



By Philip H. Power  
Publisher

## OBSERVATION POINT

# Integration In The Suburbs: The President's Approach

"We will not seek to impose economic integration upon an existing local jurisdiction; at the same time, we will not countenance any use of economic measures as a subterfuge for racial discrimination."

Long words. Legally weighed words. President Nixon's words, spoken recently to state the administration's policy with respect to racial integration of the suburbs.

What do they mean and what do they suggest about the future of the suburbs?

Basically, what the president meant was that while the administration will not accept housing patterns which explicitly seek to block black people out of the suburbs or even those which by snob zoning are intended to do the same thing through the back door, the government will not force a high income suburb to have low income housing. In other words, while racial discrimination is out for the suburbs, economic discrimination is OK.

**THIS IS A** popular position with most people who live in the suburbs.

The idea that all suburban dwellers were so bigoted they could not possibly stand the idea of a black family, no matter how well off, living in their neighborhood is clearly the creation of center city newspaper and TV people who don't live in the suburbs and know nothing about them.

A survey conducted by this newspaper on the second anniversary of the 1967 Detroit riot showed clearly that most folks in the suburbs were willing to have black families living next door, so long as they were wealthy enough to buy a nice house, mow the lawn, behave in acceptably middle class ways, and not lower the property values. But the survey also suggested that folks here in the suburbs were not about to put up with public housing or low income zoning which they felt would lower both the social tone and property values of their neighborhood.

What our survey suggested was borne out loud and clear by the rumpus stirred up last fall in Warren, when former Governor and now Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Romney seemed to say that his department was going to withhold federal low income housing money from suburban communities to try to force racial integration.

Romney got away from Warren with his scalp still in one piece; but probably the incident had a lot to do with his wife's bad showing in her race against Sen. Philip A. Hart.

**THE PROBLEM** I've got with the president's statement is that while it sets a lot of suburban minds at ease, it does very little to help out people in the big center cities.

For about 20 years now, the

pattern has been clear. Rich people (generally white) have been moving out of the center cities to live in the cool, clean suburbs, leaving poor people (generally black) to stay in the hot, dirty center city. This, in turn, both lowers the tax base center cities use to support their services and increases the demands on those very services.

The result has been the progressive deterioration of the center cities.

And if you accept the idea that the suburbs are functionally dependent on the center cities (and vice versa), you've got to be worried that at some point the deterioration process will go so far as to very seriously affect the quality of life as we know it now in the suburbs.

For example, if the process I have described above continues in the Detroit area, the center city will get poorer and poorer (and blacker and blacker), and at some point life in the city will get so grim that the only way people will be able to get through the streets is in an armed personnel carrier.

**PRESIDENT NIXON** seems to be saying that he really doesn't know what to do about the big cities, but that he hopes that as time goes on, enough people living there (generally black) will come to make enough money to afford to live in the (generally white) suburbs.

I suppose that in the long run

the president may be right (although he seems to be ignoring the implication that if the process he hopes for actually happens, the big cities will eventually have no population at all.) But as the

famous economist John Maynard Keynes said, "In the long run, we are all dead."

I hope the president's long run view of the future of the center cities is not that long.

## HE'S PART OF THE 'LONG RUN'...



## 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 VICTORIA DIAZ  
Livonia

Regarding the issue of legalized abortion -

1-Can we prove that abortion is not the premeditated killing of a person?

2-That it is not the taking of a living soul?

3-Can we show that human life does not begin until the 3rd or 4th month of pregnancy?

4-Can we say for sure that a living soul does not exist sooner than that?

5-Is it entirely wrong to assume that life begins at the first division of the cell?

6-Do we know otherwise?

7-And, until we know, can we be sure that legalized abortion is not legalized murder?

8-What if some one of us should actually prove that a living human being does not exist from the very moment of conception - even so, would any of us argue that it was not on its way to becoming exactly that?

9-Would we dispute that?

10-Granted that, do we possess the right to intercede and deny this great achievement toward which it is certainly and naturally reaching?

**WE MUST**, as is always necessary in the process of solving a problem, face up to reality. The awful truth being that, in a not too distant future, there will be so many people living on this planet that we, literally, will have hardly enough room to breathe if something is not done to alter the situation.

A bleak prospect, to say the least. Indeed, we find ourselves desperate for a solution. However, in our desperation, let us not forget that another truth exists also and, if we are to survive, we must accept that reality too. - The answer to every question cited is "no".

I do not know the solution or solutions, but I do know that it must surely lie in the direction of a society in which there exists more enlightened and effective birth control programs rather in the morbid environment of a group of people who assume that convenient abortion-on-demand laws is the ultimate answer to population control.

We are concerned with the conservation of our water, our air, our land, our wildlife. Medical science has made significant strides in the past decade in efforts to prolong life. Our society on the one hand seems to exhibit a deep respect for life itself.

Having this deep respect, how can we, on the other hand, choose to kill our unborn babies almost at will? Will we justify our actions by saying all the while that they aren't really living things at all - replying, when questioned more closely by our consciences, that we don't think they are, anyway.

## Will Secret Witness Fund Solve Hit-Run Death?

Almost two months ago, Chris Beattie, a senior at Bentley High in Livonia, was run down and killed while walking alongside the road on Henry Ruff. . . and the driver sped away and hasn't been heard of since.

The fatal mishap happened in late afternoon in broad daylight, and thus far the identity of the hit-and-run driver is unknown.

It seems strange that a person could be run down and killed in broad daylight, and at this moment no witness has stepped forward to give Livonia police the information they need to wrap up the case.

The bereaved parents have made appeals, the police have asked for assistance, this newspaper has expressed an opinion more than once that witnesses should make known any facts they have on the case. . . none has had the courage to do this. Of course, they must know in their own hearts that they are protecting a killer. We can't understand why.

**NOW THE QUESTION** has come up: "Will a witness or witnesses be willing to give their information for cash?"

"Will they step forward under the provisions of a Secret Witness program in which the names of the informers are kept secret and a reward of \$1,000 cash is paid upon arrest and conviction of the hit-and-run driver?"

Is a cash reward needed to ferret out the guilty party? It appears to be a sad commentary on residents of the community involved and the City of Livonia that such a step has to be taken, but William Beattie, father of the dead girl, feels it is the only way.

That's why Beattie personally is offering \$1,000 through the Secret Witness route as the only means of solving the case.

**THE OBSERVER** Newspapers and Livonia police are joining in the program. Letters may be sent to the Observer and the

information will be forwarded to the police.

The Secret Witness format will be the same as that used in other newspapers in the area and throughout the land.

The informer must write or type the information and send the letter to Secret Witness, Box 333, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, 48150.

The only identification necessary is a six digit number on one corner of the letter. The writer must write the number twice in the corner, tear off one corner with the number and leave the second portion on the letter. It must be torn off since the torn part must fit identically in the corner of the letter. It can't be cut but must be torn.

There can't be any other identification. No phone number, no address, no names. Nothing but the letter with the corner torn off and a six-digit number.

**THE CASH** has been deposited in a local bank, and cash will be paid to the informer, with no identity required after the arrest and conviction.

The Secret Witness award will be available for three months after which Beattie will withdraw his offer.

The sad, grieving parents have made a written appeal to witnesses to make their facts known. The Beatties aren't wealthy but are willing to pay the \$1,000 to relieve their minds of the tremendous pressures since the fatal mishap.

The letter reads:

**"WE APPEAL** to anyone who has any knowledge of the hit-and-run driver who struck and killed our Christine on Henry Ruff near Nye on June 1 to please call the Livonia Police or the Observer Newspapers.

"We do not understand how anyone could live with the knowledge that they struck and

injured someone and left her by the side of the road to die. Neither do we understand how the driver's friends or family, who must have some suspicions, can remain silent.

"This was like a flower bud ready to burst into bloom. Chris had just turned 18, was ready to graduate from Bentley High as an honor student, looking forward to a summer job, a car of her own and the future with so much enthusiasm. To have her struck down from behind with no chance to save herself is still unbelievable.

"The almost two months since the fatal accident have been very long for us. Why God needed Chris now we do not know. I only pray we can accept his judgment."

With an appeal like that and the grieving parents willing to pay \$1,000 for the much needed information, why can't witnesses answer their prayers?

- Observer Newspapers

## Leonard Poger writes

## Local Elections Hazardous To Voters?

Local elections may be hazardous to the health of voters.

I haven't seen that slogan on a car's bumper sticker yet but an order should be placed as soon as possible.

**THIS CONCLUSION** is reached after reviewing literature (to be kind) from political candidates in the Aug. 3 Westland primary.

I suppose the candidate means well (to give one the benefit of the doubt), but some of the claims that crept into print demand some comment.

For example, several candidates said that local taxes have increased nearly 60 per cent over two years. The impression given, of course, is that the tax rate to

local property owners increased by that percentage.

**BUT WHAT** actually happened is that the budget increased 60 per cent - not the tax rate, which was unchanged during the first year of the incumbent mayor's term and up 27 per cent in his second year.

Increased property valuations, more state aid and other sources of revenue helped offset even greater hikes in the local tax rate.

Another candidate, trying to make a big thing out of city department heads and administrators who live outside of Westland, listed a number of city hall aides and their home towns.

The list looks impressive, and

the candidate gives the impression that no one in city hall really makes his home in Westland. But the gimmick would be similar to printing the play-by-play of a Detroit Tigers ballgame and giving only the Tigers side and omitting the play-by-play of the Tigers' opponent of the day.

**THE LIST** of administrative outsiders includes several who are planning to move into the city and others who live only 10 minutes from city hall.

One of the department heads (one of three with non-Westland addresses) has seven children, a house with a 4.5 per cent mortgage nearly paid off. Although he is looking for a Westland home, the man would have to be close to

insanity to buy a large house in today's mortgage market.

If the full list of supervisory personnel and their addresses were printed, it would be obvious that a vast majority do live in the city and that Westland's city government isn't being controlled by carpetbaggers.

Another candidate said that he was a former U.S. Justice Department supervisor, giving voters the impression that he was something close to being the right hand man to Atty. Gen. John Mitchell or a federal attorney, at least.

But the candidate was simply a food supervisor in a federal prison - which is run by the Justice Department.

## Editorial & Opinion

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