NOT EVERYONE in attendance at the United States- China ping pong matches held at Cobo Hall was there to cheer on the players. Some were there to voice political opinions, but their jeers and signs were quickly discarded by Detroit's finest. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Detroit Board Member

Mix Housing, Says McDonald

The elimination of segregated housing would automatically eliminate the need for bussing school children, according to Patrick A. McDonald, member of the Detroit Board of Education.

He has taken the stand that the state should spend money which would go for bussing - an estimated $41,600,000 annually with a tri-county integration plan–and spend it instead for subsidizing housing.

"We could eliminate segregated housing patterns by allowing an eligible family to purchase a home for 25 per cent of its value," McDonald said.

"A three-bedroom, $20,000 home, for example, would be made available to an eligible family for $5,000.The FHA and federal government would provide an additional $5,000, and the state would pay the balance in lieu of paying for bussing."

McDONALD POINTED out that bussing costs would run $41.6 million a year for 320,000 pupils in the tri-county area of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. That many pupils out of the approximately one million pupils now attending classes from kindergarten through 12th grade would have to be bused to achieve a racial mix of 75 per cent white and 25 per cent black pupils in each school, McDonald said.

This breaks down to a per pupil cost of $130 per year.

McDonald argues that "forced" bussing bring about "the mixing of persons, but not meaningful integration." It is his contention that forced bussing is indifferent about encouraging a working relationship between the people who are being used.

"We must assume," he says, "that there is a limit to the amount of money that is available for education.

"On this basis, every dollar spent for bussing reduces the amount available for teacher salaries, reduced class sizes, special education, curriculum improvement and other items which are directly related to pupil achievement."

UNDER McDONALD'S plan, those eligible for the housing subsidy would be black or white families which would contribute to the racial balance of both the neighborhood and the schools in that neighborhood. The families would have an average of three school-aged children, according to McDonald's plan.

The family would be required to pay five per cent of the value of the home (in our example it would be $1,000) and then pay the balance ($4,000) over a 10-year period.

During this time span the family would be required to actually occupy the home and would be required to send their children to the neighborhood school.

McDonald says bussing is an inappropriate remedy where the cause of segregation was not bussing, as in the South, but rather residential or voluntary segregation.

"If it is axiomatic that the punishment should fit the crime, it is equally true that the remedy should be related to the offense," McDonald said.

In projecting the bussing cost over a ten year period McDonald estimates that it would require a minimum of $416 million for bussing alone.

"If this money was used instead for housing, the state could make available 41,600 residential units which would inevitably result in the meaningful integration of over 41,600 families, not merely the mixing of students during school hours," he said.

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LWV Won't Back Petition Drives

The League of Women Voters of Michigan has announced its refusal to endorse any of the tax reform petition drives now under way in Michigan.

"We are convinced that the four competing and ever - changing petitions to place constitutional amendments on the ballot only serve to confuse the voters and will result in an exercise in futility," stated Mrs. Marvin Tomber, state league president.

She said the State Legislature has been remiss in failing to enact meaningful tax and education reform since its election two years ago and has let partisan and intra-party bickering bring it to the point where it has said, "Let the people decide through petition drives what type of tax reform they want."

'Regional Ethic' Paper To Be Given

A year - long process of studying the wide range of alternatives possible in regional governance will be initiated on Wednesday (April 26) at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at the University of Detroit with the presentation of a paper on "A regional Ethic."

Lt. Gov. James Brickley, a long - time advocate of the regional concept, will chair the public seminar. A reactor panel of area citizens will respond to the presentation.

Written by Kent Mathewson, president of the Metropolitan Fund, Inc., the "Regional Ethic" paper will be the first in a series of 12 papers devoted to the study of regional governance, to be published as "The Regionalist Papers" by Metropolitan Fund, following completion of the year - long project.

The Mathewson paper examines the geographical, sociological and political realities of the metropolitan region, the behaviors and attitudes of citizens in such a region and details the need for a "regional ethic" as the basis for establishing an adequate system of governance within a metropolitan region.

Co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Fund and the University of Detroit's political science department, the seminar is open, without charge, to the public.

MYRON L. LINER of Farmington has been promoted to associate executive for budgeting and agency relations of United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit. Liner had spent 18 years with Detroit in various departments such as administration, finance control, personnel and program review. He is a graduate of WSU.

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