

## editorial opinion

# Millage renewal deserves voter support

The Clarenceville School District has an enviable record of continuing community support through numerous bond issues, millage and other financial proposals over the years.

Voters in the district, which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford will have a chance to continue that record of confidence in the school board and administration next Monday.

The voters will go to the polls to decide whether an 11-mill property tax should be renewed for another 10 years.

We feel the community should vote yes on the proposal to allow their children to have educational programs and services continued.

**THE FINANCIAL** background behind the millage renewal is simple—the proposal is merely for a continuation of existing school tax rates.

The millage represents an estimated \$1 million in revenues for the school district, or about 20 per cent of the board's current operating budget.

There is another wrinkle thrown in by the state

of Michigan. School districts are required to levy the same amount of millage next year to be eligible for the full state aid payments.

If voters reject Monday's tax renewal, the district would lose not only the \$1 million from the levy but also state revenues.

With about 35 per cent of the operating budget spent for employees, any major reduction in incomes would have to be reflected in the number of school employees and teachers.

Since teachers and support personnel mean

educational opportunities for children, there is no way to make major financial reductions without harming the educational programs of students.

**WE HAVE** for many years questioned the wisdom of school districts putting too much reliance on local property taxes and we realize that homeowners are frustrated about their rising tax bills.

But residents should not allow their frustrations about property taxes to interfere with their decision to continue the millage on Monday's ballot.

The Observer & Eccentric

# A new political scenario: major party in the center

The smooth workings of the two-party system in the suburbs were substantially jolted last week by developments in Birmingham and Redford Township.

In the overwhelmingly Republican Birmingham, Oakland County Commissioner Mary Mead Dearborn caused a sensation by dramatically switching her life-long party affiliation from the GOP to the Democrats.

Her switch, coupled with a similar one by Robert A. Button of Oak Park, gave Democrats control over the county board for the first time since 1970.

She is prepared to face the tough job of getting re-elected in the thoroughly Republican 22nd District, where she defeated her Democratic challenger in 1974 by a 4-1 majority.

As anybody who knows her realizes, Mrs. Dearborn is an independent cuss—the feminine of "cuss"—who makes no secret of her views and is prepared to act on them. "I found myself becoming more and more of a maverick as the years went by," Mrs. Dearborn said.

"I've found the Democrats to be a more constructive force," she added, pointing out that the reasons for her switch were in part because of national developments in the GOP. "When the time came that Gerald Ford was not conservative enough for the Republican Party, it was time to get out," she explained.

**IN REDFORD** Township, an internal fight in the Republican local organization threatens it with dissolution—just at the time when it appeared to local observers that it was on the threshold of gaining sharply increased power.

Events came to a head a couple of weeks ago with the election of new party officers. At that time, a group of older party members defeated a slate of younger men who had controlled the party during 1975. Matt Eineman, 20, was defeated in his bid for reelection as chairman by Eldon Funk, a long-time GOP worker who has run for township offices several times and is a member of the civil service commission.

Eineman says he will stay active in the group, although a number of young Republicans are dropping out because they resent the older group capturing the leadership. Funk says that he will work hard for the first few months of this year to build up membership in the local party. "I'll have to make up my mind in the next couple of months if there is any interest. If I can't build up the membership, I'm not going to waste my time either."

With all the bickering, speculation is rife in Redford that—for a time, at least—there will be only

## Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



one party in what used to be a two-party system

**STIRRINGS** in the local winds are the forerunner of national trends, or at least so the political wise men say.

And what is going on here in the suburbs may be the first signs of the fundamental alteration in the American two-party system that has been foreseen by political scientists for some time.

Consider the following scenario:

1) Ronald Reagan, with the enthusiastic backing of rock-ribbed conservatives in the Republican Party succeeds in overthrowing President Gerald Ford's bid for nomination.

2) The Democrats, with their habitual instinct for unerring self-disembowelment, nominate either a rightist (Sen. Jackson comes to mind) or a leftist (Rep. Udall comes equally to notice), thereby alienating a substantial sector of whichever side loses out.

3) Reagan loses the election, probably by a substantial margin, thereby giving ammunition to the liberal Republican cry that an extreme conservative cannot win enough center votes for the GOP to make up for the party's minority position in registered voters.

4) Republican liberals, seeing their party dominated by what they believe to be a bump of conservative activists, reach out to Democratic moderates, ranging from center to right wing, who in turn are fed up with dealing with what they regard as ultra liberal left-wingers who are constantly threatening the party with McGovernite disaster.

5) The result is the creation of a new alignment in the center of the nation's political spectrum, joining liberal Republicans with moderate Democrats, leaving out of the right wing of the GOP and on the left the liberal elements of the Democratic party.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating such a chain of development nor am I predicting it. But I am saying that it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that it could happen, and that if it does it would be one of the biggest changes in the way Americans pursue their politics since the Revolution we made 200 years ago.

"IF YOU SEEK A PLEASANT PENINSULA LOOK ABOUT YOU . . .  
IF YOU SEEK INDIANS, BUT NOT COWBOYS — LOOK ABOUT YOU



# Why they won't film story of our local Indian giant

One hates to sound like Spiro Agnew with his fulminations against an imaginary committee of official snobs who control television news out of an office in New York.

Yet the evidence is there, in the recent TV film about Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce and his pitiful effort to avoid the reservation. The inescapable conclusion is that Hollywood filmmakers have a blatant bias in favor of western Indians.

In their bias, the TV boys overlook one of the greatest political and military leaders of any race—the nation has ever produced. They overlook him because he was a Midwesterner. In fact, he came from the suburbs of Detroit. I refer, of course, to Pontiac, the Ottawa chief who masterminded the most successful Indian uprising in American history.

**WHEN THE BRITISH** defeated the French and won empires on two continents, Pontiac and other Indian leaders saw an end to their playing off one white nation against the other in the fur trade.

The Indians also resented the Britishers' haughtiness, their prices and the gut-rotting rum that was so inferior to French brandy.

In March of 1763, Pontiac called a convention on the banks of the Ecorse River south of Detroit, of Indian leaders from the vast region north of the Ohio River. He convinced them all to make a concerted attack on every British fort—a dozen—in the region, a stupendous undertaking when you have no written language and only moosebans and canoes for transportation.

"Every Indian nation north of the Ohio had taken to the field with a unanimity which they had never exhibited when urged on by the French," wrote Dale VanEvery in "Forth to the Wilderness."

Organizing the Indians, VanEvery continued, "was a task to be exceeded by a military commander each of whose soldiers was a predisposed mutineer. Yet Pontiac pulled it off and 'dominated half a continent'."

ON MAY 16, the Wyandots took Fort Sandusky by surprise. On May 25, Fort St. Joseph, south of modern Niles, was taken by surprise. On May 27, Fort Miami, near modern Fort Wayne, Ind., fell when the commander was betrayed by his Indian mistress.

On June 1, Fort Quatonon, near Lafayette, Ind., was surrendered. On June 4, the Chippewa staged their famous lacrosse game and took Fort Michilimackinac in Michigan. On June 21, Fort LaBaye, near Green Bay, Wis., was surrendered after a siege by the Sauk, Fox, Winnebago and Menominee.

On June 18, Fort Presque Isle at Erie, Pa., surrendered to Detroit Ottawas, Senecas and Delawareans. On June 19, the garrison escaped from burning Fort LeBoeuf at Waterford, Pa. Also on June 19, the Iroquois took Fort Venango at Franklin, Pa.

Only the forts at Detroit, Niagara and Pittsburgh held out—and Detroit had some scares. Pontiac's forces inflicted casualties at the rate of 10 to 1. Every British trader was cleared out of the Great Lakes area.

**BUT INDIANS** had to get their ammunition from the British, so in time they accepted peace terms.

The British forbade seaboard colonists and speculators to enter the hinterland—one of the causes of our Revolution. Drained by the long war with France, the British couldn't maintain many troops in these parts, and so white settlement was retarded for years.

It would make a dandy movie except for the scenes around Detroit where the Ottawas boiled and ate white captives, or loaded them alive, or where the squaws obscenely mutilated bodies. That would have to be cleaned up, but TV is experienced at that, as shown by the anti-American bias of the Chief Joseph film.

Chief Joseph, fe! Geronimo, fi! Chochise, fo! Sitting Bull, fum! Our Pontiac was the giant.

# Representation without taxation

We have all heard the words of our ancestors. "Taxation without representation is tyranny." But have we considered the consequences of the converse phrase, representation without taxation?

Roger Freeman, a former senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, examined the growing trend toward this reversal in the November 1975 issue of "Imprimis," published by Hillsdale College.

In a paper titled "Tax Loopholes: The Legend and the Reality," Dr. Freeman said that for close to 20 years, so-called loopholes in the federal income tax have been the subject of lively controversy.

**IT IS THUS NOT** surprising that the Congress has taken repeated action to close loopholes in the income tax — in 1969, 1971 and again in 1975. What may be surprising is the fact that every time Congress enacted a tax reform bill, the amount of untaxed income was larger afterward than it had been before, and the percentage of total personal income exempted from the federal income tax, as well as the number of Americans paying no income tax, had substantially increased.

In other words, whenever Congress tightened or closed some loopholes, or acted as if it had, it always opened or widened others more extensively. That strongly suggests that the real aim of the "close the loopholes" drive is not so much to



by HENK HUGLIN

subject more tax-free personal income to the tax as to shift the burden of taxation from some economic groups to others — to tax some more lightly and others more heavily.

To be specific, the real goal and purpose of the campaign to close loopholes are to redistribute income from some less favored groups — presumably from groups with less voting power — to some with more votes and, therefore, greater political appeal to office holders and office seekers.

**FREEMAN CITES** statistical evidence to refute popular misconceptions about our present tax structure.

Consider, for example, the following: The plain fact is that most of the \$563 billion in untaxed income is in the middle and lower income brackets and is widely distributed through all sections of the American public, with only a tiny percentage accruing to the high-income persons.

Nevertheless, many still clamor that the rich do not pay their "fair share."

For the year 1972, 57 per cent of the people reported adjusted gross income (AGIs) of between \$7,000 and \$20,000, and paid 47 per cent of the tax. Sixteen per cent reported AGIs of less than \$7,000 and paid 6.5 per cent of the tax. Finally, 27 per cent reported AGIs higher than \$20,000 and paid 44 per cent of the tax. Is this unfair to the lower income groups?

**EMPHASIZING** THAT 92 per cent of the 167 million nontaxable returns comes from people with AGIs under \$5,000, Freeman warns his readers that division of the American people into two large groups — those who support the government and those who are supported by it — has created a dangerously high incidence of "representation without taxation," which in recorded history has more often destroyed free government than "taxation without representation," which the founders of this country fought.

The longer our society neglects this problem, and continues to cultivate myths about tax loopholes, it will suffer economically in the short run and vitally in the long run, suggests Freeman.

## A mood a minute

Those "mood rings" that are such a fad are billed as "the lie-detector jewelry."

They do work like lie detectors, measuring the body's heat and reacting by changing the color of chemically treated quartz.

A light blue ring signifies peace or tranquility in the wearer; green, sexual response; brown or black, anxiety or turmoil.

A secretary put an interesting question: "If the stone responds to body heat, won't it also be affected by the weather?"

That may be so. But in Michigan, if you wait a few minutes, the weather will change.

And so will your mood.

And then there was the girl whose earrings were green, her pendant blue and her ring a dark brown.

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