

# Why Managers Hold The Patronage Money

By DAN GILMARTIN

The rift between the secretary of state-appointed managers of the license-sale offices and the Democratic State Central Committee, which began as a comic opera, now has turned melodramatic.

Some 212 loyal Democrats throughout the state make up the Branch Managers Association (BMA). For the dubious honor of being selected by party leaders to operate the fee offices, they are said to contribute about \$100,000 a year to election campaigns through "patronage funds" — political syntax for if-you-don't-pay-you-re-out.

During the reign of the champion vote getter of the party, Secretary of State James Hare, the BMA claims it has enriched party coffers by about \$1.5 million.

The BMA last year put the skids on the "patronage funds" when Hare said he was going to hang up his mimeograph machine and retire to a trailer camp where he pledged to write a book.

The strategy was fairly simple, according to the BMA. They wanted to know who'd run and if such a candidate would back the "BMA principles" — that is, would he keep them on the job?

The patronage funds were buried in the backyard, and the Democratic State Central Committee went looking for shovels.

In January, the State Central Committee adopted a resolution which, in effect, would "terminate" branch managers who did not come up with the necessary wherewithal for the 1970-71 campaign.

Most branch managers now feel the resolution is academic. More than half, according to a BMA spokesman, feel that Gov. William Milliken is a shoo-in.

CONTRIBUTING to a non-existent candidate for secretary of state and presently lukewarm choices for governor is like "pounding money down a rathole," according to BMA sentiments.

The fee offices do a good business three months a year

and a decent business for approximately two months a year. During the balance of the year, they attempt to squeeze by on revenues earned from the five productive months.

In Hare, the BMA had a champion. And although he announced his retirement last year, no prominent Democrat has offered to stand for election.

The GOP has Emil Lockwood waiting to take over. He is a state senator and likely a choice of the Republican party.

The only Democrats mentioned for the post — Democrats of any stature — are former congressman and party wheelhorse Billie S. Farnum, and Wayne County Auditor Richard Austin, the Detroit black leader who gave Roman S. Gribbs a good run for the position of mayor of the big city last fall.

Farnum seemingly would like the job, but if he's been asked it hasn't been loud enough. And with time running out, the Austin backers haven't been able to convince the party brass that a black Dem-

ocrat could win all the marbles.

ALTHOUGH THE rift between the BMA and the State Central Committee goes deeper — Chairman James McNeely isn't regarded as "Mr. Wonderful" by branch

managers; they tried to get him charged with extortion — the fact that the BMA is sitting on its collective hands, if taken as a party barometer, indicates that many Democrats feel that Milliken and Lockwood will be two tough nuts to crack.

The 212 branch managers are spread throughout Michigan's 83 counties. If such can be taken as a cross-section, then it's highly unlikely that any "patronage funds" will be forthcoming if the sentiments are such that the money will go to back a dead horse.

Most likely they will keep their wallets in their pocket this year and try to squeeze out as much as they can when the 1971 license plates are issued, presuming that if the worst does happen, it will take the GOP machinery some time into 1971 to broom them out.

Hare's book likely will be an insight into gut-politics, according to some who know him. They claim he will be a firm pen and that he just may tip over some ash cans. But for the BMA, the book could be entitled: "Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow."



**MAPPING PLANS.** Coach Bill van Breda Kolff of the Detroit Pistons (center) discusses strategy with veterans Erwin Mueller (left) and Otto Moore of a free basketball clinic the Pistons will stage Thursday at the Wrigley shopping center located at Ann Arbor and Sheldon Roads in Plymouth starting at 4 p.m. Van Breda Kolff will direct the two-hour program which will feature three members of his team. All youngsters and adults are invited to attend the clinic which is sponsored by Stro's Ice Cream Division. At the conclusion of the clinic, refreshments and special prizes will be passed out.

## Baseball's Summer High School To Open

What amounts to a summer high school baseball league for Greater Livonia opens Tuesday when the curtain rises on the 1970 Connie Mack League schedule.

A record number of 20 events will play in the American and National Divisions with kick-off competition, playing on diamonds from Garden City to Northville.

In many instances, high school youngsters of the recent spring have been entered in the Mack League.

SEVERAL of the prep teams will be handled by their high school coaches on the sandlots.

Coach Emil Majeski has moved directly from Thurston with a team to carry the same banner. Bob Adkins, who coached Redford Union, will direct most of the same boys but under the sponsorship of Warholak Ice-Royal Fires.

Tom Heller, who coached at Farmington, has his varsity in the Mack League as B. J. Rati-

**AMERICAN DIVISION**  
Optimists vs. Churchill at Ford Field, 8:30 p.m.; Garden City vs. DiPonzo at Plymouth, 8 p.m.; Coleman-Moss vs. Ratican at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.; Chelsea vs. Thurston at Thurston, 6:30 p.m.; Hubert Realty vs. Gates at Cass Benton, 6 p.m.

**NATIONAL DIVISIONS**  
Franklin JV vs. Cardinals at Bentley, 6 p.m.; Plymouth Elks vs. Bard V. at Ford, 8 p.m.; Keating vs. Reed at North Farmington, 6 p.m.; Tom's Service vs. American Century at Stevenson, 6 p.m.; Warholak Fires vs. Garden City East at Garden City Park, 6 p.m.

## Middle Whites Feel Left Out

No class of Americans today feel "more alienated and spiritually dispossessed" than the lower-middle class whites, a University of Michigan law professor suggested here recently. And if they "turn sharply toward the right in politics, then I think disaster awaits today's progressive racial and social legislation," said Prof. Theodore J. St. Antoine at the American Bar Association's annual meeting.

For instance, he warned, "an unduly extended interpretation" of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which guarantees equal job opportunity, would help "to fuel the bitterness of the working class white, and to hasten the day of a resurgent right," the real threat to an enlightened society would be a resuscitated right — hurt, resentful, and hungry to repeal the 1960's.

Indy Tyler has entered his Farmington team as Chelsea Industries, and North Farmington will function as Coleman Moss under Tom Wallis.

The Northville High team, winner of the Les Anders and regional titles held recently in Livonia, will be in the league, although Fred Hildsworth, the school's principal and a one-time baseball star, will be the manager.

Garden City West and Garden City East are entered. West will be managed by ex-Tiger George Lechen.

Stevenson and Churchill both will have varsity teams in the running. So will Bentley. Stevenson won the Inter-Lakes League title. Bentley the Suburban Six while Churchill was runner-up in the Anders meet.

The Livonia teams also will have their junior varsities in action in the Mack League.

All the teams are booked for Tuesday and Thursday action during the summer with a few Saturday games tossed in.

The two divisional winners will earn the right to represent the league in district Connie Mack tournaments. Here's the way Tuesday's opening night schedule shapes up:

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