

OBSERVATION POINT

By PHILIP H. POWER
Publisher

Sen. Kuhn In Trouble On Abortion Vote

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.

If that's true, State Sen. George Kuhn (R-14th district) may be in trouble in his bid for re-election this fall.

Kuhn, who represents Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth in this area, voted two weeks ago against a bill under consideration in the State Senate which would have allowed any Michigan woman to obtain an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy.

Kuhn had voted for the bill three times previously.

Observers said that Kuhn's "no" vote was a crucial factor in the Senate's 18-19 rejection of the abortion liberalization measure.

Now two political opponents are taking cracks at Kuhn's vote, and a number of area women are getting organized specifically to defeat him.

TECHNICALLY KUHNS vote was on a procedural matter, a motion to reconsider the bill, which had previously been defeated. Kuhn voted against reconsideration, voting in effect against the bill.

In statements to the press, Kuhn did not explain just why he switched his position at a crucial time.

"I voted 'yes' three times. I voted 'no' on the final bill," Kuhn said.

"It was difficult, and I went through an agonizing reappraisal. The bill was overly permissive, and it was obvious there were not enough votes to pass it," Kuhn added.

Kuhn said a survey taken in his district showed a majority were opposed to changing the abortion law.

He added: "The whole thing was an exercise in futility, in my opinion. I felt it wasn't going to pass and that the Senate should proceed onto other important matters."

CRITICISM WAS not long in coming, from Republicans and Democrats.

Immediately after Kuhn's vote, Carl Pursell of Plymouth, who is challenging Kuhn in the Republican party primary, said, "I would support any reasonable abortion law which would allow a mother to have appropriate treatment, within the first 90 days, with the consent of her family physician and, hopefully, the father, if he is still a member of the family."

Paul Kadish of Livonia, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for Kuhn's Senate seat, said, "I would definitely have voted for it. I feel very strongly about it. I wouldn't have gone for complete repeal of present abortion laws but would have supported either of the two liberalizing proposals."

Reacting to Kuhn's assertion that the abortion reform bill was wasting the Senate's time, Kadish said, "Anybody who says it's a waste of a senator's time is using a strictly political move."

TO SEE POLITICIANS taking slaps at each other is fairly normal, but women who are concerned about abortion reform then started weighing in.

Margaret Landon, a Bloomfield Township resident has taken a leadership role in the drive against Kuhn.

"We have hundreds of women in the county who have been insulted by his (Kuhn's) broken promises. We're determined to work against Kuhn, and we're going all out to defeat him," she said.

"Women in Michigan are organizing now to elect candidates in the August primary, not just those candidates who favor abortion law reform, but those who will keep the promises they make."

Glady McLean, also a Bloomfield Township resident who is president of the Oakland County Chapter of Michigan Women for Medical Control of Abortion, slapped Kuhn on his switch.

"If a legislator can be influenced and change his mind so readily on such an important issue, we feel he should not be representing us in Oakland County. I don't believe he really took the

time to study the report of the hearing held here," she charged.

Reportedly, other women in Farmington and Livonia are irritated at Kuhn's switched vote.

KUHNS WHO MOVED from Berkley to Bloomfield Township just before he was elected to the Senate in 1966, has had a stormy public career. A self-avowed conservative, he has picked up criticism from Democrats and moderate Republicans for his stands on many issues.

But up to now, most political observers felt that he was a shoo-in for re-election because of his heavily Republican district.

However, the advent of the woman's liberation movement and the increasing involvement of women in political activity, coupled with the emotional intensity of the abortion issue, could change his chances suddenly.

Pursell, who was defeated by Kuhn in the GOP primary in 1966, is an able and effective public officer, currently representing Plymouth and Livonia on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. Kadish has a reputation as a skilled campaigner, with broad-based Democratic support in the area.

Kuhn could find that the combination of his switched vote, women's involvement in politics, and the abortion issue spell trouble at the polls later this year.

Tim Richard writes

Chief Pontiac -- A Radical's Radical

The young radicals profess to admire Che Guevara and Ho Chi Minh, but the truth is that the greatest social revolutionary and guerrilla fighter of them all was a man from Michigan—Chief Pontiac of the Ottawas.

What brings Pontiac to mind is that up in Mackinaw City this weekend, they're going to re-enact the massacre of Fort Michilimackinac, in which the Chippewas faked a lacrosse game to get close to the fort's entrance.

Clever and startling as that battle was, it was only one of a dozen major engagements in the spring of 1763. Pontiac's purpose: To clean the British out of the Great Lakes and Ohio region, and to inspire the southern and east coast tribes to do likewise in their backwoods. He came too close for comfort.

THE INDIANS over the years had become utterly dependent on the white men for the things they needed most -- the steel ax, the iron kettle, guns and powder -- as well as some of the

things they didn't need, such as rum and diseases.

The situation was tolerable as long as the Indians could play off one nationality of white men against the other, but the situation became intolerable when England, Spain and France settled the Seven Years War, and England got most of the American continent east of the Mississippi. Pontiac acted decisively.

Consider the difficulties: His warriors had no concept of discipline; the tribes he allied were scattered across hundreds of miles; they had no written language; and there was an internal security problem -- at least one raid was foiled when a squaw blabbed to the British for a bottle of rum.

Yet in the space of five or six weeks, tribes in Pontiac's alliance captured nine important English forts.

FORT SANDUSKY in Ohio was taken in a surprise attack. So was Fort St. Joseph at Niles. The Indian mistress of the commander of Fort Miami (at Fort Wayne, Ind.) lured him out of the fort, and it was taken. Fort Outatonnon near Lafayette, Ind., was surrendered without casualty.

Fort Michilimackinac was taken in the now-famous lacrosse game. Fort La Baye near Green Bay, Wis., was surrendered after a siege. Fort Presque Isle at Erie, Pa., surrendered. The garrison of Fort LeBoeuf at Waterford, Pa., escaped as it burned. Fort Venango, between Lake Erie and Pittsburgh, was taken, its troops exterminated.

The two big prizes -- Detroit and Pittsburgh -- were placed under siege but never taken. Nevertheless, Pontiac had cleaned out every white trader from the region and had inflicted 3,000 casualties on the British while suffering less than one-tenth as many. He makes Ho Chi Minh look like a piker.

There are other parallels. Pontiac got some foreign aid --

A SENATOR IN TROUBLE



DISSENT

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

By MARY JANE HARTING
Redford Township

We represent a class of ninth grade BSCS-Biology students at George Marshall Junior High in Redford Township. For our project during Environmental Clean-Up week, we as a class decided to clean up the Detroit Race Course, using the logic that the majority of DRC's traffic comes through our Township, bringing with it a majority of garbage to be dumped here.

The first time we offered our services to the DRC management we were turned down completely because our clean-up interfered with union duties which we can understand completely.

The second time we phoned the DRC we spoke to a manager who agreed to co-operate with our wishes. He agreed to let us clean up outside of the fence and to let us post anti-pollution posters inside DRC with our teacher, Glenn Davis', supervision.

We were to come in anytime before post-time on Friday morning (April 24). All he asked was that we "checked in" with the management before we started.

When we arrived to post the posters early Friday morning we were met with opposition by a lady who "questioned" our project and refused to let us carry out our plans.

When back in school, we phoned the manager at the DRC who has spoken to us previously about our project and he replied that the authority to post the posters was now over his head and the project was out.

However, we did carry out part of the bargain and did our best to clean up the Schoolcraft side of the DRC fence.

What we want to know now is don't the adults at DRC care about pollution? And if they do, isn't this a funny way to show it?

(Editor's note: the letter is signed by five class members on behalf of the class.)

By OSMAN AHMED,
President
The Muslim Students Association
of United States and Canada

Thank you for the few minutes you spent talking to me about the article in the issue of March 11 about the Prayers in Schools. I am grateful for the assurance given to me that Supreme Court Justice William Douglas' statements were correct and not misquotations.

I would like to comment on the statement of Judge Douglas which says:

"Now I've been in Moslem schools. And they have prayers there. They read the first verse of the Koran. And you know what it says? It pledges every Moslem believer: to go out and kill all the infidels (ie: all non-Moslems)."

By printing these few lines which is the first verse of the Quran and which is translated by Mr. Mohammed Pickthal who is an English Muslim convert.

Surah (verse).

The Opening
Revealed at Mecca.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, The Merciful

1 - Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds
2 - The Beneficent, the Merciful

3 - Owner of the Day of Judgement

4 - Thee (alone) we worship; Thee (alone) we ask for help

5 - Show us the straight path

6 - The path of those whom Thou has favoured

7 - Not (the path) of those who earn Thine Anger nor of those who go astray.

from the Canadians. And the whites' war effort was frustrated by the uncooperative attitude of the pacifist Pennsylvania Quakers.

WE MIGHT ALL BE speaking Gaelic and German and Polish and Cockney today if the Indians could have taken Detroit and Pittsburgh, and if they hadn't lost heart and been unable to renew the effort in 1764 and '65. But ultimately the Pontiac uprising just petered out. Pontiac and the British came to terms.

One wonders what kind of shape we'd be in today if the brilliant, eloquent Ottawa were commanding the Vietcong. Worse than we are, most likely.

Pontiac's rise had been meteoric, and his decline to obscurity was nearly as quick. In April of 1769, he was stabbed to death in Cahokia, Ill., in front of the Baynton, Wharton and Morgan store.

It was poetic justice--or perhaps revolutionary perversity--that the assassin was another Indian.

R.T. Thompson writes

Girls Sports For Whom? Parents Or Offspring?

With an ever-increasing demand for a revival of girls varsity sports competition, the Plymouth Community School Board has approved plans for Plymouth High girls athletic teams in the new Western Six League.

That would appear to be a victory for the parents who have appeared before the board on numerous occasions during the current school year to press the case for girls varsity sports.

But indications at the most recent meeting of the trustees makes one wonder if the parents are happy.

They have won their case. The board has approved varsity competition in swimming, volleyball, basketball and tennis. Plymouth will be entered in a league that includes Northville, Livonia Churchill, Plymouth, Waterford and Walled Lake West.

IN ACCEPTING the proposal of Assistant Supt. John Hoben, the board informed those parents present that the program would be on an extremely limited budget.

However, postings for

coaches in the four sports have been made, and the board probably will select them well in advance of the 1970-71 school year.

It would appear that sponsorship of teams in four sports would be an excellent start and that additional varsity teams would be added in other sports as funds are available.

This doesn't seem to satisfy some parents. They want their girls competing in baseball, track and field hockey. In this case, we feel the board has gone as far as it can considering the economic situation.

ALL OF WHICH makes one wonder if these same parents were among the group that voted down the recent millage increase proposal.

It takes money to operate any program, whether in the schools or in city government, and when the barrel is empty, well, the only way to refill it is to get on the ball and support needed additional millage.

If and when the millage passes, then the parents have a right to storm the board chambers and demand another look at girls athletics on an expanded basis.

Editorial & Opinion

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