POINTS OF VIEW

Guy 'not committed' to improving education

uestion: Because of Governor Engler's "Robin Hood" act, I am being laid off, even with my five years teaching experience: I am bitter! I have always voted for school taxes in the community! live in, both when I was home raising children for 10 years and since! have been teaching. Now the tax money! vote in as a citizen in my community where I teach is being given to other school districts while! slt home: Are there other spin-offs as bad as mine?

Answer: For those who are not aware, the Robin Hood Act takes money away from the wealthy school dis-tricts and re-allocates the money to the poorer districts by cutting out the state's share of payments for categori-

This move reaches the highest level of legislative hypocrisy. Democrat and Republican Legislatures have gone on record as desiring to cut property taxes What they have accomplished is shift-ing the school tax responsibility to the more financially sound school districts who now must seek tax increases to maintain their present educational programs.

programs.

You ask if there are any other spinoff as bad as your situation. The onswer is an unqualited "yes." Schooltax yote increases will be much more
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districts.

In Northville (my community) the last time a school millage vote was rejected was in 1979. Last week, in my own precinct there were 800 'mo' votes and 200 'yes' votes. The vote went down 3-1.

Why? Many professional people I've known for years have not had a raise in two or three years. Jonuses are you kidding?

Why? General Motors and 'others'.



School tax vote increases will be much more difficult to achieve in poorer. districts as always, but se-verely difficult in the "out of formula" district where money will be used to sup-port not as affluent dis-tricts.

are downsizing from blue collar, through management. My neighbor was recently laid off at General Motors at age 49, lost his home and is in tears. His comments about possibly losing football is I don't give a damn, I don't have a loh

The state is not recognizing its re-sponsibility and, frankly, some tendier, unions are not in touch with economic reality. The M.E.A., of which I was n-very active member being part of the initial group that fought for teacher bargaining rights in the early '60s, that done a masterful job in improving the lot of educators, floth teachers and ad-ministrators have moyed from poverty where I started to a decent wage.

However, in today's market, if a local teacher's union believes citizens are going to support seven percent and eight percent raises, their leadership may need a trip to fantasy island.
These are different times.

Other impacts in an "out of formula" district I envision, if millages go down,

bathroom equity

include: massive teacher layoffs, which translate into huge increases in class size — probably 32 average in the elementary and 35 average in the secondary level as they were in the '50s, climition of art, music and physical education in the elementary, pay for play the professional help. It's pure doom and gloom, but a strong reality. We desperately need some visionary.

We desperately need some visionary leadership to address the situation. This piecemeal approach via the Robin Hood Act appears to be only one step by Engler to "gut" education to meet Ids major goal — balance the hudget.

He is consistent and he is driven towards that goal. But, please John, please don't speak about any commitment to education.

Jaines "Doc" Doyle a former teach-er/school administrator/university in-structor, is president of Doyle and As-sociates, an educational consulting firm.

It's time to quit stalling on

et's hope the bathroom equity issue in Michigan is solved quickly. I'm tired of waiting; not for the legislators to act, but for my

It's something us men have done It's something us men have dome, enough of when our wives or girlfriends need to stop. I've missed the start of hockey games and some of Hank Wil-liums Jr.'s heat songs standing, waiting for my wife. The reason was that there aren't enough rest room facilities at public places to hundle the situation.

The state legislature is trying to fix it by namulating more. It's a good idea, but I'm just ufraid of what we regoing to end up with. Chances are some equal rights namy will argue for orimals in women's test rooms. It's a moot point, for reasons known to many.

But while we all hope the legislature does something about the situation, it's worrisometo turn the issue of rest

rooms over to givernment. Just look at what the wizards in Lansing have done to school financing. And now they ex-pect us to trust them with rest rooms. While education is important, rest rooms have a certain immediacy to

They're just too important to turn over to state lawnukers, over zealous government regulators, feminists and liberats. But then hagin, even those folks need to find a rest room on occa-

The trouble with government is that once the lowmakers unleash the bu once the invinakers unless it com-reaucracy on an issue, all sense goes out the window, and the terminally po-litically correct sneak in the back door.

If we could just tackle adding more rest rooms for women at places like the Palace or the Silverdome, things would be fine. But there's no telling who could be attracted to the trough on this



JEFF COUNTS

If we could just tackle adding more rest rooms for women at places like the Palace or the Silverdome. things would be fine. But there's no telling who could be attracted to the trough on this one.

Chances are the state would end up hiring a legion of rest room inspectors to make sure all would comply with

to make sure all would comply with state laws.
And there are probably just some rest moms that wouldn't survive government, especially, those in northern Michigan bars where the owners feel obligated to curry out the theme of the place on the rest room doors. You know the kinds of places that mark the men's room with "Bucks" and the women's room with "Bucks" and the women's room with "Does."
But "Hucks" and "Does."
There are better ones. A place in East Tawas, a boaring bar, marks its rest rooms with "Inboards." and 'Outboards. The subtlety keeps non-boaters out of the place and causes some confusion for those who sail.
Bird hunting hars tend to be less

Bird hunting bars tend to be less subtle. There's the ubiquitous. "Pointers" and "Setters," and then there's a turkey hunting bar in the Os-

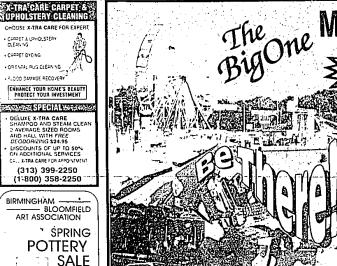
coda County community of Fairview that uses the male and fermile names for the game bird to mark the bath-room doors. The names are a bit racy, and decorum prevents me from using

The point here is that if we let state legislators take over public rest rooms, they won't stop at just making sure there are enough stalls for women in the Silverdome, they'll soon be taking aim at other places.

"Outboards" and "Inboards" will be placed in dry dock and feminists will declare open season on all the "Bucks," 'Does, "Pointers" and "Setters" in the state.

Somehow I'd just as soon resolve myself to wait for my wife or start a movement to bring back outhouses.

Jeff Counts is the editor of the Plym outh and Canton Observer Newspapers.



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