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Bussing Referendum

Continued from Page 1A

OPPERTHAUSER contended that parents deserve the right to collectively tell politicians of both parties how they feel about "this radical social experiment."

He added he was outraged by threatened court orders concerning forced bussing because he moved to Farmington Township to give his children the benefit of the community's fine school system.

"If the equal protection

clause of the U.S. Constitution can be interpreted to empower the federal courts to tell our children where they must attend school, there is no logical reason why the same reasoning could not be applied to empower these same courts to tell us where we can work, where we can live or where we can worship.

"This is not the kind of freedom I spent three years of my life defending. This is, in fact, the kind of dictatorial power that thousands of Americans made the extreme sacrifice in fighting against over the last two centuries of our history."

segregation, but we don't get as excited about getting things on the ballot for the purpose of integration.

"If we would welcome all individuals into our community, and other suburbs would, we would not have a problem with bussing today. We must all search our conscience on the bussing question and make sure our objections are not racially motivated," Stader concluded.

LIGHTMAN opposed the referendum, describing it as "the easy way out."

"An individual can go to the polls and cast a vote, but our real opportunity is a purely personal thing of sending letters to politicians on the local, state and national levels."

"There are certain issues in the U.S. which are not within the realm of this board to discuss or become overly concerned with.

"If bussing is a political issue, it is one that transcends the local community except to the extent that residents become personally involved."

TEEPLES said that although the cost of placing the referendum on the ballot would be minimal, the money would be better spent providing recreation or transportation for the township's senior citizens.

He agreed it was a foregone conclusion how residents would vote on both questions.

Cairns said he supported equal opportunity for children and agreed with President Nixon's proposal to put more funds in inner city schools to help the underprivileged students attending schools less adequate than suburban schools.

Cairns denied the move to place the question on the ballot was either politically or racially motivated. He observed that Oppertthauser, the motion's sponsor, was not up for re-election this year and didn't need a "political plum."

Mrs. Schaeffer added: "There's a lot to be said for allowing the public to express opinions on current issues and the ballot is one way to get the public views."



PLANTING SHRUBBERY throughout Farmington will replace the annual tree planting program sponsored by the Keep Farmington Beautiful Committee this spring. The plans are to plant to Owen Austin, of Taylor, by City of Farmington beautification committee women Jan Kozub and Charlotte Bruce when representatives from more than 20 cities in southeastern Michigan met for a conference this week in Southfield. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Clark's Death

Continued from Page 1A

When the Clarks were married, they honeymooned in Ghana for 17 days but returned to America when Kwame Nkrumah, then dictator of Ghana, decided he didn't want a white doctor coming in.

"I treat Negroes and other minority group persons with respect, and my wife and I hold religious meetings which Asians, Africans, American Negroes and other ethnic group attend. My wife and I are members of the Ba-hai faith and believe in the oneness of humanity."

CLARK was considered by some as a pioneer of medicine for his early research in the use of sodium penothal (truth serum).

His supporters, including his wife, felt the doctor was ahead of his time and was being harassed and wrongfully imprisoned.

Wells, for one, submits that sodium penothal can be used in relaxing the tensions of patients suffering from such nervous related problems as obesity, alcoholism, migraine headaches, ulcers or high blood pressure. Clark had reportedly been treating Mrs. Neil for high blood pressure and obesity.

But, in separate court trials, Clark was found guilty of causing the death of two patients by applying an overdose of penothal. Higher courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have to date refused to overturn either of those convictions.

THE POLICE theory in the entire Clark episode is that the doctor caused the death of Mrs. Neil, who was said to be the only eye-witness to the Bowerbank death.

Wells and Mrs. Clark both report the doctor had been in good spirits in prison, based on the latest letters sent his wife.

Wells adds he doubts very much that suicide was a factor because Clark was expecting to receive about \$50,000 from the estate of Mrs. Ellen Wismer, mother of Mrs. Bowerbank.

Mrs. Bowerbank died in March 1967 and Mrs. Neil died in November 1967. In 1969, Farmington Township Police exhumed the body of Mrs. Bowerbank, but it was two years later that Detroit police decided to charge Clark with the Bowerbank death.

In December 1970, Clark was being removed from Jackson to Wayne County to stand trial on the Bowerbank manslaughter charge when he fell to the ground complaining of a heart attack. Prison doctors tested and ruled out a

heart attack but did say the doctor was extremely anemic.

After further tests, prison doctors discovered Clark had a bleeding ulcer, a recurrence of an earlier ulcer problem.

When the coroner's inquest completed Monday, funeral arrangements can now be completed and soon the long standing episode of Dr. Clark will be ended.

His friends and wife will continue to believe him innocent, but both court convictions still stand. A tragic end, but the life story of Dr. Ronald E. Clark is now complete.

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