

Slamming Earl Is Becoming Costly

If I were a Farmington Township incumbent seeking re-election, I'd junk the present campaign strategy as a bad try and start from scratch.

The campaign strategy of the incumbents since the August primary appears to be one of attempting to discredit Earl Teeple's supervision.

The method is to seek a declaratory judgment from Oakland County Circuit Court on

whether Teeple's violated the township's police manual by running for supervisor.

THE ARGUMENT is that the provision in the manual prohibiting political activity by policemen ought to be either legally clarified or removed.

This seems like a silly game for adults to be playing, especially in light of disclosures this week about political activity

by other policemen from one of the incumbents and against Teeple.

Certainly, the legality of the police manual ought to be determined. One would hope his legality was considered before adoption. The township board would not approve a policy barring political activity by policemen if legality of the rule was in doubt would it?

But apparently there is some doubt about whether or not the mere signing of an affidavit by Teeple's confirming his candidacy constitutes political activity.

If there were not any doubts, the township board should have disciplined Teeple as soon as the petitions were filed, prior to the primary election.

There is little practical gain in "clarifying" the police manual now in light of Teeple's successful run for township supervisor.

After the November general election, Teeple will no longer be a township detective but will assume his post as supervisor, which includes the added role of police commissioner.

If the court decides that Teeple's violated the manual by affixing his signature to an affidavit, what will the township board do? The board could fire Teeple, I suppose, but what would dismiss accomplish when a resignation is forthcoming?

FURTHERMORE, if the court determines Teeple's violated the police manual, then the township board has an even harder decision to make.

The reason is that another township police officer, William Hoelt, also affixed his signature to petitions circulated for a candidate seeking political office.

Hoelt circulated the petitions for Tom Nolan, incumbent trustee hopeful of being elected treasurer in November. Nolan knows what the manual says about a policeman's engagement in political activity because only a few weeks ago Nolan insisted that the "Hatch Act" clause be either enforced or the whole manual thrown out.

Of course, a few weeks ago Nolan was ranting publicly about the sins of one Earl Teeple. It was not generally known then that another township police officer had committed the same sin for one Tom Nolan.

The action of Officer Hoelt in signing Nolan's petitions is similar to Teeple's that is type of official review is in order if the court upholds the legality of the police manual.

THE BOARD is also faced with the thorny problems of the bogus political letter sent to local newspapers by a ghost writer from the township police department.

Identity of the author is not known yet, but the language of the police manual clearly indicates sending of the letter was in violation of the political activity clause.

The board may also have to decide if the act of tearing down Teeple's campaign posters constitutes political activity - another rough decision.

The attempts to discredit Teeple's have, it seems, opened a can of worms. The strategy was ill-advised to begin with, and only stubbornness prevents its discontinuance.

THE RECENT disclosures put Nolan, in particular, in an unenviable position because Nolan was the one on Aug. 10 who insisted a court judgment be sought to clarify the political activity rule.

Nolan was courageously outspoken in his position that if the rule barring political activity by policemen could not be enforced, then the entire police manual was not any good.

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Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

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I'd have to employ a lot of imagination to come to the conclusion that the petitions were filed without Nolan's knowing the names of all his workers. But maybe I'm unimaginative and should be swayed towards drama.

Knowing Tom, I am certain he did not go to Officer Hoelt and ask him to circulate petitions. Nolan is a smart man and just wouldn't do that.

If enough leeway were given for drama, it might be possible to concede (out of an extreme sense of fairness) that Nolan was completely ignorant about Hoelt's support.

Even with this concession, it remains that at least one of Nolan's campaign workers had to be aware of Hoelt's actions. After all, somebody gave him the petitions, and somebody accepted them when turned back in.

At this point, it takes imagination again to believe Nolan's campaign workers were not aware of the police manual prevented a police officer from circulating petitions.

If workers were ignorant of the rule, then Nolan did not do a good job in instructing his supporters.

The "Let's Knock Teeple's" movement is not going very well. Frankly, the best reason for abandonment is the whole thing is just too silly to continue.

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Farmington Calendar

RUMMAGE SALE

AUG. 29. Chapter 49 of the Farmington Blue Star Mothers of America will hold its fall rummage sale in the Wheeler St. Fire Hall starting at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

NAIM CONFERENCE

SEPT. 2. The NAIM Conference of Oakland County will meet at 8:30 p.m. in the K of C Hall, 1024 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park. The group is for Catholic widowers and widows.

SENIOR DROP-IN CENTER

SEPT. 9. The Senior Drop-In Center will have a potluck dinner at 11 a.m. in the Masonic Temple at Farmington Rd. and Grand River. Bring a covered dish, cards will follow. Regular meeting days are Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Masonic Temple.



Attend the Church of your choice this Sunday

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

26880 LaMuer Drive Farmington In Springland Subdivision 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service Church School Facilities at Beechview School Rev. John K. Hooper Rector GR 4-2860

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 26165 Farmington Road at 11 Mile SUMMER SCHEDULE Worship. Church School, Nursery 9:30 a.m. GEORGE W. RAMSEY Minister HOMER E. NYE Ass't Minister Office - 474-6170

ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

23225 Gill Road Grand River Farmington, Mich. Rev. Walter C. Ballagh Minister 11 a.m. - Morning Worship 9:45 a.m. - Bible School 5:45 p.m. - 3 Youth Groups 6 p.m. - Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. - Wednesday Prayer Service Our Faith Is: "Jesus Christ Himself Being the Chief Cornerstone" Eph. 2:20 COME AND WORSHIP Telephone: GR 4-0359

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

20300 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, Michigan 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Church School 11:15 a.m. Worship Service 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups 7:30 p.m. The Evening Service Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR 4-3563 GR 4-6902

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oakland at Grand River Farmington WORSHIP SERVICE - 9 a.m. (Nursery) SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m. Parsonage GR 6-0487 Church Office GR 4-8880 Carl H. Schultz, Minister Organist - Audree Greenwald

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

Grand River at Warner Worship Service, Church School and Nursery 10 a.m. Ministers Rev Hugh C. White Rev. B. Bryce Switzer Parsonage GR 4-7568 Office GR 4-6573

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