

# O'Neil Explains Reasons For Sex Education Stand

EDITOR: No. 1 I am for sex education to be given at the discretion of parents in sexually segregated groups, with parents in attendance and prior parental conference regarding the material to be used.

No. 2 The State Board of Education appointed an advisory committee on sex education last year to provide it with recommendations regarding guidelines for sex education, as well as materials to be used in these programs.

No. 3 The advisory committee has not yet reported to the State Board of Education.

No. 4 The Department of Education, which is under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, according to their own admission has published and distributed bibliographies of sex education materials which have neither been reviewed nor approved by the State Board of Education.

No. 5 Included in the bibliography listings is the audio-visual material entitled "How Babies Are Made" which uses barnyard animals as comparison for human sexuality and love, which I fundamentally object to and particularly object to it being shown to 3 to 10 year olds as the instructions recommend.

No. 6 The Superintendent of Public Instruction, in accordance with our State Constitution, is supposed to carry out the instructions of the State Board of Education not vice versa.

No. 7 As a state official, I took an oath to uphold the constitution, this I am doing, this I intend to continue doing no matter what criticisms may be leveled. These then are the FACTS.

In the true spirit of full and complete reporting, as well as to give all the facts, I trust you will publish this letter outlining my position as prominently as you did your editorial criticizing me. Otherwise, how else will The Public Have All The Facts.

JAMES F. O'NEIL  
TREASURER  
State Board of Education

### Only Wants Fair 'Share'

EDITOR: In regards to recent letter written by Rosemary Olson, let me make a few points.

As a parent, I have the God-given right to educate my children in a school system that includes love of God and country, the respect for parents and for authority, along with the three R's required by the State.

I do not ask Rosemary or anyone else with her belief to support this right. I only ask that some of the money I pay in taxes be used to educate my children in the things I believe in, and want them to believe in.

If this basic right is denied to me, then we do not have freedom of religion or freedom of choice per se. On the other hand, I do not believe in sex education in the second or third grades, nor in mini skirts in school, nor in pupils being allowed to do "their thing" when in fact they should be acquiring

## READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited 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. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

this way the tax burden would be placed more equally on all, and not just on the parents of parochial students.

Likewise, the reference to racial discrimination shows her ignorance of the subject. Most of the inner city schools are attended by the children, most of whom are even Catholic, and whose parents cannot pay tuition for them.

These schools are kept open by those of us who support the public schools, pay for tuition for our own children in a parochial school, and still contribute to keeping these inner city schools open.

I wonder, too, why these parents want to send their children to parochial schools, when they have such a wonderful public school system available to them?

I sincerely hope that when these schools open their doors, all the Rosemarys will be just as willing to pay another three or four hundred dollars per year in taxes each year to educate these children.

Also, the teaching nuns (many of whom hold several degrees) can apply for teaching positions in the public schools and earn

three times (or more) the amount of money they presently do.

EVELYN HAYES  
LIVONIA

### Too Many 'Unnecessary' Editor:

Your editorial on the front page of The Observer was lacking in something and I thought I should straighten you out. You said if children do not get sex education in school, they will get it from bathroom walls. I disagree. There are parents who feel this delicate subject is their responsibility and will act upon it.

Don't try to make people think

there are only two alternatives. How about a course to educate parents how to tell their children the facts of life? There are many alternatives. I would also like to inform you that bringing the John Birch Society into this doesn't make a bit of difference to most people.

They see it for what it is, a smokescreen. People are concerned with the detailed information their children are given, which is quite unnecessary.

I wonder how many people who read your very liberal view concerning our children know that you have no children.

MRS. THERESA REGALO  
LIVONIA

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### Township Children Robbed By Decision

EDITOR: In view of the apparently non-existent interest of residents in Redford Township in genuine recreation for their children (judging on past performance), this is in the nature of a "how-hum."

As you have already informed your readers, the last large area that might have been used for recreation for both adults and children is gone. I refer, of course, to the recent decision of the Redford Township Re-zoning Board in changing Glenhurst Golf Course to multiple dwelling and commercial.

In the public "hearings" held in connection with this tragedy, we were repeatedly told by the board that unless we re-zoned, or created a "high-rise" ordinance, the courts would do it for us. This was the most frequently repeated theme by the township lawyer and certain members of the board.

In view of the above, and in view of the fact that real recreation for this generation of Redford Township children disappeared with the board's decision, the rhyme below could be a fitting epitaph to the death of real recreation in the township. It appeared in the recent Newsletter of the Michigan Association of Conservation Ecologists.

Old English Rhyme, Up-dated  
The law will lock up man or woman  
That steals a goose from off the common;  
Yet lets the greater felon loose  
That steals the common from the goose.

The law still smiles with heavy hand  
Who steals a child from GREEN PARK LAND;  
Yet lets the greater thief run wild

Who steals the parkland from THE CHILD.

ALBERT W. BECK  
Member of Glenhurst Advisory Committee

P.S. If the residents of Redford Township are really concerned, they may still make their voices heard at the Township board meeting coming up soon.

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