

# Marathon Session-A Pointless Ruse

The scheduled opening of classes at Schoolcraft College (on Aug. 29) and at area public and parochial schools after Labor Day brings up a point that we feel many have overlooked.

There is a distinct possibility that the opening may be delayed, principally because the school boards and teachers haven't been able to come to contract terms after months of negotiations.

All of which brings up another puzzling question: Why is it that the negotiating teams, representing school boards and teachers, have to delay until the very last minute in getting down to the money issues?

At the moment, Schoolcraft College has just reached an agreement that will have to go to the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Forum for ratification.

Plymouth, Garden City, South Redford, Wayne and Livonia are still in the throes of negotiating and although apparently within dollars of a settlement, none from any team can predict an early accord with any degree of confidence.

The Schoolcraft negotiations appear to follow a pattern that seems to follow all negotiations between administration and teachers.

It goes something like this: Meetings are called shortly after the first of the year for preliminary discussions. Then intermittent sessions are held during which proposals are made first on one side, then a delay until the other side studies the situation and makes a counter proposal.

There isn't any hurry by either group.

Then with the college year and the public school terms rapidly nearing the end, the negotiations are speeded up. But by this time each team has made some utterly impossible proposals and counter offers.

The situation is entirely stymied. A deadlock is reached and now the negotiators are beginning to get nervous and a mediator is called in. He doesn't get far for the simple reason that neither group will move from its still-impossible stand.

So, the matter is referred to a fact finder, although in most instances, neither group will agree to be bound by his proposals.

Then, and this happens in every case, the negotiators go into a mad-advertised marathon session. It appears as if they want their constituents and union

members to know that they are ready for a last-ditch session.

In every instance the marathon meetings are closed to the public and it is just as well. The public most certainly would get an idea that there was a great deal of cloak and dagger doings.

There's a general meeting of both groups. Then each goes into a separate caucus with the fact finder moving from one to the other—he must accomplish something for the air of mystery gets heavier and heavier.

The kind of nonsense goes on for hours, as many as 14 in the case of Schoolcraft, when the now thoroughly tired negotiators leak a bit of information that some progress has been made.

Back to the bargaining table some six hours later for another seven or eight hour confab—again a leak that something is doing.

This goes on for another three or four days and then a joint statement is issued that an accord has been reached but no details can be announced until the proposed contract has been ratified by both groups.

So after eight and a half months of talking, the public, which actually pays all the bills via taxes, is still in the dark.

The point we are trying to stress is that it's about time the administrations and representatives of the teachers' group learn some of the fine points of negotiations.

There isn't any need for marathon sessions. There isn't any need for bargaining to stretch over periods of months—why can't the teams be honest from the very beginning and place proposals on the table that are realistic instead of waiting until the very end for 14 and 16 hour sessions?

We have never heard of anyone coming out of a lengthy meeting feeling anything but grimy and annoyed—that kind of attitude isn't apt to be conducive to a give-and-take proposal.

There isn't any need for marathons. There isn't any need for eight-and-a-half-month-long bargaining. The ones involved in these sessions are supposed to be intelligent, supposed to have a complete knowledge of the issues they are discussing.

It's high time they began acting that way instead of announcing marathon sessions to get the public eye.

—R. T. Thompson

# From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

Observerland Democrats, having watched the Republicans pour the compromise pablum of Spiro T. (Who?) Agnew over their collective heads in Miami Beach, will be heading off to Chicago this weekend to engage in their own foolishness.

Somewhat, in this year of the big political surprise, it seems terribly disappointing that the only genuine excitement generated by either convention has to do with the choice of the vice presidential nominee.

The office of Vice President, once characterized by former VP John Nance Garner as "not

worth a bucket of warm spit," has never been a particularly big deal in American politics. Who remembers, for example, the guy who ran with Goldwater? William E. Miller?

Who will remember Spiro Agnew? Who wants to?

I suppose John Kennedy's inspired selection of Lyndon Johnson to be his running mate at the 1960 convention brought out the modern significance of the vice presidency as a political tool, seems reasonably clear that Johnson's effective campaign in the South was at least partly responsible for JFK's whiskery thin margin over Nixon.

But nobody seriously argues that Agnew is going to do the same thing for Nixon.

In fact, all the attention devoted to the vice presidency lately merely serves to confirm the sad truth that our two major political parties, after much huffing and puffing, succeeded in bringing to the fore two men—Nixon and Humphrey—whose chief impact on the electorate has been to induce massive boredom.

No wonder the polls are worried about Wallace. No wonder we hear talk about fourth, fifth and sixth parties.

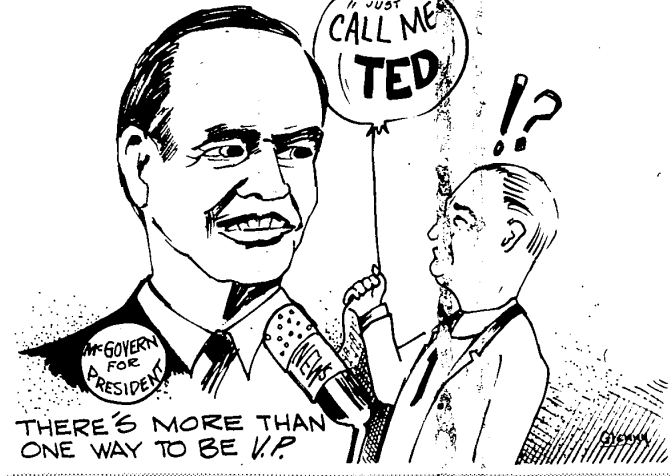
**NIXON'S CHOICE** of Agnew left Michigan Republicans indignant and the state's Democrats overjoyed. "Spiro T. Who?" was the happy remark exchanged on the telephone by Democrats chatting about the GOP's session, and Observerland Republican delegates were hard put to produce a convincing line that Agnew was just what they really needed all along.

Unless one accepts totally the theory that the Southern conservatives dictated Nixon's choice, it's hard to see what he saw in Agnew. He won't help stop the Wallace tide in the South; he will turn off the Negroes and the big city vote which has been the backbone of past Democratic strength.

Assistant Managing Editor Tim Richard, who covered the GOP convention for this newspaper, has a theory that Agnew will run well in the suburbs. The Maryland governor's long experience as chief executive of Baltimore County, Richard argues, will pay off big dividends as Nixon tries to capture the swarming suburban vote with proposals advanced by a man who knows at first hand the problems of the suburbs. Richard thinks Agnew is a sleeper.

Maybe.

My own feeling is that Nixon chose him for two main reasons: (1) To push a modified "southern strategy" by picking up votes from the border states—Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Massachusetts. Nixon needs these votes to put together with his strength in the West and (Wallace fading) the South. (2) Nixon simply didn't want a man on the ticket, such as New York Mayor John Lindsay, whose glamour and charisma would overshadow himself.



## This Is The Week That...

By Don Hoenshell

We've got a revolution on our hands. It's starting with the inalienable right of a kid to detest cooked carrots and make it stick by tossing them on the kitchen floor.

In that and other forms, it is a revolution of the mind and will and of the spirit.

A few years ago Dr. Clark Kerr, of UCLA, Berkeley, said students were the darlings of the Establishment because they felt nothing, dreamed to dreams and entertained enmity.

No more, folks.

The kids are growing beards and smoking pot, they're setting fire to administration buildings and looking the president out of his office. Terrible, right?

So the middle-agers wear their hands and ponder what's happening to the younger generation, just like parents have mourned for generations.

ence for their elders—they're trying to hit us between the eyes, and that's good.

But what are the adults doing about it?

They're passing laws and sneering mostly, using the only weapons they have. The theory is that anyone who is different or who has a fresh idea must be a kide strange.

You know adults are still in control of the nation's social institutions when neither major political party is considering seriously anyone under 52 as the nation's next president.

Republicans have nominated Richard M. Nixon, 55, for president and Maryland Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, 48, as vice president.

Democrats are going with Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, 57, and who-knows-as vice president, Senator Eugene McCarthy, 52, is still in the running against Humphrey and Senator George McGovern, 45, is a political horse soddard as to bodge the law of probability.

**SENSE 'N' NONSENSE**

Plymouth's water has been the subject of many complaints. I color, taste and even its texture leave much to be desired.

Do Plymouth restaurateurs complain? No, they simply serve it in amber colored drinking glasses.

We live in a wonderful age where even allergies can be checked by shots and drugs. One such victim of an allergy was a pleasant young fellow selling produce in his dad's farm market.

After selecting corn and peaches, the startled customer was asked, "Would you please put them in the bags? I'm allergic to corn and peaches."

The incident who came through an accident with battered back and found the Automobile Club's insurance division not only willing to pay for car repairs, but for doctors and medicine—while the responsible driver's employee dilly-dallied—called the branch office for a report on progress.

"The man handling your claims isn't in," said the sweet young secretary.

"Any idea when?" was the next question.

"No," she said, "you see, he had an accident—which explains why he's away, and why we don't know when to expect him back."

"You mean accidents happen to insurance claims adjusters?" "Sure," she said. "We're people, too."

**THE GREATER TRAGEDY** is the generation-gap and the hopelessness of solution.

But there is a great hope in it all, too. The kids, for the first time in decades, are interested and aware. They're unwilling to accept social clichés. They want a voice, even if they have to toss bricks through windows and wear their hair down to here.

They're reversing the old saw about training a donkey. First you hit it between the eyes with a two-by-four. That gets his attention.

The beards, the funny eyeglasses and the general irrever-

political party is considering seriously anyone under 52 as the nation's next president.

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McCarthy's mysterious appeal to young people has mesmerized some. It's simple. He doesn't put them down, but seeks a way without using bayonets to close the generation gap. McCarthy also is the underlying a feeling for whom the youngsters savor.

But they all give lip service to the young.

Nixon, Humphrey and you-know-him.

Republicans have made it plain they're going for the suburban vote this fall, kissing off the big cities. There is evidence the population is flowing out here on a wave of far-right conservatism.

But let's get back briefly to the main point.

There is danger in the suburbs as well as in the rest of the country that unless we start listening to the young—now that they are aware and demanding—that all the middleclass clichés we call our heritage will be swept away.

Come to think of it, that's not a terrible idea.

**MOST OF THE** speculation about the Democratic convention centers on the matters of HHH's choice for VP.

In that connection, one of the bigger bubbles of this political year needs bursting.

South Dakota's Senator George McGovern announced the other day that he was a candidate for the presidential nomination. A lot of people seem to be taking him seriously.

Nonsense.

The inside speculation is that what he's really after is the vice presidency. And he's chosen a nifty way to go after it.

An announcement that the Presidency brings him all kinds of bad publicity in the news media. It gets him millions of dollars of free TV time. It makes his name better known than Spiro T. (Who?) Agnew. The way the Republican base already started adoring him (Ted!) He's a dove on Viet Nam and he's the favorite of the Kennedy supporters who have lost a million ever since Robert Kennedy was shot. He offers HHH a route to the left wing of his badly disunited party.

In fact, it all seems so neat that I have a theory (and I write out evidence) that what actually happened was that Humphrey asked McCarthy if he would take the number two spot and was refused.

HHH then encouraged McGovern to declare for the presidency, thus hurting McCarthy's chances with the ex-Kennedy people and building up the Dakota guy in the national press, with the clear intention of offering him the vice presidential nomination when all the shouting is over.

Main objection to this theory from my Democratic friends is that the Humphrey campaign has so far been so unimpressive and goofy that such a strategy is simply out of character.

Could be, but I still think when the Democrats come back from Chicago they'll be pushing a Humphrey-McGovern ticket.

# Everyone's In Favor Of 'Law And Order'

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

I feel compelled to join publicly the roll of these brave men who have stood up and been counted in behalf of domestic tranquility.

Besides, Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon have told us that law and order is the primary domestic issue at hand. In happier times, I would guess that a democracy might be able to concentrate its energies on some more noble goal, but with the black criminal hordes reported even now at the outskirts of Levittown, it's probably the best we can expect.

So let the record show—and let the Policemen's Wives Association duly note—that this writer fully believes in correcting the current imbalance between law abiding citizens and the lawless, and in ending the present government policy of coddling those who would evade or break the laws that are the very foundation upon which our grand society rests.

**SPECIFICALLY,** I would propose the following:

- That the killing of unarmed black civilians by the police be considered murder and prosecuted as such. The legal penalty

for stealing a car or looting a store is not death.

- That the police be required to address ALL citizens as "Sir" or "Ma'am" and that those using the more familiar obscenities be removed from the force.
- That welfare inspectors who raid the homes of aid recipients in the middle of the night be treated as housebreakers.
- That most of the local board of education and the school system's administrative staff be prosecuted for culpable negligence and intellectual mayhem.
- That slumlords — many of whom operate in open contempt of the law—be treated as the simple criminals that they are rather than be given the protection of government.

**I COULD GO ON**, but a few steps like these could contribute substantially to the restoration of law and order in our society.

I realize that these suggestions aren't precisely what many in the white community have in mind when they call for law and order, but I, for one, would feel a lot safer walking the streets at night if they were carried out.

—Sam Smith  
The Capitol East Gazette  
Washington, D.C.

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