



## OBSERVATION POINT

# Census Puts Suburbs On Top

By PHILIP H. POWER  
Publisher

Some time this year—the exact day is not known—a major social and political turning point will have been reached in the United States.

On that day, according to current census estimates, the nation's suburbs will have become the largest sector of population in the country. At that time, the suburbs will have more than 71 million residents, compared to the central cities (59 million) and the rest of the country outside metropolitan areas (around 71 million residents).

Preliminary census data released last week for Michigan bears out the trend of fantastic population growth for the suburbs since 1960.

**THE CITY OF LIVONIA** grew from 66,702 in 1960 to 106,746, a 72% increase in 10 years.

The City of Farmington jumped from around 6,800 persons in 1960 to slightly less than 10,000. Farmington Township registered much greater growth, according to John Siviter, area district census director, but final figures are not ready yet. Experts estimate the Township's population doubled since 1960.

The same situation exists for Plymouth and Canton Townships—approximately double population over 10 years ago. The City of

Plymouth moved from 8,766 in 1960 to 11,394 in 1970.

The City of Westland, formed after the 1960 census, established its first unified population figure of 86,291. Southeast Michigan Council of Government preliminary figures indicate that Westland has been growing at a rate of around 35% in the past.

Southfield registered an even more impressive jump, according to unofficial estimates. In 1960, Southfield's population was 30,501; city sources guess that the 1970 figure will be over 55,000.

The only two communities in this area registering little growth were Redford Township (71,304-71,335) and Garden City (around 38,000 to 41,533).

**WHAT DOES ALL** this mean?

It means that the day of the suburbs has come.

Ever since the U.S. Supreme Court decided that political units should represent people, not trees or acres of land, apportionment of state legislatures has depended on population statistics.

In other words, people mean political power.

In the past, the suburbs were severely underrepresented in Lansing. Rural law makers, coupled with those from the established

big cities could pretty much slice the pie as they wished.

Rapidly growing suburban communities, possessing lots of people but no way to translate these people into political power in Lansing, were short-changed.

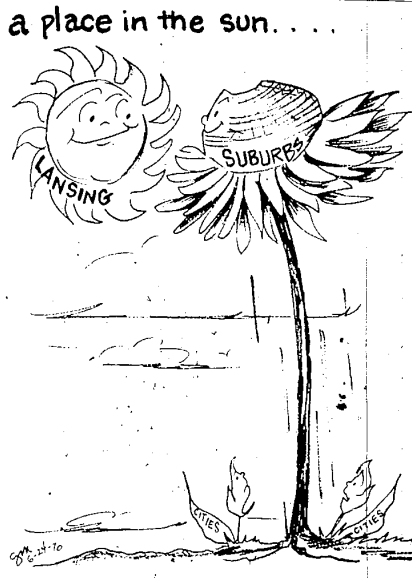
**NOW THAT THE** new census figures are coming out showing enormous increases for the suburbs in this area, it is a foregone conclusion that we'll get more representation where it counts.

Existing state legislative boundaries will be redrawn. Although no solid estimates are out yet, I would not be surprised if this area didn't get another state senator and a couple of more state representative seats.

This means, in the short run, that a lot of politicians are going to be running scared. They won't like the idea of seeing a district redrawn out from under them and the consequent job of meeting the voters in new areas and running against tough opposition.

But in the long run, this area will get more representation in Lansing. And that means, perhaps, some of the growing pains we have been experiencing in the past few years will be eased.

Maybe we in the suburbs ought to take a leaf from the book of the student militants: "Power To The People." At least, it applies to us.



## Sense And Nonsense

It doesn't make much sense that Detroit Race Course officials, after staging the greatest Michigan Mile program in history, should leave a bad taste to the day's activities by making a change in the Middle Belt Road gate exit that tied up motoring patrons for more than 40 minutes.

For some unknown reason, the exit was remodeled so that southbound traffic leaving the plant would have two lanes and the same for northbound.

But one of the northbound lanes was blocked with the result that the sudden change from two outgoing lanes to one caused a monstrous jam. Motorists complained that it took as long as 40 minutes to go from the parking lot to the gate.

It doesn't seem like smart planning on the part of whoever was responsible to tie up an exit on the track's biggest day of the year.

Former President Harry S. Truman must be chuckling down there in his Independence, Missouri home over the recent British elections.

And we wouldn't put it past the peppery ex-president to send Conservative Party leader Edward Heath a wire with the message: "Join the club."

That's the "BP" club. BP stands for Beating the Pollsters.

## W.W. Edgar writes

# Never Belittle Power Of Women

"Never underestimate the power of a woman."

No doubt, you've heard that admonition countless times but nowhere is there better proof than restoration of Kellogg Park, smack in the middle of downtown Plymouth.

A beauty spot for many years after it was turned over to the city, it had been allowed to run down, almost to the point where its natural beauty was hidden by decayed trees, broken park benches and scuffed grass.

It was far from what could be called a beauty spot or a modern model of the village commons of colonial days.

**THEN, ABOUT 10 YEARS** ago, the Plymouth Woman's Garden Club swung into action with the avowed intention of making the park a site of which all of western Wayne County could be proud.

It was a gigantic task -- but the women were determined the job could be done.

So, with enthusiastic and dedicated leaders such as Mrs. Arnold Johanson and Mrs. Edwin (Myrilla) Schrader furnishing the arguments and the inspiration, they started their battle for beauty.

And when Mrs. Johanson left

the scene to reside in Estes Park in Colorado, Mrs. Schrader moved to the front, alone.

Every minute of every day they discussed beautification of the park with everyone they met. They attended sessions of the City Commission. They sought the help of all civic and fraternal organizations and thought nothing of what amounted to a door to door campaign.

**THE FIRST BREAK** came when they succeeded in "selling" the old fashioned gas lights to their members and friends around the area.

Once the lights were in, the entire Garden Club took notice and things started to happen.

Next, the Plymouth Rotary Club donated the fountain and the

Kiwanis clubs, both the Tuesday evening and the Thursday noon Colonial groups, not only donated most of the bricks but helped to lay them. And they supplied the new benches.

With this impetus the City Commissioners had to go along, with the result that professional landscape advice was obtained and a sound plan of beautification evolved.

Erection of the fountain meant the relocation of the Plymouth Rock and later, despite some criticism, the monument was removed.

But the work went on -- the city undervote the sprinkling system and the purchasing of the lush sod. Business and civic leaders cooperated by the donation of bricks for the walks, new trees

not only inside the park area, but along the perimeter.

Bit by bit the task was accomplished and the park now is a beauty spot that could be the envy of all surrounding communities.

It has been said that the park is worth a million dollars to the city.

That's a low estimate.

It became even more valuable in the past few days when it was adjudged the No. 1 civic improvement in the state during the past year.

It is a high honor indeed. But it never would have been accomplished without the driving force of the Plymouth Chapter of the National Garden Club.

So, it bears repeating -- never underestimate the power of a woman.

## Tim Richard writes

# Solution To All Problems

When you're on a vacation over the Michigan and Canadian countryside, a lot of formerly complex social problems can get straightened around and reduced to their essential elements.

In short, you can come up with solutions. Here are foolproof solutions to some of the great public questions of our day:

**"HAIR":** The hippie musical is being produced in a northwest Detroit theater. Some say it's a work of genuine, innocent artistic merit. Others say it's obscene because of its gang nude scene.

The scientific solution is to allow it to be produced for one week with the nude scene. The second week, however, the nude scene would be eliminated or the players would have to wear clothes. There would be advance public notice of these plans.

If the gate drops drastically in the second week, then we will all know that "Hair" appeals to our baser interests, and it may be fairly dismissed as filthy trash in the eyes of the public.

**HOUSING:** It's expensive,

and they don't make models for the working man. Suburban governments encourage high-cost housing for executives because of the tax yield.

**Solution:** Allow no property taxes to be collected on an incoming industrial plant either by the county, school district or municipality unless the municipality can show that adequate new housing is going up to serve a cross-section of the people who will work in that plant.

That way, the working man will be able to live in the town where he works, and the local government will be severely punished if it engages in "snob" zoning. Sound fair to you?

**FOREIGN RIOTS:** Students in foreign countries attack our embassies, and foreign governments expropriate American-owned property.

The U.S. should establish a Riot Corps--college students who need jobs in this tight economy--and send them out to wreck the embassy of any foreign government that allows an attack on an American embassy or property.

If the foreign government has no embassy in Washington, then the Riot Corps will automatically hit the Soviet embassy.

Want to bet that the anti-American demonstrations abroad would be over in three months?

**COLLEGE RIOTS:** These are led by the hard-core radicals who will tell you voluntarily they want a Vietcong victory in Vietnam. They deplore alleged American atrocities but never Communist atrocities.

So every time college property is damaged or a college class disrupted or canceled, the president should drop a bomb on North Vietnam--the worse the campus disruption, the bigger the bomb.

The "kids," as they like to call each other, know the college and local authorities (except in Ohio) won't do anything to them, but it will plague their sensitive consciences if North Vietnamese get bombed for what they, the American college radicals, have done.

Two weeks or less should solve that problem.

## 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 MRS. RUTH DANIELS  
Livonia

With great concern that the unique program of drug abuse in Livonia and the surrounding cities may become entangled with politics and processes, I hereby request your attention and comments at the present time.

As a citizen, parent, educator, and former registered public health nurse, I feel compelled to seek your counsel and advice on my stand, since my three attempts to be heard at the Livonia Board of Education on Farmington Road in Livonia have been met with polite excuses by Mr. McAdam's secretary.

"Sorry but Mr. McAdams could not keep his appointment with you" and "I'm sorry but Mr. McAdams has just stepped out."

After several attempts, I have given up, even though I keep telling our children and other teenagers that the gap between generations and the establishments and the people can be closed as long as the art of communication is not lost.

**RECENTLY, I HAVE** attended several meetings and workshops on drug abuse in Westland, Garden City, and Livonia as a parent and educator. In every one I noticed a glaring lack of logical planning for the prevention of drug abuse.

In several instances, when the youth in the audience requested "where can we go to talk about our troubles," a telephone number was the only answer furnished by a principal.

For the last year I have done much research on the need of counseling youth, especially during the adolescent ages. I have seen evidence for the need of counseling in our schools where confidential discussions of problems can be talked out among these young people with an understanding counselor acting as a stable guide in helping them in making their own decisions.

This approach has been used with fifth-graders in connection with a drug abuse program, and one sees the relief in these young faces when they realize that all families have problems, many like their own.

They are not different or unwanted; but the victims of their parents' circumstances. With an emphasis on choices of action and behavior and a realistic view of the outcomes of such choices, the first steps are taken after facing one's problem as objectively as possible.

The same process is beneficial for parents who have no one to share their fears and concerns.

**SINCE EDUCATION** is supposed to meet the needs of society, it seems that the prevention of drug abuse belongs to our schools. Most school systems employ counselors at a fairly adequate salary to schedule classes and formulate future educational and vocational plans for students (many of whom (students) have so many "hang-ups" that the following of these plans are doubtful.)

Research indicates that many of these tasks can be performed by non-professionals, and the valuable time of counselors could be spent counseling and listening to groups of adolescents with similar concerns.

Yes, it does take a special kind of counselor, one who has a knowledge of group dynamics and interpersonal relations, but most important in the young adult and his concerns.

Naturally to make such a plan possible one needs a school administration with foresight, flexibility and a sincere obligation to the community it serves.

What better personal relations are there than meeting a vital need of students and parents?

Thank you for any consideration of my beliefs. As I keep telling young people and myself, "don't get angry, don't panic, keep thinking, and keep talking, someone's bound to hear you."

## Editorial & Opinion

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