

Opinion

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BA/P

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Those that can become lobbyists

WHEN THE sponsors of the bill which would require Michigan drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts went looking for votes the other day, they came up short.

The bill was turned down by the state House, despite a 52-49 vote in favor. The bill needed 56 votes for passage, and nine lawmakers couldn't be found for the vote.

At least the lawmakers from the areas served by our newspapers were on the job and did vote on the bill. But what about the missing votes?

It may be that the missing legislators were getting an early start on their packing for the winter legislative break which lasts until after January.

THE LEGISLATURE takes a long winter break. As everyone knows, nothing is done around Christmas time, and they have had an arduous few months since the campaign break, which lasted several weeks before the Nov. 5 elections.

This was preceded by the summer break and before that the spring break.

But if you're paying the highest state legislative salaries in the nation — and we are — wouldn't you expect that everyone would show



Bob Wisler

up for crucial votes? After all, what are we paying them for?

Well, I'm not too sure about that, either. One thing apparently we are not paying them for is to accomplish things in the state Legislature which can only be accomplished by former lawmakers turned lobbyists.

NORTHVILLE and Plymouth Township recently voted to hire a lobbyist to fight the placement of new prisons in their communities. State Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth Twp., agreed with the move saying, "There's no use fooling around. A lobbyist can do things I can't."

The townships went after the most accomplished of the state lobbyists, James Karoub, a one-time state representative from Highland Park who was voted out of office and stayed on in Lansing to become one of the

most influential individuals in state government.

The townships are confident that Karoub will be worth the \$40,000 they are paying him.

WHICH MAKES you wonder why a \$40,000-per-issue hiring can get more accomplished than a \$33,700 a year state legislator.

At least Law was one of those who showed up to vote on the seat belt bill.

If you haven't guessed, one of the chief reasons that Karoub can accomplish things that mere legislators can't accomplish is that he is able not only to wine and dine legislators but funnel campaign funds into the political coffers.

WHAT I WANT to suggest is: Why don't we quit fooling around electing state representatives every two years and state senators every four years and hire lobbyists to represent our communities?

We can insist that they work year-around with no campaign and election breaks, have normal three or four week vacations like everyone else, show up for the crucial votes and get something done.

oral quarrel

Cabbage Patch dolls at center of controversy

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: If you purchased an imitation Cabbage Patch Doll thinking it was the real thing, what would you expect the store's responsibility to be?

Following are the responses:

The store's responsibility should be absolutely nothing. Let the buyer beware. If the consumer willingly spends his money at the store, then he is responsible.

I think that they should tell right up front that it is an imitation, not the real thing.

If a store sold me a fraudulent doll, then it was a fraudulent purchase and transaction. I would expect them to reimburse me fully for the purchase.

If the store indicated that it was a real Cabbage Patch Doll, they have an absolute responsibility to take it back under the Michigan Consumer Protection Act. You could sue in Small Claims Court or you could have an attorney who could get a

minimum of \$250 attorney's fees. If the store didn't tell you or indicate it was a real Cabbage Patch Doll and you just bought it thinking it was real, the store should not have the responsibility unless it is a dangerous product, then they should absolutely have the responsibility. I think anyone who does not read the papers and know about the imitations is probably unsophisticated anyway.

I think this is a stupid question, and I would like to take every Cabbage Patch Doll in the world and systematically burn them with kerosene.

I did purchase some bogus Cabbage Patch Dolls. I expect a full refund from that store. I am not getting it and I am very angry.

I believe the stores are 100 percent responsible to take back the items which were sold. They know at the time of the purchase that they were purchasing contraband or bootleg goods, and if the customer is the recipient of these goods, they have the right to bring the dolls back.

Here's why they were 'good old days'

THE YOUNG MAN just graduated from college was complaining about the cost of entertaining a girl friend and pointed to the fact that he needed an automobile, dinners were costly, clothing was high priced, and even the movies were quite a sum.

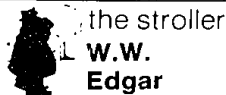
"It must have been different in your young days," he said to The Stroller. "I'd like you to tell me what things were like when you refer to 'the good old days'."

It was a good question. The young man's eyes opened when he was told that a girl friend could be courted on a Saturday evening in the city, taken to a theater and dinner and spend less than one dollar.

He seemed startled. But it happened that our little town was just outside the city and the street car fare was only six cents. This meant that the cost for both of us was only 12 cents. At the top vaudeville theater the first row balcony seats were only 25 cents each. To top off the evening the leading hotel in the city served free lunch after 10 o'clock each Saturday evening.

Add all of that up and to your surprise the cost of the entire evening was less than one dollar.

THE YOUNG MAN couldn't be-



the stroller
W.W. Edgar

lieve it. Then The Stroller gave him some more reasons why they were called "the good old days."

You could purchase a suit of clothes, including a vest, at the Scotch Woolen Mills or the Golde Clothes Shop for \$15.

One of the big features in the "good old days" was the fact that our home state of Pennsylvania observed what was called the Blue Laws and no business was allowed to open on Sundays with the exception of drug stores.

So there was little to do but go to church and when the services were ended take a walk downtown to the drug store for an ice cream soda. They were only a dime.

"What fun it would be to have them back again," the young fellow said. "If we had them we really could enjoy weekends."

WHILE THE young man was puzzled, The Stroller doesn't escape the great changes that have taken place.

Just the other day at lunch the price of a piece of pie was \$1.25. As The Stroller looked at the price he remembered that his mother used to bake pies for our little lunch-room and we even delivered them to the homes of the rich on a Sunday morning for 25 cents for the entire pie. One cut of the pie in our shop was only a nickel.

And we made our own soft drinks and sold them for a nickel.

When it came to owning an automobile they could be bought at surprising prices. The Ford Model T, which put the world on wheels, was only a few hundred dollars. And even the Model A that came out in 1929 cost less than \$800.

YOU SEE money was spread in large numbers in those days. The Stroller took his first job learning the machinist trade and he was paid only 55 cents for a 10-hour day. Every two weeks he would step up on the pay car and collect \$7.60 for his work.

Even when he learned the trade and went out into the world he got top pay at the large Bethlehem Steel Company back home and that was 48 cents an hour.

So you see, things were a lot different. I still think we had every good reason to call those times "the good old days."

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DR. WEISS
Walking is more than moving the legs

Otto patients respond with surprise that an injection into the knee makes them feel "good all over."

Patients attribute this return of well being to the injection, believing that the medicine injected entered the blood stream and coursed throughout the body. That view is incorrect.

Walking is more than just a motion by the legs; the whole body is involved in making a stride. Ambulation involves movement by the shoulders, neck, and lower back as well as the hips, knees, ankles and feet. When the knee is in pain, then the rhythm of all the joints is disrupted.

This loss of coordinated movement puts a strain on the arms and back as well as the legs. Discomfort and fatigue result. When medicine or injection stops further knee inflammation and pain, then it is possible for the individual to initiate his or her customary gait. Strain in the neck, shoulders and back is removed, and the individual feels "good all over."

This return of health has occurred not because of the magic of the medicine, but as a result of the body's ability to coordinate joints, muscles, and motion.

Gulp!

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the willow tree

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