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# Move to dethrone governor is misuse of recall right

WHEN IT'S all over, folks like Farmington Hills resident Brenda Kendt who are pushing the Blanchard recall petition drive may feel better for having vented their anger. It's unhealthy, you know, to bottle up your feelings.

But the fact is that it will be extremely difficult for them to recall a governor. Putting the matter on the ballot will require 706,000 valid signatures. The experienced suburban politicans trying to reform the Detroit water board have been unable to collect one-third that many to put their plan on the ballot. And the recall of a state officer has never been accomplished in Michigan.

Moreover, the movement to recall Blanchard lacks merit. Blanchard did not steal anyone's money, take a bribe or give state land to a crony.

He advocated, and won legislative support for, a tax increase that amounts to less than 2 percent of the incomes of those of us who have jobs or dividend checks. It was a pinch, but not a felony. A recall isn't warranted.

GOV. BLANCHARD didn't raise taxes all by himself. He had the support of 58 members of the state House of Representatives and 20 members of the state Senate. A recall movement, if it were to be fair, should be aimed at the 78 members of the fair, should be aimed at the ro me Michigan Legislature who voted for it.

And, in truth, our total tax burden is lighter this year, not heavier.

The simple reason: Federal income taxes are down. The Reagan administration has consistently maintained domestic needs should be met by state and local units with less and less federal aid.

Michigan is far from alone in raising taxes. Some 30 states have either raised their taxes or are in the process of doing so. In many cases there is screaming and hollering, but nothing so outlandish as a

IN THE 1982 campaign, candidate James Blanchard was a little vague on the tax issue, but no reader of this newspaper can say he lied about his position. We checked the tape of our Sept. 25 interview with him and heard him say:

"I'm going to take all steps necessary first to save, and then improve, the quality of higher educational system because I think it's critical for our future, whether it's attracting business, keeping business, or providing the quality of our life we need. It will require scaling back the system, and it may well require additional doses of revenue

Blanchard didn't simply promise jobs, jobs, jobs and deliver taxes, taxes, taxes. He said additional revenue would be needed for higher education, that higher education had to be healthy to attract new business; and that business is necessary to provide

THIS NEWSPAPER might quibble with some details of the tax increase. We would have preferred to see some property tax relief worked in. We would have liked to see voters given a chance to increase the sales tax, either to replace the income tax or to scale back property taxes.

But we cannot say that Blanchard was dishonest or essentially wrong. And we can neither support nor encourage the recall effort.

Those who disagree with Bianchard's policies would do better to give up their acrimonious and unwarranted recall effort, join the political party of their choice, learn how to do constructive precinct work and telephone canvassing, clip newspaper articles on the issues, and be ready for the 1984 and 1986 campaignes.

#### Above the recall fray



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

# Clergy helps us focus on nuclear issue

CATHOLICS listening to sermons in suburban Detroit churches on Sunday heard more about Mother's Day than nuclear war. This happened despite the fact that U.S. Catholic bishops a rew days earlier had overwhelmingly approved a pastoral letter which called offensive war of any kind "morally unjustificable," saying the building of nuclear arms should be "halted."

The bishops may have ignited a furor at their meeting in Chicago, but a few miles away in Detroit, it seemed to have little immediate impact. That is, if the results of an informal survey of area pastors are accurate.

pastors are accurate.

Responses were as varied as the political philosphies of local elergymen.

THE REV. Ed Baldwin, a pacificst, was enthusi-astic about the bishops' stand. Baldwin is the pastor at St. John Newman Church in Canton. "This is the cultimation of what American bishops have been doing over the past few years," he said. "They have supported any measure which relates to the dignity of human life — be that gun

control, the rights of the unborn or the use of food supplies. It's proper that the bishops of the nation which dropped the first atom bomb now are condemning that bomb."

A more conservative view is held by the Rev. Fernianad Wolber of St. Genevieve in Livonia. "I'm not a pacifist," he said. "I'm going to wait until I see what the diocese is going to do about it. It's pretty confusing so far."

Most clergymen came some place in the middle of the liberal and conservative extremes.

The Rev. Richard Dorr of St. Damlan parish in Westland said he has "ambivalent feelings" about the pastoral letter.

the postoral letter.
"It was the sentiment of the bishops that too much money is spent for arms manufacturing," Dorr said. "But regardless of that position, I would expect my parishioners to come to the aid of their country when needed."

THE CATHOLIC Church is only one of many religious organizations which has approved peace proposals.

Although they did not receive the same publicity as the Catholics. United Methodist bishops agreed last week to a disarmament statement in Little Rock, Ark.

Ark.
At a convention in September, delegates of the American Lutheran Church backed disarmament. The Episcopal Church has supported a gradual reduction in nuclear weapons. Both the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis have called for a

Conterence of American Rabbis have called for a nuclear freeze.

In addition, the United Presbyterian Church supports a nuclear freeze.

Besides all this pressure from religious sources, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a watered down nuclear freeze resolution last week.

WHAT DOES it mean? Unfortunately, for those of us who believe nuclear weapons should be reduced, it doesn't mean much.

The Catholic bishops! etter is a teaching tool, and not Catholic doctrine. One can reject or accept the tenets of the letter without affecting one's position in the church.

#### Nick Sharkey

Churches today cannot be dogmatic in preaching to their congregations.

"Catholics are sophisticated and well educated," said St. John Newmann's Ed Baldwin. "We're not talking about poor immigrants. The preacher can only say this is an important issue and you should think carefully about it."

Or as the Rev. Arnold Kosco of Southfield's St. Bede parish says, "We can tell our people that nuclear warfare is not black and white; they should carefully weigh the opinions of their bishops. But in the end, they have to let their own consciences decide."

The positions of churches and the action by the

The positions of churches and the action by the U.S. House should make more people think about

U.S. House shoute make hoto Free muclear weapons.
As Baldwin notes, "People ask: What do bishops know about bombs? I ask: What do generals know about morality?"

## Rabies threat is alarming

BEAU, OUR late, beloved Head Poodle, had four stars next to his name on the veterinarian's records. It meant he was the most difficult kind of patient to hardle.

stars next to his name on the veterinarian's records. It meant he was the most difficult kind of patient to handle.

Beau had had a painful experience at a vet during pupyshood, and for the next dozen years screamed like a banshee whenever a needle touched him. It was part of his "high strung" act.

Outside the vet's office, Beau was a cocky predamine, if caught field mice, muskrat, moles, chipmunks, ground squirrels, rabbit and even a footting Norway rat.

He nailed sparrows before they could get off the windled sparrows and reported sparrows and a bokeat. The politic properties of the same between the sparrows and reported sparrows and re



reports dvm, the vets' newsmagazine, in its April edition.

Dr. Maurice Becker, former chief of the virology division of the Michigan Department of Public Health, wrote about rables in the May/June issue of Michigan Natural Resources. "Upprovoked attacks on humans by rabid wild animals occur 10 to 15 times a year in Michigan," he said.

The DPH in Lansing tested 17,502 specimens during the decade of 1970-09. Becker went on, and reported 156 positive cases of rables: 63 bats, 29 kunks, 25 foxes, 11 bovines, 10 cats, ainch horses, saven dogs, a raccoon and a bobcat.

Compare that list of species with confirmed rables to the animals Beau came in contact with in paragraphs 2-4. Most of those contacts were in his own yard or within walking distance of his subdivision. 'PABIES' COMES from the Latin verb robere,

### Which sports do we like?

IN HIS MANY years of traveling up and down the sports trail. The Stroller often was set to wondering what the general public's attitude was toward athletic events he covered. Many times he thought he was too close to the forest, so to speak, to see the trees.

True, he was with the sports element of the population every day, on the golf courses, at the baseball stadiums, in the boxing arena and at the ice rinks. His contact was with the folks who were the enthusiasts of the events.

thusiasts of the events.

Then the other day he found his answer, and of all places it was in the mail box. There, mingled with the usual bundle of so-called junk mail, he found a

It was the result of a poll taken to determine the iblic's attitude toward sports — and it contained

many surprises.

The poll, taken by the Miller Brewing Co. of Milwauke, was the most complete survey of sports. The Stroller ever has seen.

The Stroller ever has seen.

TALK ABOUT surprises. The biggest came when the poil showed that pro football had surpassed probaseball as the national pastime. It was only by the margin of one percentage point, but it was at the top of the list.

The question that was asked from posit to coast was: "It you had, your choice, which of the aports, contests would you prefer to see during the coming year."

year?"
Folks, stated they would prefer the Super Bowl
football game to the World Series of baseball. Then,
in order, came the Opmine's games, the Kentucky
Derby, the Indianapolis 500 auto race and a beavy.



weight championship fight.
Ever since Abner Doubleday introduced baseball to the public in the 19th century, it was considered the national pastime. But that isn't the case now, because pro football leagues, which were introduced only 50 years ago, have taken over the public's attention.

ANOTHER INTERESTING point brought out in the poll was that 93 percent of the public would read or discuss sports at least once a day. And 74 per cent would watch a contest on television at least once a week. 'A major surprise: The majority of the public would participate in swimming, and that, proved to be the most popular participation sport. Behind swimming came calisthenies, jogging, bicycling and baseball, in that order. 'It often had been thought that swimming would finish far down the list and that baseball, bowling or golf would be the most attractive participant sports.

An interesting point was the attitude of parents toward having their children compete in various games. The vast majority reported a wish that their children; both boys and girls, would compete in some, type of sports contest, even early in their school years.

OR COURSE, some of the parental attitudes could have been influenced recently, by the huge salaries paid to baseball and football players. They are becoming millifentiers has some air they leave school and found he pro raints.

Be that as it may the poil that came unabilities in the million and gave the Schooler the answer to a question that has been bothering him for wars.