

# Editorial Page

## Our Merchants . . .

are very interested in the city council's action to carry out a downtown area development study, particularly as it pertains to parking, zoning, streets, rebuilding and every phase of better development. The city expects some early reports from the planning consultant firm it has hired.

All merchants in the city and township might also be considering something along the same line for business development.

We were very interested last week to hear about a project which has been underway quite a while at Mt. Pleasant college. They have an expert who, under contract at a very reasonable price from a Chamber of Commerce or similar group, comes into a community, heads up a complete survey of the business climate and needs, then spends some weeks working with the merchants in groups or individually.

The survey is among area shoppers, and determines their habits, preferences, and whether or not these are being met by the businesses. The training portion which follows brings into the community the goods and services lacking, and helps individual businesses to merchandise properly.

The idea isn't new, but apparently the Mt. Pleasant project has been quite successful. We think the University of Michigan and other colleges have similar projects.

Our new Chamber of Commerce has made an auspicious start. More new members are joining every week, and much planning work is under way. But the members are all busy men and mostly limited on time.

There have been, and will be many more, serious adjustments in Farmington's business life as the area continues its rapid growth. Perhaps the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce might consider such a study by an outside organization. Such an "Operations Bootstrap" might bring planned growth to our business groups, to the benefit of the entire township.

## Auto Insurance . . .

has been undergoing quite a study by a state committee appointed for that purpose. A few days ago that committee reported that after exhaustive research its members could not agree among themselves on a recommendation — that they were too badly divided.

Some wanted compulsory car insurance, others wanted the insurance laws to remain as they are with better enforcement. Some wanted a fund built up through adding a couple of dollars to each license fee, to pay costs of accidents caused by uninsured drivers.

The uninsured driver really does cause problems. The only thing we are quite certain of in our own mind is that compulsory insurance for every driver should never be attempted. It either boosts the rates a lot for everybody, or the rates are kept low and too many things excluded. One thing certain to follow is that such compulsory insurance becomes a political football. Where it has been tried, more evil things than that have always followed.

After some thought we are about convinced the best results would come from stricter enforcement of the existing laws. We don't mean the addition of more state highway patrolmen, or more policemen.

The secretary of state has in the past pointed out numerous glaring examples of drivers back on the road despite a long string of traffic and other law violations. For that the finger can be put on no other person that some judge or violation board which recommended return of the driver's license after a hearing. Sure, most affected drivers can and will plead hardship. It might mean some would lose their jobs. When non-violators see the ease with which driver licenses can be regained, do you wonder we have little respect for traffic laws?

Any driver with a string of past violations should be brought before a hearing board and, if the facts warrant it, the driver should be deprived of his driving rights for an unchangeable period, or permanently. Then perhaps our car insurance would be a little better, even cheaper some day.

## The Farmington Enterprise

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## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

**BIRMINGHAM** — Appointment of a Birmingham Chamber of Commerce business study committee was announced recently by Richard J. Wilson, Chamber president. "For a long time now we have felt the need for the functioning of such a committee," Wilson said. "Growth of Birmingham during the past few years has brought numerous problems to our community. City officials, of course, have handled most of them but we in the chamber feel some of the problems are best participated in by our chamber members, hence the new committee."

Various functions of the group will include: Making a study of Birmingham properties available for development; preparing a presentation of such properties designed to induce desirable new business to establish in Birmingham; determining ways and means of "selling Birmingham" to interested prospects; completing a list of possible business prospects and an effective means of contacting them with the story of Birmingham and its potential business opportunities.

—Birmingham Eccentric

**SOUTHFIELD** — The Southfield Charter Commission has come up with a tentative election schedule calling for the signing of a completed charter by February 5. After being signed, the charter will be forwarded to Lansing for examination by Governor Williams and approval or correction by the attorney general. The next step will be the publication of the approved charter. This will permit study by the public in advance of public hearings.

Because of the great detail in the charter, the charter commission has decided to hold the public hearings on it on two consecutive evenings. The dates have been set for February 21 and 22 at Southfield High.

The closing date for registration for voting on the proposed City of Southfield charter and nominating of candidates for office has been tentatively set for March 3.

If all these things proceed on schedule plans are to have the election on March 31. Residents will be asked to either approve or reject the charter and to select a council, a mayor, clerk and treasurer.

—The Four Corners Press

**NOVI** — A vote on whether residents favor the incorporation of Novi Township as a village has been set for March 17. A public meeting has been planned for Feb. 3 by Novi incorporation officials to explain to voters the procedure facing them between now and election time.

As approved by the Oakland County boundaries committee, the petitions submitted call for the proposed village to include all of Novi Township except portions in Northville, Wixom and Northville Estates and Brookland Farms subdivisions.

—The Novi News

**LIVONIA** — (The following is a reprint of a letter written by Ward Roach, President of the Livonia Board of Education, which ran on the front page of The Livonian last week under a banner head) — EDITOR:

"After a few weeks of study with the staff and administrative personnel, who have recently spent hundreds of hours making item by item scrutiny of next year's (1959) school budget, the Board of Education will present to the people a much reduced building and operating school program.

"It will meet the bare necessity needs for the next year, but will not allow long range planning as the previous program was intended to do. It will mainly take care of maintenance and high school needs, building and operating funds.

"We are discussing the above problem with our business and professional citizens, lay and parent groups. The PTA and School Board Advisory are making many surveys on the above program that is to be presented within the next six weeks.

"It is our intention to adhere always to the will of all the people and in this regard, we are cutting back in every way possible to reduce the current year's deficit. It would be tragic to cut too deep into the education basic needs of our youth. The net increase 'next September' will be 2000 new students. It is a problem for all thinking Livonians to think about."

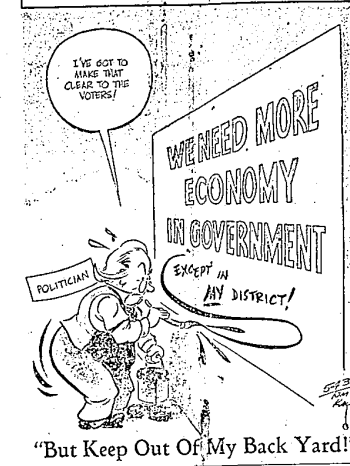
—The Livonian

**PLYMOUTH** — Two previous zoning ordinances which has stood as law for 13 years in Plymouth Township were ruled illegal by court action last week. One required that all produce sold from roadside stands be grown on the premises and the other that it only be sold from permanent, graded stands. Both were ruled illegal by the courts.

—The Plymouth Mail

Evenings and Thursdays seem to be becoming the major grocery-buying periods. In addition to a swing toward Thursday food buying, about one-third is now being done in the evening.

## THE AMERICAN WAY



## MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

### Labor Legislation Looms As Big Issue Before 1958 Legislation

FRINGE ISSUES before the 1958 legislature have developed an importance all their own while the state of the state's finances form the core of knotty problems.

There is a chance that labor legislation—the right to work issue—will become one of the hottest of the session. Senator Robert E. Faulkner (R-Coloma), chairman of the Senate labor committee, already is planning a bill to require unions to incorporate.

The bill is simple, as are most of the vocal issues of the day. But it would place unions under the same restrictions that manufacturing and business corporations have. Regular audits, government controls and taxes all are part of the controls.

The toughest would be the ban against any corporation making a contribution to a political party candidate.

Republicans, Democrats and union leaders all predict this would mean the end to the CIO-PAC and other labor groups.

Significantly, labor has generally favored Democrats. Republicans claim further that Democrats and unions used each other to gain power in Michigan and share control of state government.

The right-to-work law, now in effect in Ohio and other states, would end the union shop.

No man could be required to join a union to keep his job. Labor leaders call this the ultimate in "union busting." Its advocates call it a "right." It is certain to develop a sizzling battle in Michigan, it is introduced.

Democrats will work to get a \$90-a-week minimum benefit for unemployed workers and those injured



Glenn Green continues his dispatches from Europe. —G.S.B. ITALY'S WELFARE STATE ROME, ITALY — Dear Dr. Benson: The air seems freer in Italy than in Yugoslavia, and the anxiety I felt while in the Communist domain of Joseph Broz Tito shook off easily as we crossed the border into this strip of geography that has seen so much of world history in the last 2,500 years. My eight days of travel in Italy have taken me all over the country—to Venice, Naples, Pompeii, Florence, the industrial cities of Milan and Bologna in the north, and through some of the loveliest of the European Alps. Walking through the ruins of ancient Rome and along the Appian Way on which the Apostle Paul trod when he preached the religion of Jesus Christ here nearly 2,000 years ago, is a deeply moving experience. However, aside from the thrill of a godlike ride on a Venice canal and seeing the great art treasures in the Vatican Museum and in Florence, present-day Italy is not so stimulating. Behind the facade of history and color which dazzles the millions of tourists, the everyday life being lived by the Italian people is not something which would appeal to the average American citizen.

Italy is another of the socialistic Welfare States and it has one of the lowest living standards in Europe. For more than 35 years the economy and the politics of the nation have been dominated, if not completely controlled, by various forms of Socialism. Mussolini was a Socialist. He showed himself to be an opportunist when, in 1919, the dominant Socialist Party decided to install the Russian form of Marxist Socialism, abolishing all private property. He organized the Fascists, and ultimately created a form of State Socialism under a dictatorship.

The present Italian government is predominantly socialistic. In the 550-seat Chamber of Deputies the Christian Democrat Party (largely Catholic) holds 251 seats. Most of its members subscribe to the present socialistic Welfare State. The next strongest is the Communist Party which holds 143 seats; and next is the Leftwing Socialists, with 75 seats. Splinter parties make up the remainder. In the coalition government, the Communists and

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## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

~TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (January 26, 1933)

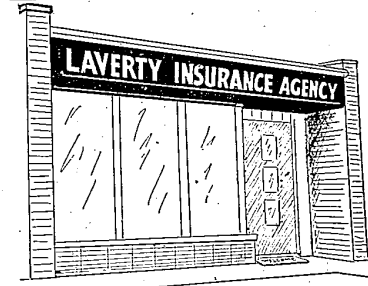
**School Taxes**  
The appeal to taxpayers of the Farmington School District to pay their school taxes now in order to help keep the schools open throughout the remainder of this year is meeting with fair success. Officials indicated that if the taxes continue to come in as well in the coming weeks as they did last week, it would be possible to keep the schools open on the new schedule of reduced salaries set up recently for teachers. Last week-end more than 500 letters were sent out with the children in each of the schools in the district, appealing to their parents to help in the struggle to prevent the closing of the schools. Up until the time the letters were sent out a total of \$700 had come in through the direct result of newspaper publicity alone, school officials said. It was expected that considerably more would be coming in in the near future as a result of the appeal made through these letters sent out.

**TEN YEARS AGO (January 29, 1948)**  
**March of Dimes**  
Residents of the Farmington area have contributed a total of \$217.37 to the current March of Dimes campaign now in progress. All of this total was collected from solicitations made at the Civic Theatre here. No other efforts are being made this year in Farmington to raise additional March of Dimes funds.

**Clarencville Schools**  
The Board of Education of the Clarencville School District at a special meeting Thursday evening approved a proposal to submit to the electors of the district calling for the construction of two new classrooms, a gymnasium and a heating plant at the Middlebelt school site. The date for the election was set for March 23.

**FIVE YEARS AGO (January 29, 1953)**  
**Taxes in City**

Approximately 90% of the winter bills sent out by the City of Farmington were returned and paid prior to the deadline without penalty, the city treasurer disclosed. The total tax levied in the city on winter billings was approximately \$129,000. This includes bills for school and county taxes. The city tax bills are payable during the summer.



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