

## OBSERVATION POINT

## Conservatives Fed Up With This Change

By Philip H. Power

As this summer of 1969 opens, there is something ominous stirring in the wind. Something very big and very strong, growing and brooding in the dim light. Something that will shake our country. It's so big and so strong that it overhangs our entire sky like an immense thunderhead. It's there—palpable in the twilight—but it's so formless that you can't see it very clearly just now.

But if you're looking, you can pick up its outline from a few isolated incidents—leaves shaking as something stirs them on the long hot summer night.

Nationally, a race-baiter, Sam Yorty, confounds the polls and the experts and wins the mayoralty big in Los Angeles over a quiet and dignified black man. A former policeman, a virtual political unknown squashes the dominant Farmer-Labor-Democratic coalition in Milwaukee and becomes mayor on a hard-line program. President Nixon gets thousands of congratulatory letters after his tough statement on student violence.

LOCALLY, the indications are better because we can see them at shorter range.

• In Plymouth, a high school senior starts selling a sort of underground newspaper on the streets. He is arrested by police using a city ordinance of dubious constitutionality, under circumstances that suggest some authorities in town were interested in clamping down on a possible source of dissent.

• Students at North Farmington High School, protesting dress

and grooming regulations, stage a strike and a demonstration. School authorities take a tough stand against the demonstrators, and this newspaper's letters to the editor columns are flooded with letters praising their action.

• Some faculty and students at Schoolcraft College involve themselves with an anti-war poster using an obscenity and then allegedly shout obscenities at a public meeting. Various civic indignation meetings are called in the area, and the Schoolcraft board of trustees is roundly criticized for not summarily kicking all concerned out of college.

• Sex education programs are developed on an experimental basis in the Livonia school system. Groups form to attack this development, and the issue becomes a key matter in the coming election for school board.

THERE is a pattern in all of these incidents.

First, some one or group does something challenging accustomed ways of doing things or established rules.

Second, other groups respond to this provocation by clamping down on the challengers.

Third, the public at large supports repressive action and demands an end to such challenges to the established rules and ways of doing things.

In all these cases a challenge seeking change is met by a strong and emotional response demanding increased firmness against change.

There is a word for this pattern.

Backlash.

AMERICA is basically a conservative country.

But it is a country with many serious problems. Groups of people, generally called "liberals," have been pushing to try to solve these problems in their own particular way.

These ways may be right or wrong. But the consistent pushing of the liberals is starting to provoke a counter-reaction from conservatives who, for various reasons both good and bad, reject what the liberals want to do and how they are going about getting it done.

The conservatives are just fed up with all this change, all this shouting and violence, all this talk of re-structuring our society. They may be right and they may be wrong.

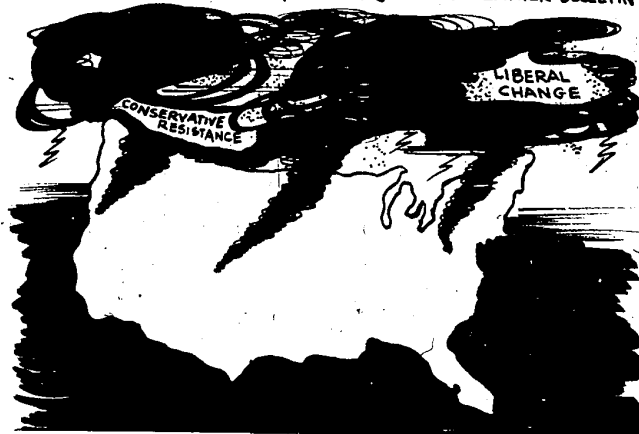
But they are strong and growing stronger. And they feel as violent emotionally as the liberals do about the changes they are trying to make.

Such a readjustment in social forces and political priorities may be a long overdue process in our land.

But the strange and growing stirring in the darkening wind of our land suggests that the counter reaction may be much more than a readjustment. It may be the start of a movement for repression of a fierce and terrible kind.

And I can't help remembering what happened the last time this occurred. That was in the days of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy.

WE INTERRUPT THIS COUNTRY TO BRING YOU A WEATHER BULLETIN.



Tim Richard writes

## View From Silver Hill Road

You'll get the idea most clearly if you take scenic N. Territorial Road straight west out of Plymouth. For miles and miles there are farms—privately owned and posted, of course—until, 21 miles out, you hit the chain of metro parks along the Huron River.

But let's say your taste is for swimming or fishing or a more rustic hiking environment. It's best to continue west another three miles to the vicinity of Silver Lake in the Pinckney State Recreation Area.

The map shows big blotches of green, meaning lots of publicly-owned land. No worry about bothering someone's crops or livestock.

SILVER LAKE DOES indeed have a beach. It's a good one, and a lot of people know about it. So many know, in fact, that on many of these warm summer days, the place will be filled.

Continue north on Silver Hill Road, through hills and woods. There are turnouts, but for some reason they're barricaded. Want to park along the road and take off for the hinterland? Can't. The road is narrow and coated with "No Parking" signs. "No Parking" signs on a wooded country road? You'd better believe it.

And so, what looked like a broad expanse of woods and hills and trails and lakes turns out to be accessible in only a few spots. The green blotches of state land on the map give a highly exaggerated

impression of the available recreation space.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS of Silver Hill Roads in Michigan.

The "Water Wonderland" has 11,037 lakes, officially, and nine or ten million people. Many of those lakes are wholly in private ownership and available only at sellers' prices.

The state owns a good deal of land, but owning land is one thing and providing recreation is something else.

The state needs to acquire more land, to be sure, but it also needs to develop, at least minimally, the land it already has.

Small parking areas. Small footpaths. Picnic areas. Boat landings. Beaches. Fishing sites. Campgrounds.

Not every acre of land or foot of lake frontage needs the full treatment. It would be highly desirable to keep some of the land in a natural state. But even natural land needs some kind of auto and trail access, and it wouldn't hurt to have a few trash cans around the parking areas.

For several years, Michigan has seen a gigantic boom in the popularity of outdoor sports, notably canoeing and boating. They are the sports of a middle class which has enough money to get in the car and escape the cities and suburbs but not enough to afford the lake lot (even if there were

enough lake lots to go around).

LAST YEAR MICHIGAN voters passed a \$100 million state recreation bond issue to start providing some of those facilities. Since the bond issue was passed, the price index—especially in real estate and construction—has continued to inflate, and not a whole lot has been done.

The program envisioned by the Natural Resources Department and the people who campaigned for that bond issue—including this newspaper—called for a 70-30 split of the funds between the state and local units.

So far, those voters have seen a present and former governor say the program should or could be changed, and they have seen the Legislature take its sweet time about enabling legislation.

But the need is here, and it's getting more acute. Just take a drive out N. Territorial and up Silver Hill Road some Sunday and find out.

## SENSE 'N' NONSENSE

Begged, borrowed, stolen and contrived:

To accuse President Nixon of anti-intellectualism is unfair. Already he's assigned 22 of the greatest minds in academe to translate the collected works of George Romney into workable English.

Bob Hope says he will entertain our fighting men again next Christmas if he can get on campus.

Universities accumulate knowledge and wisdom, since freshmen arrive with none and seniors leave with the same amount.

Philip Morris, the nation's fourth largest cigaret maker, is dickering for a brewery. About that time, we'll get a U.S. Health Service report that beer causes dandruff or something equally fatal.

There is nobody more boring or boorish than a successful non-smoker, unless it is a non-smoker who'd like a cigaret.

An area library patron receiving a notice for books overdue apparently is an expectant mother, overdue. Two books which are now over two months overdue are: "Your Growing Child and Sex" and "The Expectant Mother."

## 'This Is The Week That ...'

## A House Of 10 Kids

By Don Hoenshell

When you say you've been married for 92 days and have 10 kids, nobody is going to put you down as an underachiever.

A standing ovation is possible, and THEY'RE nice.

There has been some pressure for a status report on: Can a newspaperman from a small midwestern town and a lady from enlightened New Jersey find happiness in a crowd?

First of all, sure.

So, you ask, how is this achieved while maintaining a meaningful dialog relevant to all parties and avoiding confrontations with children young enough to be your sons and daughters?

Coma, let us rationalize together, folks.

IT IS IMPORTANT to assume that kids are smarter than you or they wouldn't have you as parents. And the later, the more radar and sensing devices unknown to earlier generations. So no phones allowed.

There is a minimum of zero and a maximum of five in the jurisdiction at all times, the others arriving from their own pursuits on special occasions.

The day-to-day bit, then, is halved. Instead of an army, it is mostly a small but wiry squad. It's handier.

Communications being what they are among kids, when you

tap a miscreant on the fanny, or buy a Dairy Queen or countenance an experiment in house painting, the computer automatically does it for all five. IBM could take lessons.

There is a school of psychology that recommends family councils on major matters, like what's for dinner. Always allow to get yourself appointed chairman. It's like: I don't care who writes the laws for the country, just give me the gavel—and the rule book.

There is a tendency when they're enthusiastic to get not only a motion on the floor, a second but also a "third" and a "fourth." Every home should have a parliamentarian. And if you count on the sergeant at arms to keep order, forget it, folks.

NEWSPAPERMEN usually are well informed on the tactic of playing off a quote from mother on stepfather, or vice versa. Like: "May I ride my bicycle in the street?" Mother says it's OK. Check the quote, sir, which could be: "My what a beautiful street this is in the springtime! Why don't you ride your bike?"

Discipline is a problem for someone who could become the terrible intruder. This kind of diplomacy they could use in Paris.

It takes a while before the young girls invite you in for the

ceremonial good night kiss. When they ask whichever is around for permission—with the idea that it makes no difference—you've got it made.

One very wise juvenile policeman once said: "You should mix discipline and love about 50-50. When there is doubt, an extra hug isn't going to hurt anybody."

SOMETIMES IT'S difficult like the extra heavy maxi-swat on a warnings and repeated forswearings. He is crying and the other natives are restless.

At such times the swatter must withstand the pangs of remorse and avoid taking the swatee's side against himself.

Then, a few century-plus minutes later, he comes up wiping away the last tear.

"You want to play catch?" That's the Nobel Peace Prize, the Pulitzer and a bank statement saying they owe YOU money—all in five words.

Guest Editorial

## Housing's Antiquated Pattern

Lansing State Journal

"It is a cliché that while we have produced enormous leaps in space technology, communications, and transportation, we still turn out housing units from a centuries-old pattern. We do it too slowly, with too much expensive hand-crafting, on the site, under antiquated public regulations." These words of Gov. William G. Milliken last week sounded the call for an all-out campaign to meet a housing crisis faced by low and middle income families across the state.

He called upon representatives of labor, private enterprise and all government agencies to join hands in a massive effort to meet what many feel is the most critical problem facing not only Michigan but many other states across the nation—adequate housing and suitable living environment for millions of low income people.

THE GOVERNOR plans to use a new federal program, "Opera-

tion Breakthrough," as the vehicle for the housing drive. It is a federal program developed by former Gov. George Romney, now secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

It calls for entirely new methods of housing production, marketing and management techniques to provide good homes for those in need at the lowest possible cost.

Some idea on scope of the crisis was outlined by Milliken in his talk to labor officials, business and government men last week. He noted that at a time of great need, housing construction is falling off in Michigan and said the state, during the next ten years, will face a demand of more than 73,000 new units annually.

He further stressed that the problem of dilapidated and deteriorating housing units is almost as serious in rural as in urban

areas of the state.

THE HUD PROGRAM (Operation Breakthrough) is admittedly complex and will require extensive help and cooperation from mayors, state agencies, city governments, labor officials and businessmen.

It will provide means by which proto-type housing units at reasonable cost can be built in various regions of the state using many construction innovations.

As the governor said, "This is just a first step in the revolution in housing which must take place."

Other steps have been taken. The State Housing Development Authority has set up rules to provide up to \$50 million in non-interest bearing "seed money" advances to stimulate housing projects sponsored by non-profit housing corporations.

The governor has firmly declared his commitment and we commend him for it.

## Editorial &amp; Opinion

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