

Farmington businessman persistent

Voucher advocate launches national campaign

Farmington businessman Robert Lytle has gone national with his move to have education financed through a voucher system.

The president of the Panel Clip Co. is forging ahead despite the fact that the voucher philosophy was defeated by Michigan voters in 1978 by a 74-to-28 percent margin.

Under the voucher system, tax funds for education would be distributed directly to parents in voucher form. Parents then could shop among competing schools, including public schools, for the one they wanted their children to attend. The voucher would be used as tuition.

The schools would exchange the voucher with the issuing state or local authority for operating funds.

To further his aims, Lytle has formed the Education Voucher Institute.

"The best example of successful use of the concept is the GI Bill implemented for veterans after World War II," he says.

"They were free to choose the type of education they wanted and pick their school. Payment was made through the Veterans Administration," he says.

Among those supporting the institute is Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize winning economist. He will serve on the institute's board of directors.

SERVING AS treasurer will be Gerard McMaster, also an employee of the Panel Clip in Farmington.

Southfield attorney Robert Pavlov will serve as the group's secretary.

Lytle first became prominent in the voucher movement in 1976 when he published a book on the subject called "A Parents Voucher Plan: A New Way to Handle School Money."

He has little good to say about today's public education.

"Public education in the United States has grown into a vast, inefficient bureaucracy that is no longer responsible to the needs of parents and students," he says.

Lytle refers to public education as a "huge industry" which controls one-

third of the population and spends one in every four tax dollars.

"Yet, more and more students graduate from school unable to read simple instructions at their workplace, write an intelligent letter or do simple arithmetic," he says.

School administrators, he says, are smothered by federal and state bureaucracies and restricted from providing educational services.

"If education is to improve, we must place schools in a competitive position and give school managers maximum freedom to devise learning situations that will attract pupils and their parents."

"At a time of decreasing school enrollments, the voucher plan would weed out the weak schools that cannot provide suitable educational opportunities and support those most capable of doing the job."

THE INSTITUTE hopes to attract

support from foundations and corporations interested in providing better educational opportunities, according to Lytle.

"However, we hope to draw our

greatest interest and support from the public through individual memberships," he says. "We are offering annual memberships for as little as \$10 with sustaining, sponsor and patron mem-

bers paying higher dues."

The funds will go toward publicizing the voucher concept through publications, slide films, movies and speakers as well as seminars.

The Institute's immediate goal is to create understanding of the voucher idea and develop model plans which could be considered for state use, he says.

obituaries

M. SUSANNE (BRUCE) BERMAN

Mrs. Berman, 58, of Washington D.C. died April 6 in the nation's capital.

She was born Oct. 10, 1921 in Detroit and had lived in Washington D.C. for 10 years. Mrs. Berman was a secretary for the government bureau for housing.

Survivors include: son, J. Bruce Riedl of Washington D.C., and brother, Stephen H. Bruce of Farmington.

Services were April 11 in Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with Rabbi Harold Loss of Temple Israel of-

ficiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

WARRNE ELLIOT DEMAREST JR.

Mr. Demarest, 66, of Livonia died April 8 in Kissimmee, Fla.

He was born May 3, 1913 in New Jersey. Mr. Demarest lived in the Livonia area since 1959. He was a retired superintendent for Penn Central Railroad.

Survivors include: wife, Marie D.; daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Patton of Shelby Township and Mrs. Linda Kelm

of Brighton; sons, William of Garden City and Robert of Brighton; sister, Mrs. Cecil McGraw; brother, Dudley of New Jersey; and nine grandchildren.

Services were April 12 in Thayer-Rock Funeral Home with Pastor David McFadden of Brighton Christian Church. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery.

ARTHUR G. HILLS

Mr. Hill, 76, of Farmington Hills died April 5 in his home.

He was born March 19, 1904 in Michigan and spent most of his life in the Farmington Hills area. He was retired from the Stromberg Tool & Die Co. where he was a tool and die machinist. Mr. Hill was a member of the Ward United Presbyterian Church of Livonia.

Survivors include: brothers, Ralph W., Gordon R.; sisters, Mrs. Dora English and Mrs. Lettie Jordan. Services were April 8 in Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Douglas L. Thompson officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

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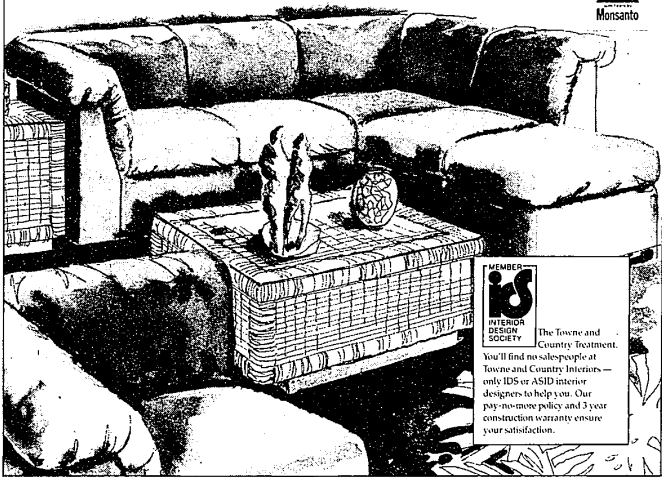
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