

# Livonia GOP Looks Over Esch

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By TIM RICHARD  
And KATHY MORAN  
Livonia Republicans, who tend to be on the conservative side, took a hard look last week at Congressman Marvin Esch, who tends to be on the liberal side, and generally thought he was all right.

Esch (R-Ann Arbor) is likely to see his Congressional District extended eastward to Livonia, and he has been cultivating the marginally Democratic city of 110,000.



MRS. RUTH PILLAR  
Principal

His district man, Richard Reason, has been making many Livonia contacts in recent weeks, and Esch was guest speaker when the 19th District-Wayne Republicans held their annual Lincoln Day banquet in Vladimir's.

DINNER CHAIRMAN Arthur Hogarth introduced Esch as the area's new congressman, even though the Legislature has yet to act on congressional redistricting. Hogarth is not alone in that

assumption; Livonia's Democratic State Rep. Marvin Stempien also expects to be in Esch's district and is casting eyes on that office in Washington.

While the Wayne County portion of the 19th Congressional District includes Northville and Redford Township, most of the 60 persons who attended the banquet were Livonians. Even the incumbent congressman, Jack McDonald, didn't show up; he has moved to Farmington and expects to be in an Oakland County district for the '72 election.

Esch is a former college professor with a PhD in speech and education, and so academically he's a little out of place in a Livonia Republican gathering heavily laced with salesmen and realtors.

Moreover, Esch ranks in the lower 40s on the ACA conservatism index (Sen. Philip Hart ranks 0, Barry Goldwater 98 to 100), and Esch frankly admitted he was a Rockefeller man until Richard Nixon was nominated for president.

Yet Esch had praise for President Nixon's peace-making efforts, and that went over well with the assembly.

AFTERWARDS, Esch was NAGGED over his position on busing to achieve school integration — specifically, his refusal to sign a discharge petition to get an anti-bussing constitutional amendment out of the House Judiciary Committee. Asked his reasons, Esch told Observer Newspapers:



"I don't sign discharge petitions. We should use the committee process and hold hearings. If there's a problem getting something out of committee, the Rules Committee can do it."

Esch said he had favored the school prayer amendment but had similarly refused to sign a discharge petition in that case.

"The suburban parent will accept responsibility for educating not only their children but the inner-city child as well."

--Rep. Marvin Esch

As for the no-bussing amendment, Esch said "I expect it to be amended (in committee). I haven't passed judgment on this yet."

He cited the President's trip to Peking, progress in the SALT talks, negotiations in the Middle East, and withdrawal from Vietnam as steps taken by Nixon "to move our nation and the world toward peace."

"And domestically we must give recognition that there is a shift in our national priorities. For the first time in this year's budget we are allocating more for human resources than for military expenditures," he said.

His criticism of the Democrats, "the old coalition," rested well with the listeners, who kept referring to Esch as "our" congressman.

## Westbrook's Principal Dies

Mrs. Ruth Nordstrom Pillar, principal at Clarenceville's Westbrook Elementary School, died early this morning at her home at 28612 Fargo, Livonia. She was 53.

Mrs. Pillar had been ill for some time but continued with her duties at Westbrook and remained active in school affairs.

She is survived by her husband, Gene, technical director for a rubber parts manufacturing firm in Troy; two sons, Lt. Paul Pillar of the U.S. Army and David of Chattanooga; a sister, Rose; and a brother, Roy Nordstrom.

Mrs. Pillar was named principal of Westbrook in 1964 and previously was assistant principal (1963-64) at Clarenceville's Botsford Elementary School. She joined the school system in 1957.

Mrs. Pillar took her BA degree from Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., and earned a master's at Eastern Michigan University. She also attended Wayne State University.

A 20-year resident of Livonia, Mrs. Pillar was born Aug. 9, 1918 in Illinois.

Services will be held on Thursday at 1 p.m. in the R. G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Road, Livonia. The Rev. A. Lee Baltzer, pastor of the Kenwood Church of Christ, of which Mrs. Pillar was a member, will officiate. Burial will be in Glen Eden cemetery, Livonia.

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