for a building permit to be taken out for construction of the Root parking lot. But, he went on, Root had done so. Therefore, "at the present time, I can find no justification for penal proceedings against the owner, nor can I conceive of a court doing anything except dismissing such an action."

He noted the demands of some in the community "that the building code... be upheld to the letter." The City, he said, does not have the power to do so. State statute says that "the spirit of the ordinance be observed, and substantial justice done."

Kelly's opinion satisfied neither the Warner-Farms people in attendance nor members of the Board. A number of very angry exchanges followed, of which Mayor Robert Lindbert said: "This is the first Council meeting I've been ashamed of. It has only done harm to Farmington."



WINTER WEATHER came to Farmington Township (pictured from left to right) have just finished whizzing down youngsters didn't mind a bit. Steven, Joe, the hill at Shiawassee and Farmington Roads.



MR. AND MRS. HUGH Martin, of Farmington, say they will help in any effort to correct the conditions at Wayne County General Hospital, that they feel contributed to the death of Mrs. Martin's father.

Walter Asks Farmington Joins War for Ouster of Burch vs. Poverty

A Farmington Republican leader called for the ouster of this party's National Chairman, Des Burch, in a statement to the Observer on Monday. Byron Walter, Farmington Township Republican Chairman, thus lined up with Gov. George Romney who endorsed a similar demand at the Republican Governors' Conference, in Denver, over the weekend.

"I think it is mandatory," said Walter, "if the Party is to recover from the losses sustained in November, that the leadership be assumed by the more moderate wing of the Party."

He believes the moderate wing is far more representative of the broadest base of Republican thinking.

"Our Party has to be more concerned with meeting the needs of the people, and with facing the problems created by the civil rights movement."

Walter expressed the opinion that the leadership of the Grand Old Party must come from people like Gov. Romney, "who are aware of these problems, but whose desires are to solve them at the state rather than at the national level."

Farmington joined the war against poverty, in the course of a long meeting of its City Council, on Monday, Dec. 7. With only Howard Thayer voting against it, the Council agreed to participate in the newly created Michigan Youth Training Program—designed to relieve the school drop-out problem.

City Manager John Dinan had analyzed the situation, and reported to the Council that "we could utilize about four work trainees in our Department of Public Works and Water and Sewer Department for a six-month period. This would cost \$260 per work trainee for 26 weeks or a maximum of \$1,040 for four trainees during the entire period."

Dinan was sure four qualified trainees could be found. He was hopeful that they would be from the Farmington area. Any monies that are not used on the trainees will be returned from the State of Michigan to the City of Farmington.

The City Manager favors the plan for two reasons: "It provides on-the-job training to the youth that is unemployable because of lack of training and experience. And the cost involved per trainee is certainly a bargain. The City should certainly receive more services than the expenditure involved."

All of the Council members were enthusiastic about the plan. Howard Thayer, Hugo Petersen said if it helped even one boy to prepare for the future he would consider it a bargain.

In another important action, the Council set Jan. 11 as the day for public hearings on a proposed new zoning ordinance. Councilman Forrest made a strong point that the ordinance should be available for public scrutiny in the interim period, between now and Jan. 11. John Dinan assured him that people will be able to come in and take a look at it.

The Council awarded the City's Distinguished Service Award to George Griffin for his work as Chairman of the United Nations Day Celebrations. Griffin said he was especially thrilled to get the award on Dec. 7—the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He is Commander of the Groves Walker American Legion Post.

The Council approved the request of State Sen. Elect Paul Chandler, to come in and talk over problems of mutual interest.

It approved the transfer of liquor licenses at the Danish Inn and Buffet Bar.

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Dems Map Future Plans

The Farmington Democratic members are urged to devote more time to participation in community groups and community projects.

Club chairman Aldo Vagozzi said the program is in line with the Democratic Club philosophy that a political organization has an obligation to serve the community and its people. "We have given top priority to carrying out that obligation," Vagozzi said.

A highlight of the meeting was a report by Precinct Organization Committee Chairman Edward C. Melville. Dr. Melville's report showed an average increase of about 9% in the vote given Democratic candidates in the combined Farmington city and township precincts.

He praised Democratic party workers for their efforts in bringing about the increased share of the area vote.

In another development the Young Democrats voted to hold their meetings on the same night as the regular Farmington Democratic Club meeting. The Young Dems will meet at 7 p.m. The next Democratic meeting night is Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Farmingtonites Fight for Reform in Hospital Death

For the Hugh Martins, of Farmington, the scandal breaking around the Wayne County General Hospital has been a personal tragedy. Mrs. Martin's father, Edward B. Leach, died recently. The Martins charge that mistreatment with Police County General hastened his death. They are determined to use his death to force reforms on the Hospital.



THE MORTGAGE ON the building addition to the First Methodist Church of Farmington was paid off in November. On Sunday, Dec. 6, on the occasion of the Church's 125th anniversary, the congregation happily held a mortgage burning ceremony. The honors were held by Bishop Dwight E. Loder. He noted that Methodist clergymen were forbidden to breathe in smoke. On this occasion, however, he said it was a pleasure to do so. Bishop Loder invited the present Pastor Rev. Richard T. Markham (center), and the former Pastor, Rev. Russell W. Sursaw (right), to breath some of the smoke from the burning mortgage, with him.

Leman Urges Funeral Homes in Apt. Zones

At the Farmington Township Zoning Board on Tuesday, Dec. 7, the Township Board of Zoning Appeals, Charles Leman, recommended that funeral homes be permitted in multiple zones. They are presently permitted only in commercial zones. He feels that there are areas of the Township that should be used for funeral homes, and that he would not advise rezoning them to commercial to achieve this.

The Board also heard two other cases of more than usual public interest. It permitted the National Bank & Trust to rezone, to commercial, 11 acres on Grand River and Mid-dlebelt from residential; so that the bank can continue to build a branch there. And it scheduled a public hearing for building

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THE GIFT SPOTTER
 Exclusive in the Observer

Girl Scouts Carol
 By City Hall Tree

Residents of Farmington will be given a special treat by 27 Girl Scout Troops under the leadership of Chairman Leona Stedwell. The Scouts will gather around the Christmas tree at the new City Hall Dec. 15 at 4:30 to sing Christmas carols. The 550 girls will include Brownies, Juniors, Intermediates and Senior Scouts. Each troop will place a wreath and decoration on the tree as part of the ceremony.

The program will include about eight Christmas Carols.

A Farmington man was assaulted by an unidentified person, outside the Buffet Bar, on Thursday, Dec. 3. The assault was apparently not from Farmington, the second time in a week that a man from outside the area has been involved in violence outside of a Farmington Bar. On Nov. 28, several Detroiters fought with Police outside of the Grand View Bar.

On the Monday following the slugging outside of the Buffet, the Farmington City Council approved the transfer of that establishment's liquor license to Homer Coolman. Coolman is a respected Farmington policeman. He is also very big. The

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LWW to Meet

The League of Women Voters has announced the dates of its upcoming meetings: Tuesday, December 15, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Mrs. William Smith, 26419 Greythorne; Wednesday, December 16, at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. John Loyis, 26310 E. Mile Rd., Farmington.

The topic to be presented will be "Planning and Zoning in the City and Township of Farmington."

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