

# Editorial Page

## The Majority Decision . . .

of the City Council in rejecting the proposed commercial rezoning in the vicinity of Mooney Street has in our opinion created an unfortunate situation.

At the very beginning we want to state clearly and emphatically that we respect the majority decision of the Council, whether it happen to personally agree with it or not. This is the democratic way. We also appreciate and understand the opinions expressed by those in opposition to the proposal. The unfortunate part about the situation, is not that this particular request was rejected but rather that a basic policy and procedure seems to be lacking.

It is understood that each individual proposal must be judged on its own merit. However, in reaching a logical conclusion certain fundamental procedures should be followed. First and foremost it should be determined whether or not the residents of the city want any further commercial rezoning. This is certainly a key question in our opinion, at this point. Second, if added commercial is necessary and desirable where can it be located in order to be both attractive to business and not offensive to adjacent property owners? Third, if the presentation of sketches or preliminary plans for the proposed development are advantageous then it should become a part of the procedure and should be submitted to the Planning Board or at least prior to the public hearing.

In our opinion these are key points which must be resolved if we are to maintain a sense of direction and purpose.

## The Groundwork . . .

is now being laid for future industrial development in Farmington Township. The proposed industrial land use plan, as drafted by Velican-Leman, planning consultants, and reviewed by the planning committee and Township Board last week, sounds like a logical and practical approach to the growing development problem.

Since we have not had an opportunity as yet to examine the plan in detail, we hesitate to pass final judgment on the proposal at this time. However, we have reviewed it enough to indorse the general purpose of the plan. There is no question but what industrial development is needed in the Township both now and in the future. It is necessary from a tax base standpoint as well as the over-all economy of the community.

The major problem is to provide sufficient space for this industrial development which will not only be attractive to prospective plants but will protect present and future property values. For these reasons it is important that an early declaration of intent be made by the Township Board. Delay is one of the most serious problems in zoning procedures. Too often these matters are put off until land is built up to a point where zoning becomes a hardship on adjacent property owners.

This does not mean to imply that we should jump into something without looking first, but it does mean that we should move as rapidly as common sense will allow. Unless we do, we may find ourselves without many of the services we want and need.

## The Latest Utterance . . .

of Nikita Khrushchev, Russian Party boss, sounds like a misguided echo in a Soviet pawn shop. According to Mr. K., the United States and its allies are using Germany as a proposed war base in their plans to conquer the world.

This last phrase has a very familiar ring to it, sort of an echo from the written words of Karl Marx. If our memory serves us right, it is the Russians who feel the compelling urge to conquer the world, and this by their own admission. Apparently the truth is beginning to hurt and Mr. Khrushchev is finding it necessary to smother the pain by diversion.

If the Soviet leaders really want peace, understanding and cooperation, then they had better prove it by deeds, because remember, Mr. K. . . . action still speaks louder than words.

## The Farmington Enterprise

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## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

**SOUTHFIELD**—The area is expected to have a "family-style" athletic country club soon which will be located east of Telegraph on Maple Road just west of Oakland Hills Country Club. A six-acre site, already zoned to house the clubhouse and recreation facilities, has been procured and a membership campaign is about to get underway.

Planned for the site is a building of contemporary design at an estimated cost of \$275,000. The second floor level will house a lounge and dining room and the lower level, locker and shower rooms and other utilities. Athletic facilities will include a six-lane, 25 meter swimming pool, two outdoor asphalt tennis courts and two indoor squash courts.

Financing will be provided from membership dues and the sale of interest-bearing debenture bonds. Named on the Birmingham Athletic Club, because of the general area it is designed to serve, all facilities are being planned around recreation and activities for the entire family. Official opening is planned for the summer of 1958.

**LIVONIA**—Big plans for a community service and culture center to be located at Five Mile and Farmington Road are now being made.

Livonia's present city hall is part of the plan—it's virtually the only portion now standing. Alongside the city hall, the planners have drawn in a courtroom building, an administration building. To the east they are leaving room for a classroom building, possibly for a community college.

Behind the present city hall, facing on proposed artificial lakes, would be a Board of Education building, a library and a student center. Nearby would be a recreation building, a community building, a museum, a bandshell and an auditorium. A short distance to the south on Farmington Road, police and fire facilities are planned.

Also called for in the rough plans is parking space in all sections. There is no specific plan at this time for bringing the center to accomplishment. It was indicated, however, that sooner or later it would be laid out for the voters.

**NOVI**—Novi township's village incorporation movement has gained momentum by a near unanimous vote of more than 100 citizens at a Community building meeting last week. By a show of hands, only three opposed the township incorporation procedure toward incorporation as a charter home rule village.

The residents voted following a talk by Dr. Louis L. Friedland of Wayne State University in which he outlined corporate possibilities. A committee of Walter Tuck, Russell Butten, Dirk Greenberg, Keith Metcalf, Burton Taffel and Harry Watson were empowered to start proceedings. Watson was named treasurer to collect \$500 from residents interested in belonging to a "citizens group" to help finance the proposed incorporation program.

Meanwhile, announcement was made of the formation for the "Novi Township Farmers and Land Owners Association" by Herbert Koester to investigate the incorporation move. An organizational meeting has been called for August 15.

"At present we're against it," Koester said. "But we'll keep our minds open and, if guarantees are made, we may have a change of opinion."

**PLYMOUTH**—An alleged error in surveying some 35 years ago brought an hour's worth of headaches to the city commission last Monday night when citizens asked that approval of a new subdivision along Sheldon Road be held up until it is decided what the center line of the road is.

The City of Plymouth maps show the center line in one place and the Wayne County Road Commission places it six to eight feet away, all of which provoked a letter from 11 city residents living on the east side of the road who fear that fronts of their property will be taken away. They asked that no subdivision for the other side of the road be approved until the discrepancy is ironed out.

City commissioners noted, however, that Sheldon Road was a county owned highway and that lines drawn by the city, no matter how old, would be meaningless. They voted unanimously to approve the subdivision.

If the county drawn line is accepted it will mean that property owners on the east side have paid for frontage six to eight feet deep which they actually do not own. The attorney for the subdividers indicated that they did not wish to enter the controversy so have moved their subdivision back an average of six feet to accommodate either line.

—The Plymouth Mail  
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## "Come Right In"



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### Off-Year Political Activities Reported Exceptionally Strong

**HOT WEATHER** politics in this off-year is creating as much stir this early in the season as the urgent kind of campaigning when an election is a few months away.

Republicans are uncertain what political direction they took with House Speaker George M. Van Puersen.

Legislators thought it would be a good idea to send him on a speaking tour around the state to describe the virtues and accomplishments of the House and Senate.

The key word is money. Gov. Williams, contending that people want to pay more for more services and to handle the increased population load of existing services, continues to seek higher budgets. Republicans, insisting the people want less spending and lower taxes, want to maintain present services, take care of the increased loads and keep the budgets down.

Van Puersen insisted when he started the tour in mid-July that he wanted only to work with the legislature; that he was not seeking a higher office.

Reports indicate he has been well-received around the state and that Republicans took to him as a candidate for governor in 1958 or 1960.

He is the second legislator to cast covetous eyes on the governor's chair for his party.

The other, who said "I might be a candidate," is Rep. George Salade (R-An Arbor), who in two 2-year terms in the house has made his presence felt as a leader of the "Young Turks," a group of young members who rebel against the majority occasionally.

Van Puersen is a young lawyer who cut his teeth in the legislature as a State University in which he outlined corporate possibilities. A committee of Walter Tuck, Russell Butten, Dirk Greenberg, Keith Metcalf, Burton Taffel and Harry Watson were empowered to start proceedings. Watson was named treasurer to collect \$500 from residents interested in belonging to a "citizens group" to help finance the proposed incorporation program.

From this committee came the charge that Williams' tax proposals were financing industries out of Michigan.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Glean A. Green, Associate Director of the National Education Program, is studying political and economic systems in Europe and Scandinavia this summer. Dr. Benson is incorporating Mr. Green's dispatches in his regular columns.)

### A NORWEGIAN FAMILY'S FLIGHT

**OSLO, NORWAY**—Dear Dr. Benson: The per capita income of the people of the United States is three times that of Norwegians. However, the Socialist Labor Government, which controls the economic life of the nation, has rigged and manipulated taxes and subsidies and rigid price and income controls so that the difference, at the industrial worker level, is not so great.

The following authentic statistics were given to me by the Government's own research bureau. They were developed from a recent study made of working families in Norwegian cities and rural industrial areas.

The typical Norwegian industrial worker which the study developed had a wife and two children.

His yearly income was 13,659 kroner (about \$1,900 in 1957 U.S. dollars).

And here's what he paid out in living expenses:

Direct taxes, 1,220 kroner; Food, 4,360 kroner; Drinks, 240 kroner; Tobacco, 280 kroner; Rent, light, heat, furniture, maintenance, 1,940 kroner; Clothes shoes, 2,220 kroner; Other expenses (considered to be necessary to maintain family), 2,540 kroner. Total family expense: 12,700 kroner.

When subtracted from his 13,659 kroner income this left him 959 kroner (about \$125 in U.S. money.)

### LIVING STANDARDS

This doesn't leave the average Norwegian industrial worker enough money to own a home or one of the tiny little Swedish or European-built automobiles that can be bought here for about 15,000 kroner (\$2,000). Thus the bicycle is the trademark of Norway's industrial workers, with only a comparative few owning cars; and his family lives in a flat.

A significant fact, however, is that on the whole, the industrial worker is better off today in strictly hard-to-mouth living than he was in the first few years after the war. But in some important ways, other Norwegians aren't and Norway (the nation) isn't.

### TAXES VS. SUBSIDIES

The following Government statistics give another interesting (Continued on page 3B)

## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO (August 12, 1932)  
Old School

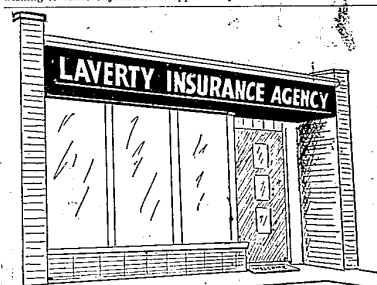
Although almost 70 years old, the Pentt school, in which more than three generations learned their reading, writing and arithmetic has no title for the property on which it is located. It was learned by the School Board. The School Board members will go to Lansing in an attempt to clear title to the land. When this is completed, it is expected that plans for a new school house will be drawn up. Unofficially condemned, and believed beyond repair, the school, which has not been in active use since 1926, will not open to receive pupils this year. By a vote of 18 to 8, the School Board decided to continue to send the children of the district to Farmington schools. At the time the school was first closed, it had an average enrollment of 25 pupils. In the last six years, the school building has served primarily as a meeting place for the School Board.

TEN YEARS AGO (August 14, 1947)  
School Advisory

The Farmington School Board Monday night approved a resolution creating a school citizens advisory committee to assist the Board in its building program and the de-centralization of the elementary grades in the District. The resolution calls for six years of elementary, three years of junior high and three years of high school. The de-centralization portion of the resolution was proposed to guide the school administrator and teaching staffs of the schools and the architect or special committees to determine buildings, equipment and material in another policy declaration. It was approved that an advisory committee on building needs consisting of two members of the Board, the Superintendent and the presidents of the various PTAs be created to make informal and unofficial studies of school building needs.

FIVE YEARS AGO (August 14, 1952)  
Zoning Request

A petition signed by residents of Schroeder Road Subdivision requesting that the subdivision be included in the Township Zoning Ordinances was submitted to the Township Board at its regular meeting Tuesday. It was stated that all 22 property owners in the subdivision had been contacted and that only four refused to sign the petition. A motion was made by the Board accepting the petition and placing it on file for further study. The petition will now be turned over to the Zoning Board for examination. Before any action can be taken public hearings will be necessary in order to allow any persons wishing to make objections an opportunity to do so.



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