

# Taxpayers

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discussion, apparently upset by a remark made by Maynard. The incident set the mood for the remainder of the meeting.

Richard Frankel, another school trustee, replied to Maynard by saying "some of these things are part of labor negotiations."

"We are in a competitive negotiation situation, like it or not," Frankel commented.

Another homeowner accused both sides of nitpicking.

He said the district has grown more than 20% in the last five years, but expenditures and taxes have doubled.

"Where do we cut this taxation off?" he asked.

He noted there are 28 school districts in Oakland County, each with its own superintendent to run the districts in the county?" he asked.

"If labor costs were 66% in my plant, I'd sure find a way around it," he commented.

JOHN WASHBURN III, school board trustee who presented the district's background information said the district will not use deficit spending to continue its program.

"Maybe we've run out of the capability to offer this kind of an education," he commented.

In answer to a question from the audience, he said the district would try to trim administrative expenses before it cuts into the instructional program.

"I can't sit here and say that we won't touch the program because I don't know how much we are going to have to take out," Washburn said.

A member of the audience also questioned Washburn about increasing the work load of teachers in order to cut expenses. He replied that the matter is now "basically an item for negotiation."

BYRON OLIVER, an administrative assistant for the district, said the pupil teacher ratio this year is about 27 to one. Next year, the district is planning for a ratio to 28½ to one, he said.

Other questions concerned the district's 13% drop in state aid for the 1968-69 school year. Washburn said a major change in the state aid formula caused the drop.

Vagnozzi added that the new state constitution requiring property to be assessed at 50% of its market value more than doubled the Farmington district's valuation. State aid is based on equalized valuation per student.

**FAHC Needs Help**

FARMINGTON

The Farmington Association for Handicapped Children (FAHC) is issuing an urgent call for community volunteers to help during the annual fair to be held April 25.

The FAHC needs volunteers to man booths during the fair, which will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in East Junior High School.

Also needed are donations for the white elephant and bake sales.

All profits from the fair will go to the New Horizons to aid handicapped children attending the sheltered workshops.

Volunteers may call Mrs. Ruth Martin at 474-7806 or Mrs. Joan Tobin at 626-5280.

Before that year, Vagnozzi said, the district had received special aid because of its low per pupil valuation.

He commented the district is now in the same position as most middle income people "not poor enough to get special aid and not rich enough to enjoy it."

He said the state aid formula is a political issue.

"The formula is based on what formula will receive half of the votes (of the State Legislature) plus one," Vagnozzi said.

"But this is where you can come in if you feel the burden should be shifted from the property tax," the board's secretary said.

He urged the audience to contact State Sen. George Kuhn and Rep. Raymond Baker and make their feelings known.

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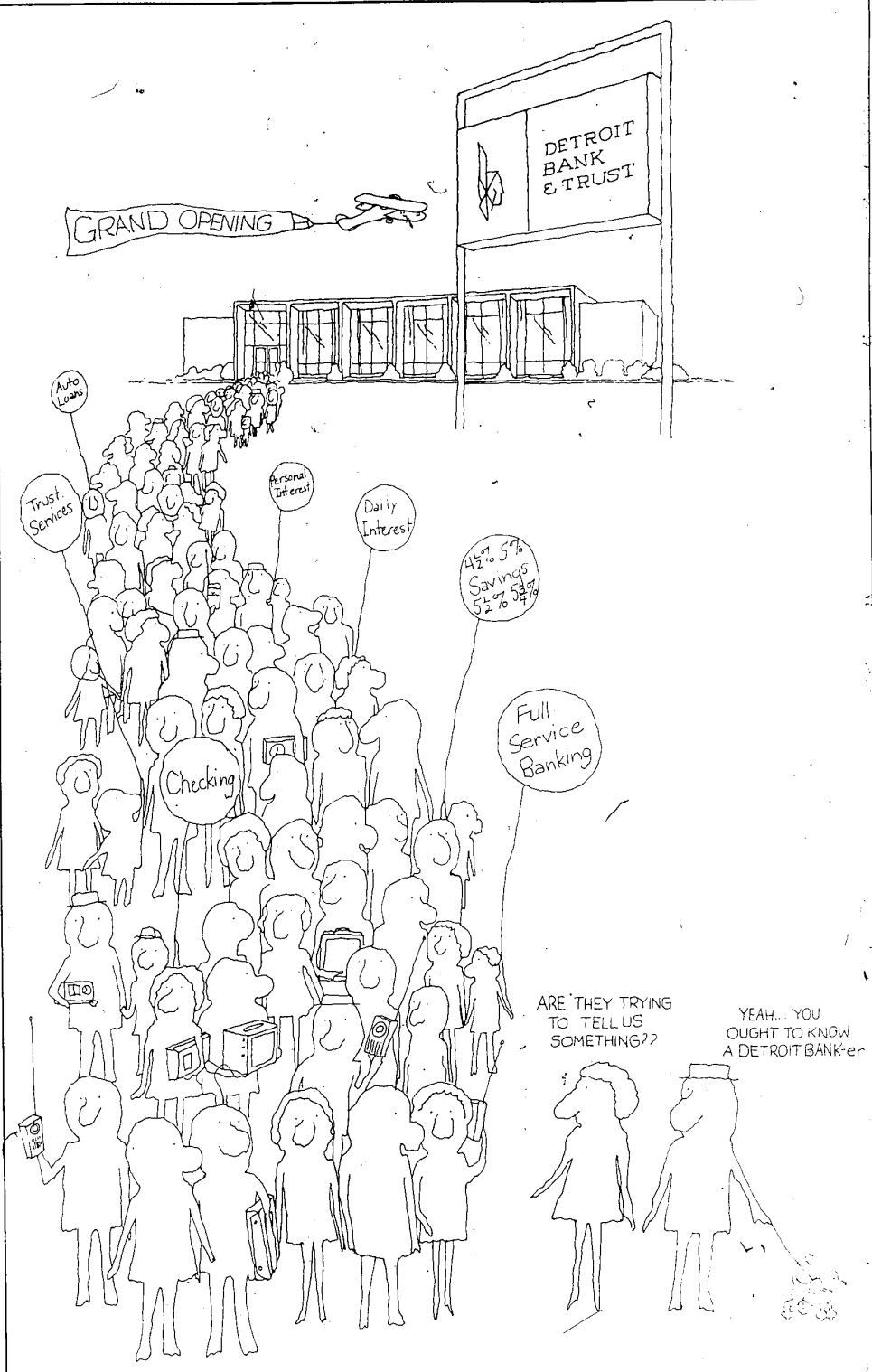
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