

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MICHIGAN MIRROR



INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

Saving of tax funds to the extent of several million dollars is proposed by a special committee of Michigan State Senators headed by Senator Colis L. Smith, Republican of Big Rapids.

The committee has asked Governor G. Mennen Williams to submit a series of recommended welfare law changes to the legislature in the forthcoming special session tentatively scheduled for March, 1950.

In Detroit alone a survey disclosed that 1,862 welfare chieftains were illegally receiving public funds. The saving in Detroit alone for the coming fiscal year will be approximately \$2,000,000.

This committee has recommended adoption of uniform relief policies in all 35 counties of the state. Relief clients would be required to pay back money to the state when financially able; resident requirements would be lightened; and other changes made to increase liability of relatives for supporting kin while on public relief.

The mounting spending of public funds for welfare purposes during the current period of postwar

prosperity has perplexed a number of legislators. As the State of Michigan matches welfare spending in each county, this field of public service has become big business. If Governor Williams declines to present this issue to the special session in 1950, the report of the committee will wait one year until the general legislative session in 1951.

Former President Herbert Hoover declared at Washington before the National Reorganization Conference that federal, state and local government expenditures were "more than 30 per cent of the national income."

The Congressional Quarterly, an independent research publication at Washington, reports that the 81st congress appropriated \$6,485,397,921 and also obligated the federal government to an additional outlay of \$4,497,412,238 in contract authority. During 1948 of 18 years federal government has incurred an annual deficit.

Laurin G. Miller, director of the Bureau of Governmental Research, states that the cost of state and local government in Michigan has risen to the second highest per capita rate in the nation. The Michigan per capita expenditure was \$108.47 last year. The Michigan total was unusually high due to the fact that many local government functions are financed to a large degree by money collected by the State of Michigan and sent to local governments in the form of state aid. Thus when an announcement is made that the cost of state government has soared to unreasonable heights, it is easy to criticize spending at Lansing, and to do so unfairly.

Auditor General Muri K. Aten pointed out in an October report, covering the past fiscal year ending June 30, that state monies distributed for the benefit of local government totaled \$309,000,000 whereas the cost of operating state institutions and state departments including maintenance of highways and buildings totaled only \$102,000,000.

As this column has pointed out repeatedly in the past, more than 78 per cent of the state sales tax revenues are distributed back to local governments by Lansing.

Out of the total of \$309,000,000 distributed by the state to local governments during the 1949 fiscal year (ending last June 30), state aid for public relief totaled \$9,650,156.17; aid to dependent children, \$2,730,250; and old age assistance, \$16,592,257.

State aid for county highway systems total \$6,550,000; state aid to local school districts, \$55,798,673 and sales tax distributions to local governments \$64,564,254.

It is significant when a citizen is called upon to weigh the cost of government to note that state aid to local governments constituted 58.5 per cent of the total amount collected from taxpayers in one form or other.

The general problem has been greatly aggravated by the fact that a 1939 dollar was only worth 59 cents in 1949 and that all public services have had inflated dollars which bought less than heretofore.

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CLARENCEVILLE NEWS

Mrs. Henry Trouetaud
Phone Farm. 1038

Only two more days to shop for Christmas, then comes the big day. After Sunday, all that will remain are the scattered toys, the memories of the beautiful music, the joyful anticipation and the deep pleasure one had in meeting family and friends once again.

This week has been filled with parties. The annual Christmas party for the Girl Scouts and Brownies was held at Clarenceville High School Thursday. Mrs. Santa was there and passed out the gifts for the children. They played games and had a grand march to the tune of Hupla Bella. Ice cream, cookies, and a box of candy from Santa finished out the evening.

One of our Girl Scout leaders who contributed a good deal to Clarenceville scouting, Mrs. Clarence Hazen, is leaving us and moving to Newcastles, Pennsylvania. Her husband, who works for Timken Axle, was transferred when Timken moved some of its divisions. He has been there for a month. The Hazen family vacated their home last week and are spending Christmas with Mrs. Hazen's father, Mr. Robert Murrill in Detroit. Mr. Hazen is coming up for Christmas and is taking his family back with him. Our good wishes go along with them. The rendition of parts of the Messiah given by the combined choirs of the Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Clarenceville Methodist Church, led by William Hood and Albert Boitko, was worthy of a greater audience than Clarenceville church could hold, filled to capacity as it was.

A Christmas party for all the grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hawley of Angling Road was held Saturday afternoon. The children drew names on Thanksgiving Day, so each one had a present. It

the Wayne County Hospital, died Tuesday morning at 3 a.m. after being in a coma for 72 hours.

Arthur Hocking, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hocking on Middlebelt, was chosen one of twelve from the Wesley Foundation to attend a Methodist student conference held at the University of Illinois from December 27 to January 1.

Orders for CARE packages, cash donations for the Michigan UN-ESCO-CARE Book Program, or general relief contributions in any amount (tax deductible) can be sent to CARE, 153 East Elizabeth, Detroit 1, Michigan. Convenient neighborhood outlets may be located by phoning Woodward 1-9852.

Homonyms are words which sound alike but differ in meaning very ill with Bright's Disease in such as deer and dear.

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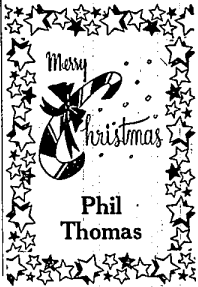
23614 Power

Arthur Lambs Hosts At Pre-Holiday Party

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamb, of Oakland, were hosts Friday evening at a party honoring their sister-in-law, Mrs. Perry Lamb, the former Emma Russell.

Mrs. Lamb has been visiting a son who is a college instructor at Ithaca, New York. She left Michigan Monday for her home in Windsor, Colorado.

Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Max Hulet, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCracken, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steele and Mrs. Emma Lamb Reid and son, Wallace, of Northville. Wallace Reid entertained the company with pictures of western scenery.



Phil Thomas

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