

# School Board 'Executive' Sessions Defended

**EDITOR:**  
To the writer of the editorial, "Many Peculiarities of Human Behavior": You've got a taker to your last paragraph. You would have heard from me long ago if I had only known that not one of Observerland's many furtive knaves had communicated with you on how a legislative body can hold an "executive" meeting.

This one has the courage and has many times explained publicly under what circumstances the Livonia Board of Education holds executive sessions. Not only am I quite willing to explain in writing, but will also be pleased to discuss the matter with anyone who wishes to talk to me.

Boards of Education are permitted to hold executive sessions for two purposes: Personnel and property. My authoritative source is the General School Laws of the State of Michigan—a compilation of laws governing school districts. The law is also quite specific that all action must take place at a public meeting.

Many examples can be given; however, let me cite just a few: 1. On rare occasions it is necessary to consider excluding a student from school. It could be a very young child who needs particular assistance that can only be gained by such action. With assistance the child could, and many times does, return to school and achieve success. Parents of the student are invited to talk with the board and the circumstances prompting the recom-

mendation are discussed. It is a very private matter and a very difficult time for all concerned.

2. The school district is considering disposing of or acquiring real estate. To discuss locations or owners in public could well increase the cost to the taxpayers in the case of acquiring property. Negotiating to buy or sell real estate in public when specific dollar amounts are involved could preclude acquisition or sale.

3. Personnel matters of a variety of natures arise in any school district. Not only must the individuals be heard in these discussions, but also changes in assignments, evaluation of performance or monetary considerations are discussed which have a direct bearing on other employees.

4. On the subject of negotiations it is especially important, since five bargaining units must be considered in Livonia. Not only is it impractical to negotiate in public, but one has to ask the question: Do the automobile industries negotiate in public?

Whether you agree or disagree that executive sessions should be held, they are permitted by law and would seem to me your media could best consider urging legislative bodies not to abuse the privilege.

The foregoing statements are not to be interpreted as coming from the Livonia Board of Education, but from me as an individual.

GERALDINE W. JOYNER  
Livonia

## READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

### U.S. Ignores Kids, God

**EDITOR:**  
We just received notice from our school district that training sessions are being implemented for substitute bus drivers. Are they trying to tell us something? Perhaps we can now expect the bus drivers union to call the shots. They will decide if school buses or not. Education? What is that? We'll be running a bus fleet. Ridiculous!

The children are forced to go to school a full day and take a bus for an hour or longer each way, depending on the weather and traffic. During the winter months, they will leave in the dark and come home in the dark.

Of course, they will be exposed to rush hour traffic twice daily, incompetent bus drivers and schools in higher crime areas. Safety for children? What is that? The parents? What are they? No

time for family relationships. This situation, is of course, ideal for irresponsible parents who want to do their own thing. They can also utilize day care centers soon after the children are born and not bother with them at all.

These centers could become mandatory for children from infancy to school age in the near future and why not? Whenever a nation becomes too people happy, lazy, irresponsible, too greedy for money, it paves the way for more government control.

We must also beware when a nation legalizes or accepts outlaws, abortion, homosexuality, divorce, trial marriages, prostitution, pornography. As the people become more corrupt, the government can justify its right to punish and take away privileges (freedoms).

Is there an answer? Yes! God said in Jer. 2:32 "My people have forgotten my ways without number." We must seek God, pray, turn from our wicked ways and then He will hear us, forgive our sins and heal our land (II Chron. 77:14).

JOAN ROSS  
Westland

### PO Staff Puts In Long Hours

**EDITOR:**  
This letter is in answer to the elderly person who says his Social Security check was held up at the post office for over a week.

I do agree that some of the postal systems have gone down hill these past few months, and it's mostly in the larger cities.

My husband is a mail clerk in the Plymouth post office. He gets up at 3 a.m. to go to work and he gets home any time up until 2 p.m. That's 10 hours a day and sometimes six days a week to get your mail out. Most of the other clerks have the same hours.

They do not get off work after their eight hours are up if

all the mail is not thrown.

He doesn't have much of a social life because he has to be in bed at least every night, so he'll be up bright and early to throw your mail again.

The Social Security checks you were referring to were found in another town and one of our clerks personally went down to pick them up or they would have been delayed two more days.

Now, I ask you, does that sound like the men are trying to hold your mail up for spite? You may use my name because I'm proud to say, "I'm a mailman's wife."

BEVERLY HORNBACK  
Plymouth

### Puts Township In Better Light

**EDITOR:**  
Please allow me to answer the recent letter in the Observer from Mr. and Mrs. Rogers who, after five years' residency in Plymouth Township, find fault with everything from taxes to officials' ethics. We are being compared to Dearborn, their former address. May I answer their charges or opinions in the order stated.

Statement: Taxes were lower in Dearborn.

Answer: Dearborn rate is \$4.02 mills. Plymouth Township rate is \$4.55 mills. Cost for local services in Dearborn is 21 mills and only 3.25 mills in Plymouth Township. Using a home valued at approximately \$30,000 value, the cost of these services would be \$23.96 in Dearborn and \$48.75 in Plymouth Township.

Statement: Rubbish collection is free in Dearborn.

Answer: Per the clerk in Dearborn, they add one bill on this on your tax bill, or \$15 per year (for a home with \$30,000 cash value carrying state equalized assessed valuation of \$15,000).

Statement: Street cleaning very poor.

Answer: I cannot question this statement. However, we must rely on Wayne County for this service. I assume the reference is to subdivisions.

Statement: No sidewalks along main roads.

Answer: These will come in time. However, not all main roads in Dearborn have sidewalks. No police protection in Plymouth Township.

Answer: If you drive a car or read the Observer, you will quite a number of cars and officers from both the county and the state in our area. This subject is a matter of personal opinion.

Statement: Poor fire department.

Answer: Plymouth Township has an excellent fire department. Check your insurance rate. All fire departments north, south and east, including City of Plymouth, work as one in any emergency requiring back-up service. Also, did Mayor Hubbard give you free emergency ambulance service? Plymouth Township does.

Statement: What are we receiving for our tax dollars?

Answer: In 1972, for the services you complain of, you paid Plymouth Township \$22.50. In Dearborn, the cost is \$39.30.

Statement: Your water rate increased.

Answer: Your water rate was not increased. We absorbed the recent increase from the Detroit Water Board.

Statement: Citizens cannot get services they want.

Answer: Plymouth Township can only levy 1.5 mills or \$1.50 per \$1,000 of your assessed valuation (SEV). In your case \$22.50, which includes the fire department. Now, if any citizen desires more or better services, these can be obtained by voting

the road is because the "walkway" (which is about two feet wide) is too muddy to walk on.

I was attempting to walk on it, and I sank in to the tops of my boots in the mud. Another person sank so deep that three people had to pull her out. This is on our supposed "walkway."

At least the road has been passable. Maybe if "Concerned Neighbors" and all the other people living there would agree to pave the road and walkway, we would walk on the walkway.

CATHY BENNETT  
Farmington

### Elders Merit

#### A Tax Break

**EDITOR:**  
Why should senior citizens continue to pay any school taxes? They have paid school taxes all their long life and now their children pay the school tax for their grandchildren.

Why should they be doubly taxed? They have no children in school and the excessive school tax is taxing them right out of their homes.

Quoting from the latest issue of "AARP News Bulletin," a publication of the American Association of Retired Persons, "Wanted: Tax Relief—Retired people should pay little or no income tax and real estate tax in their remaining years, as they have contributed to the economy during their working years."

Statement: Your taxes increased.

Answer: Plymouth Township's tax rate has been reduced two years in a row. Total taxes include school, college, county, etc. We have no control over these, including county reassessment.

Statement: Ethical standards of public officials need raising to relate taxes to services.

Answer: I will admit that this statement is heard quite often today. However, your local officials may err in judgment at times, but please don't question our ethics. I speak for my past two-year term on the township board. And now, wouldn't you say we do a lot for you that \$22.50 you pay each year as compared to \$39.39 in Dearborn? (No reflection on Dearborn.)

And to all newcomers to the entire Plymouth area, if anyone would like to learn more about this wonderful area you are now a part of, I would be pleased to meet with anyone at any time.

FRANK MILLINGTON  
Trustee, Plymouth Township  
President, Area Economic Expansion Commission

### Hard Walk

**EDITOR:**  
This is an answer to "Concerned Neighbors" who wrote in about Colfax Road and kids who defy the cars.

I am a student at Power Junior High in Farmington and the reason we all walk on

years and should now have full use of money they have earned and saved. Due to excessive property tax, elderly people are being taken out of their homes and put in nursing homes.

AARP is a national organization with over 4.5 million members. Maybe some wealthy retirees can afford the excessive school taxes, so possibly some limit of an annual income might be set to exempt the senior citizen from school taxes. Possibly an income of \$25,000 or more annually can afford these excessive school taxes, but exempt those senior citizens with annual incomes of less than \$25,000. They are the ones being hurt unfairly.

R. H. CLOUGH  
Westland

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## Area Deaths And Funerals

**JOHN GLANT.**—Services for Mr. Glant, 71, of 2301 S. Beaubien, who died March 19, were held in Caldwell-Muligan Funeral Home, Garden City. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery. Mr. Glant died suddenly March 13. He was a retired machanic for Ford Motor Co. where he was employed 43 years. Mr. Glant had lived in Garden City since 1957 and was a member of the Garden City Senior Citizens Club.

Survivors are his wife, Grace; a son, John L. of Detroit; a daughter, Elizabeth Mary of Lincoln; three sisters in California; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**NORMA MARIE DOWD.**—Services for Mrs. Dowd, 80, who lived on Tuck Road, Farmington Township, for many years before moving to Carmel Hall Nursing Home, Detroit, were held in Healey-Lundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

The Rev. James P. O'Hagan of St. Gerard Catholic Church officiated. Burial was in Oakview Cemetery. Royal Oak. Mrs. Dowd died March 9 in Carmel Hall after an extended illness. Her husband, Edward J. died in 1961.

Mrs. Dowd a bookkeeper for Valer Tool Machine Co., Dearborn, before her retirement, was known for her work with the blind. She was involved with the Kresge Institute for the Blind and the Rochester Leader Dog School and spent many years helping the blind at Elbow Hospital. She once received thanks for a blind student who became an attorney through her efforts. The family has requested that memorial tributes be sent to the Rochester Leader Dog School.

Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. Helen Marie Miller of Southfield and Mrs. Peter Norman Powell of Howell; a brother, Clarence J. of Farmington; and five grandchildren.

**ELANDER A. KREGER.**—Services for Mrs. Kreger, 76, of 1180 S. Taylor St., Plymouth, were held in St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plymouth. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Casteline Funeral Home, Northville. The Rev. Leonard J. Goeringer officiated. Burial was in Catholic Memorial Gardens West, Garden City. Mrs. Kreger died March 16. She had lived in Walkerville, Ont., she had lived

in Plymouth 46 years and was a member of the Ladies Aid of St. Peter Church and of the Plymouth Senior Citizens Club. Her husband, William, died in 1965.

Survivors are a son, Daniel of Bloomfield Hills; a daughter, Mrs. Harold (Audrey) Kufel of Plymouth; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**BERNARD DECLARIE.**—Services for Mr. Declarie, 71, of 17975 Wabash, Redford Township, were held in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church following prayers at the Charles R. Step Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Mr. Declarie died March 14 in Garden City Osteopathic Hospital. He had lived in Redford seven years and was a retired time study employee.

Survivors are his wife, Katherine; two sons, Thomas G. and William R.; two sisters, Mrs. Albert Young and Mrs. George Schaefer; both of Florida; a brother, James H. of St. Clement; and three grandchildren.

**ALAN LASKY.**—Services for Mrs. Lasky, 57, of 12573 Saratoga, Redford Township, were held in the Charles R. Step Funeral Home with the Rev. J. Leo Sheehy officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Mrs. Lasky died March 11 in Grace Central Hospital, Detroit. Her husband, Mike, died in 1970. She had lived in Redford 13 years and was a member of St. John Bosco Catholic Church.

Survivors are a daughter, Ruth Lasky of Redford; a son, Robert of Pontiac; and three grandchildren.

**ALAN S. ARMSTRONG.**—Services for Mr. Armstrong, 22, of 26127 Kataron, Farmington, were held in St. Francis Catholic Church following a requiem at the Healey-Lundquist Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Mr. Armstrong died March 11. He had lived in Farmington 11 years.

Mr. Armstrong died March 7. He had lived in Farmington 11 years. He was a member of the U.S. Army. He enlisted in June 1958, served in Vietnam and Germany, and received an honorable discharge with the rank of

Spec 5. Subsequently transferring to the U.S. Army Reserves. He was employed at Chrysler Corp. and was a member of St. Francis Church.

Survivors are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher R. Armstrong Sr. of Farmington Township; his grandparents, Mrs. Daniel Korb of Brighton; two sisters, Mrs. Robert J. (Sharon) Fort of Royal Oak; Mrs. Herbert Lundquist of Farmington and Mrs. Nancy Armstrong of New York; and two brothers, Sgt. Fletcher Armstrong Jr. and Gordon Armstrong, currently in Vietnam.

**FRANK E. TERRY.**—Services for Mr. Terry, 81, of 145 Union, Plymouth, were held in St. Joseph's Funeral Home with the Rev. Philip R. McGee of First United Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, officiating. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery. Mr. Terry died March 15. His wife, Lilian, died in 1962. Mr. Terry was founder of Terry's Bakery and a member of the Kiwanis Club. Plymouth Rock Lodge 47, F.A.M., and Lodge 7788, BPOE A Masonic service was held at the funeral home the night before the funeral.

Survivors are a son, Marvin of Plymouth; two daughters, Helen Robinson and Mrs. Wilbur Gould, both of Plymouth; a brother, Robert E. of Farmington; a sister, Mrs. O. (Dorothy) H. of Ann Arbor; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.