

High School Political Club Vetoed In C'ville

By MARIE MCGEE

A cautious Clarenceville Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday night to support, for the time being, the superintendent's veto of a political action club in the high school.

The board also deferred any permanent action "until such time as a policy can be drafted which would establish criteria governing all club applications."

Passage of the resolution, recommended by School Supt. David McDowell, was applauded by the several hundred parents who jammed the school facilities, forcing the meeting to be moved three times: from the board offices, to the cafeteria and finally to the auditorium to accommodate the crowd.

MC DOWELL'S letter to the board pointed out that his action concurs with that of Principal Anthony Marra, who vetoed the formation of the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) on April 1. A meeting between SMC members and McDowell followed on April 7 and resulted in this statement by McDowell:

"I support Mr. Marra's denial of your group and his reasons for said denial. However, I have chosen to deny you the right to be affiliated with Clarenceville High School because you are a political action group and as such (by your charter) are dedicated to promoting only one point of view on a rather controversial issue (the Vietnam war). This is contrary to the objectives of the public schools."

McDowell said that policies and procedures submitted by him to the board in January 1970 clearly state that "the schools do not teach controversial issues; rather, they provide opportunities for their study."

McDowell said that he in "no way attempted to judge the merits of the SMC's point of view on the controversial issues."

"I based my decision purely on what I believe to be the proper function of the school. I would have rendered a similar decision if it had been Young Democrats, Young Republicans, John Birchers or a student group calling for an all-out attempt to secure a victory in Vietnam."

McDowell said he deemed it "unwise to have any organization in school affiliated with groups outside the school without the schools approval of the outside party."

It would not be prudent for the school administration to approve an outside political action group. This is particularly true if the outside group advocates disruptive tactics to secure its point of view."

THE BOARD VOTE backing up McDowell and Marra followed an orderly 50-minute public forum in which members of the audience were allowed five minutes to speak on either side of the question.

In all, 21 speakers were heard before the board reconvened and began its own public deliberation on the proposed resolution to sustain the two administrators' actions.

Key speakers before the vote included David Sugar, SMC student co-chairman; Leo DalBo, high school math

A New Al Smith Jumps Into GOP Senate Race

A local political unknown with the prominent name of Al Smith is running for the State Senate.

Smith, 42, will seek the Republican nomination in the 14th District, which includes Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth.

The incumbent senator is Republican George Kuhn, who is also being challenged in the GOP primary by Wayne County Commissioner Carl Pursell.

SMITH LIVES at 21016 Westfarm Lane in Farmington Township (with a Northville mailing address) and works in service engineering of the marketing office in the Lincoln-Mercury Division of Ford.

Smith told Observer Newspapers he has many supporters in the area, though he lists no activities in or affiliations with GOP or any political group.

The father of seven, Smith is president of the Northwest Hockey Club Inc., which maintains five amateur teams; vice president of the Gill Elementary School PTA; a director of the Detroit Skating Club; and several alumni and professional affiliations. He



ALFRED W. (AL) SMITH In Senate Race

has lived in the area five years.

He has a B.A. from the State University of New York; a B.S. from the University of Buffalo; and a M.A. from the University of Michigan. In addition, he has completed work toward a Ph.D. in engineering at Wayne State University.

A self-styled middle-of-the-roader, Smith says his favorite issue is taxes. He advocates that "all tax be eliminated from food products immediately to enable large

families to upgrade their diets."

ON OTHER topics he says: Spending: "Not 'spending returns' but 'spending control and new tax bases,' such as institutions with 'heavy cash flows.' Other ideas: A state lottery and a tax on X-rated movies."

"Forced school integration... negative. Busing school children, white or black, is a sheer waste of taxpayers' money, lowers educational standards and causes unnecessary social controversy."

Drugs: "A more sophisticated narcotic control and drug elimination program."

Crime: "Law and order with the institution of capital punishment for cold-blooded murder, premeditated murder, police and firemen killers through criminal and riot acts."

American goals: "Not a grand do-good adventure, not in making the world beautiful and Utopian, but a cold-blooded, hard-boiled effort to put American and world civilization back on its feet toward a sound moral social structure."

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teacher and the club's sponsor; and Ray Malone, spokesman for a parent group opposed to the chartering of the SMC.

After the vote, Dr. Martin Wechsler, board president, indicated that more of the give-and-take meetings would be held with students before final guidelines are established.

He said there was a clearer need "to redefine the powers of the Student Council." The Student Council had conditionally approved the SMC, a point Sugar reminded board members of several times during the evening.

"We're not finished talking to you or hearing you," Dr. Wechsler told the students.

Just before the voice vote was taken, Dr. Samuel Prisk, board member, commented that it was incumbent upon the board to arrive at a policy "as speedily and deliberately as possible."

He told both sides not to be discouraged by the outcome of the vote and labeled the board meeting as "participatory democracy in action."

IN THE CLOSING moments of the meeting, Sugar, an articulate youth who wears his curly hair long and full, delivered an impassioned plea in behalf of the club.

Declaring that SMC members have the greatest respect for democratic principles "learned from this book," Sugar then held high over his head an "American Government" textbook used in the high school.

"Please, don't shatter our dreams within our school," he pleaded.

At this point, about 30 students, believed to be members of the SMC, stood up and applauded.

ONE OF THE SPEAKERS during the evening was Sugar's father, who, introducing himself to the board and the audience, quipped: "I'm Marice Sugar, and my only claim to fame is that I'm Randy's father."

But his remarks in defense of the student activist group were serious. One reason he was on their side, he said, was that he didn't consider the Vietnam war controversial.

"Everyone here tonight wants the war to end." The difference lies in the timing, he said. "I don't call that controversial," he said.

He also praised the club members' role in the highly successful "teach-in" last October, that drew high praise from all segments of the community. Clarenceville students chose a teach-in rather than participate in the Moratorium marches.

"No other group has done anything like it since," said Sugar, "and now they're being denied acceptance."

Later, Prisk pointed out that the teach-in was a joint venture of students, teachers and the Board of Education.

THE STRONGEST POINT against granting a charter to the political action club came in the opening remarks by Malone.

Malone said statements in the Congressional Record, entered by Ohio Congressman Ashbrook, and remarks by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover claim the national SMC has been communist dominated since its inception. Hoover linked it to the Young Socialist Alliance.

Carl Lessen, who said his daughter was president of the senior class, defended the club. "When all else fails, bring up the Communist Party. Anything can be read into the Congressional Record," and he labeled Hoover's statements "as his own (Hoover's) personal opinion."

Greatest fear of the organization was also voiced by Malone and several others who questioned that part of the SMC's local constitution that reads:

"This constitution can be reviewed and revised by the (parent) SMC at any time by a majority vote of the total membership. The revisions must stay within the national SMC's guidelines..."

Heavy Traffic Through Locks

There are 14,000 ship passages through the Sault Ste. Marie locks during an average eight month shipping season. The locks raise ships 21 feet from the level of Lake Huron to Lake Superior. Viewing stands enable visitors to practically touch the ships as they lock through, according to the Michigan Tourist Council.