

Revenue Sharing Splits McDonald, Esch, Ford



PACKING EYEGLASSES for shipment to Short Hills, N. J., to New Eyes for The Needy are members of the staff of the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Rd., Redford Township. The funeral home collected more than 10,000 this year and has shipped some 30,000 in the past four years. Doing the packing are (from left) Ralph Basel, Al Jackman, Robert DeLong and James Will. (Observer photo).

Eye Help For 10,000

Continuing a project of collecting discarded eyeglasses for redistribution by New Eyes for The Needy, the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Rd., Redford Township, will ship more than 10,000 within a few days to the New Jersey Center.

Will, local member of the Order of Golden Rule Funeral Home Directors, started the project locally in 1965 and has sent more than 40,000 pair of discarded glasses to the nonprofit, charitable organization in Short Hills, N.J.

"We had more than 10,000 in the original shipment in 1965," explained Will, "since we have shipped thousands annually. Our current shipment will be our biggest to date."

THE GLASSES are tested and redistributed by the New Eyes for The Needy to persons all over the world who can't afford medical attention.

Will said area residents have been bringing and sending glasses to his two funeral homes (the other at 4414 Livernois, Detroit) ever since our first campaign.

"Even though the announcement of the drive appeared in newspapers some five years ago," he said, "people have remembered

and donations pour into our offices."

"We will continue to collect discarded glasses in this area as long as there is a need."

Local residents who wish to make donations of their no longer needed glasses may drop them off at either one of the funeral homes where they will be packed and shipped to Short Hills.

NEW EYES For The Needy finds use or salvage value in unbroken plastic frames with or without lenses, artificial eyes, cataract lenses, metal frames and soft cases plus broken jewelry and pieces of precious metal.

Federal funds made available to the states in the past have not always fit the needs of local governments. McDonald said, pointing to his experience as supervisor of Redford Township from 1961 to 1966.

"LOCAL officials are hard-

A News Roundup President Nixon's proposal to share federal revenue with local and state governments met with mixed reaction from Observerland's U.S. congressmen.

While Congressmen Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) and Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) favored the concept of revenue sharing, William D. Ford (D-Taylor) expressed doubts, calling the proposed term a "phony term."

Under Nixon's proposal, a small part of the federal revenue collected would be returned to the states, cities and counties to be used where they see the need.

Among the doubts raised are who would distribute the funds and whether the states and cities could be trusted to spend them wisely.

"REVENUE sharing is a means to restore to local government the power and authority to conceive and implement programs beneficial to each individual community," said McDonald, who represents the 19th District which includes Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington.

"I believe firmly in the concept," he said in Friday's congressional session.

McDonald, who plans to co-sponsor the Nixon bill, sponsored a similar bill in September of 1969, but no action was taken.

Federal funds made available to the states in the past have not always fit the needs of local governments. McDonald said, pointing to his experience as supervisor of Redford Township from 1961 to 1966.

"LOCAL officials are hard-

pressed to perform up to their capabilities for one major reason—lack of adequate funds," he said.

McDonald said the local officials are more capable of seeing where the funds are needed than is the federal government.

Two provisions that McDonald said should be included in the proposal are that no cities will get less funds than they currently receive and that the proposal should not discriminate against people.

Though McDonald is dedicated to fight for the proposal, he said that some powerful representatives have come out in opposition to the concept. He cited Congressman Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, as one of the most powerful opponents.

CONGRESSMAN Marvin Esch, representing the 2nd District including Plymouth, said that "with so many states with their backs to the

wall for finances, it is imperative that a progressive program like revenue sharing be enacted.

"In addition, the very process of the federal government kicking back a portion of its funds to the states will go a long way toward tempering the growth of a federal bureaucracy which finds it difficult to keep in tune with the needs of the people."

Esch said that he believes the chances for enacting revenue sharing legislation are improving.

"I believe the president's new proposal will sweeten the pot," he said. "It is an increase over the original plan that called for about \$500 million to state and local governments the first year with gradual increases."

Esch said that with pressure building from govern-

ment, state legislatures and mayors and with lobbying pressure from the White House, "this should, at least, produce the public hearings

we weren't able to get in 1969 and 1970."

FORD, WHOSE 15th district includes Garden City and Westland, said he is opposed to any new federal taxes and questioned where new federal incomes would come from.

The congressman, elected two months ago to a fourth two-year term by a 3-1 margin, also took a dim view of any new income sharing plan on the federal level.

"There aren't enough funds now for local programs," Ford said in questioning where the government will come up with new money to turn back to cities and states.

In addition, the congressman strongly questioned whether any federal income sharing would be done through state or city governments.

In past months, governors' conferences have shown an obvious preference for federal funds to be sent directly to the states while city offi-

cials want the money to be sent directly to city hall.

Ford also pointed out that the current system of federal bloc grants for education now go through state, county, and/or local school boards.

In a new revenue-sharing program, there would be a new bureaucracy created.

AS AN example, he pointed to the 1968 federal Safe Streets and Crime Act which created a new bureaucracy and administration for supplying the federal funds with part of the money lost just in the bureaucracy itself.

Another key question Ford wants answered is: "Who is to get the money and on what basis?"

He pointed out that under current formulas for federal funds going to state governments, Michigan is near the top on the ratio of having funds returned compared to the amount sent from Michigan to Washington, D.C. in taxes.

Regional Affairs

Angry Trustees Find Rejected Item On List

By R. T. THOMPSON

The question of whether the college administration should override an action of the Schoolcraft College Board and purchase a physiograph as part of a Title VI-A application, which was not approved by the board, was sent in with the physiograph on the list.

"I have made a study of the need for such a machine on a campus of a two year community college, and I say that the need expressed at Schoolcraft is a complete fabrication. There isn't any need for a physiograph on this campus, and I feel this is a misuse of taxpayers' money."

ROBERT KEENE, vice president for instruction, told Dr. Geake and the board that in a meeting of department heads where the application list was drawn up, it was determined there was a definite need for the machine in the biology and nursing departments.

"Thus," he said, "we decided to include it with the thought that the board would approve or reject when it studied the application. There was no thought of bypassing the trustees; we all believed the document would be in the hands of the board for the Jan. 13 meeting."

The result was a heated debate between trustees during which Trustee William Secord, of Northville, expressed a belief that "we can't keep spending for something unneeded especially after research by a board member showed no need."

Vice President Lindner informed the board that it

had three alternatives: to let the application stand as filed, modify or withdraw.

"I have no idea what would happen if the board decided to modify," he said.

"It could be that Lansing might deny the entire application, and then again officials there might decide to allow changes."

Secord suggested that the board allow it to stand as filed but make certain that no applications are filed in the future unless screened and approved by the Trustees.

Dr. Geake refused to listen to such talk and demanded that action be taken to withdraw the item.

TRUSTEE Paul Mutnick, of Clareville, made a motion that the board let the VI-A stand as is and wait until word is received from Lansing as to the disposition. The motion didn't get support.

Finally, Dr. Geake made a motion that when the Title VI-A application is returned by the state, it be brought back to the board for approval of funding or rejection. It was supported by Trustee George Martin and passed with only one dissenting vote by Secord.

Bloodmobile

In Livonia

A Red Cross bloodmobile will be at the Elks Club, 31117 Plymouth Rd., one block east of Merriman, Livonia, on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 2 to 8 p.m. For an appointment to donate, call 422-2787.



ALEX DELVECCHIO will sign autographs at Livonia Mall Friday, Feb. 5, from 3-5 p.m., and the first 200 children (accompanied by an adult) will get free tickets to the Junior Wing hockey game all-kids' night at Olympia.

Delvecchio is captain of the Detroit Red Wings team.

X-Ray Bus

Due Feb. 10-12

At Wonderland

An x-ray bus, providing free chest x-rays to anyone 18 years or older, will visit Wonderland Shopping Center, Plymouth and Middlebelt Roads, Livonia, for three days next week.

The bus will be in the center of the mall on Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 10-12. It will be open from noon to 7 p.m. daily.

The x-ray service is a continuing project of the Tuberculosis and Health Society, Wayne County's Christmas Seal agency, conducted in cooperation with health departments in the county.

The program is conducted to find unknown cases of tuberculosis and other chest abnormalities. Quick discovery can save months of hospitalization.

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