

Is Carter 'out to lunch'?

# Area restaurant owners cook up angry protest

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Menus from Machus Red Fox, Bedell's, the Midtown Cafe and other suburban Detroit restaurants have been sent to President Jimmy Carter.

But the restaurateurs aren't inviting Carter to lunch.

Instead they are protesting what the President has referred to as the "three martini, \$50 business luncheon." Carter has proposed limiting the tax deduction for business luncheons to 50 percent.

On Thursday, a group of restaurateurs from Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Troy and other neighboring communities gathered at the Birmingham Post Office to mail their menus and letters of complaint to Washington.

The menus, that normally would tempt your appetite, were slightly altered with angry messages written across them in felt-tip pen.

MARTIN A. KRUGER is vice-president/operations for 10 Machus Restaurants including Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township and Machus Sly Fox in Birmingham.

He opened a large, manila envelope to show the menu he was mailing. The extra message on it said, "\$50 lunch unlikely."

"With martinis at \$1.65, it is unlikely to have an \$8 luncheon and impossible to reach \$30," he said in his letter.

Kruger said 40 per cent of the business at Machus Restaurants is in business luncheons.

"We're concerned there will be only half as many people to feed. There will be less cooks and waitresses, too, which only adds to unemployment."

"There are a greater number of manufacturers representatives in the automobile business, who conduct business over lunch," he said.

The protest mailing was organized by the National Restaurant Association of which Harris Machus, owner of Machus Restaurants, is a director. Machus was not present on that cold Thursday in Birmingham. Hews in Florida.

JACK BEDELL, another director of the restaurant association, did participate.

Bedell, owner of Bedell's in Bloomfield Hills, penned a note on his stationery. "Enclosed is our menu torn in half—to represent our objection to any cut in expense account deductions," it read.

"Many jobs in our small restaurant depend on this segment of our business."

Rick Harrison represented Bruce Cameron's Midtown Cafe in Birmingham, Meeting Place in Orchard Lake and Double Eagle in Troy.

"We're not mailing a big long letter," he said. Written across the Midtown menu was, "We protest bill." Harrison said 40-50 per cent of the luncheon business is affected by business luncheons.

"The Midtown won't be strongly affected, but the Meeting Place and Double Eagle will. We do a lot of business meals there."

OTHER RESTAURANTS and operators sharing in the protest are Dick Bochenek, Howard Johnson's, Birmingham; Roger Petrie, Archibald's,

Birmingham, and Fox and Hounds, Bloomfield Hills; the Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills.

Jack Cochran, Beau Jack's, Bloomfield Township; Rich Hallman, Win. Schuler's, West Bloomfield; Frank Stratton, Bloomfield Canopy, West Bloomfield; Bill Roberts, Jr., The Main Event, Pontiac.

Herbert Book, Howard Johnson's; Reid Ashton, Golden Mushroom; Richard Eaton, Olga's Kitchen (headquarters); Ron Fuller, Steak and Ale; Jim Jardack, Sussex House, and Ed John-

son, Victoria Station, all Southfield; and Don Payne, The Buggy Works, Farmington.

A statement on "Expense Account Spending Reform," from the Michigan Restaurant Association declares, in part,

"The Michigan Restaurant Association wishes to express its deep concern over proposals that have been made to revise the tax regulations regarding business expenses connected with business meals, conventions, business meetings, trade shows and business travel.

"Adoption of these changes would seriously threaten the health and existence of restaurants whose survival depends upon people dining out often. Last year Americans spent \$20.7 billion for business and convention

travel and expenses. Federal, state and municipal tax revenues from these expenditures are in jeopardy.

"The jobs of thousands of hotel and restaurant employees are in jeopardy."



Restaurateurs mailed their menus with angry message written across them to President Carter in protest of his proposal to reduce the tax deduction for business luncheons. (Staff photo)

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355-5388

## Marine studies nutrition

Marine Kenneth J. Fernquist, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Fernquist, 33105 Cloverdale, Farmington, has completed the basic food

service course. He is a 1977 graduate of Farmington High School. He joined the Marine Corps in July, 1977.

## South booms

The South accounted for more than a third of all sales of single-family houses in the United States in 1976, according

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