

Editorial Page

State Taxes . . .

and state services were recently surveyed by George M. Van Peurse, speaker of the House of Representatives. How did he do it? Simply by sending a questionnaire to weekly and daily editors of the state, and to news directors of radio and TV stations.

Course, we editors know all the answers. Trouble is, just like everyone else, they are all different answers. Anyway, 65 responded, and Speaker Van Peurse tabulated replies. Naturally, we think the results interesting.

On the question, do you think the following state services have been adequately provided for, here are the replies. We'll give only the "adequate" percentages, and the remainder thought they were inadequate.

State colleges, universities	83%
Public grade and high schools	72%
Mental health	60%
Highways	55%
State parks	45%

Asked if they would favor increasing state services even if it meant increasing taxes, 33% were in favor, and 67% against.

Here's the tabulations on this question: If taxes must be increased, which of the following would you prefer?

Increased sales tax	45%
Personal income tax	21%
Corporation profits tax	19%
Combination personal-corporation income tax	14%
Other	1%

So far as legislative action thus far in the session is concerned, it's too early to tell what will happen to many measures. But it looks as if editors and legislators see eye to eye (with a lot of other people) about not increasing state expenditures, or at least holding them to a minimum.

Annual Meeting . . .

of the Township is Saturday, April 5, and we expect there will be a good crowd. It's a very important meeting, and should be well attended.

A number of suggestions have been made and considered as to ways the township government could better serve its people. Some are good, and we hope money may be found for them.

However, there's one thing we want to recommend be done. The Township Board undoubtedly will ask enough funds to hire another man in the assessor's department. It's their sincere hope every piece of property in the township can be equitably appraised within the coming year, and it's very important that it should be.

We think few will argue that every owner should be taxed equitably. We'd just like to point out that if the recession got worse, or if inflation got out of hand, those now assessed at the proper level would get hurt worse than they should while the property valued below an equitable amount would get even more of a free ride. Either way would only worsen an unfair situation.

We'd make one more point, then quit. One possible weakness of the township form of government is that at the annual meeting someone can make a motion for a continuing action which can cost the township a lot of money over a year. It sounds good, and is adopted. Sometimes, however, it's found later there might have been a better or a cheaper way. There wasn't time to think of this at the annual meeting.

The township's proposed budget will be published next week. Study it, then come to the annual meeting with a constructive attitude.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to reach the down-trodden masses in America," a comrade wrote to his superior. "In the spring they're forever polishing their cars. In the summer they take vacations. In the fall they go to the world series and football games. And in the winter you can't get them away from their television sets. Please give me suggestions on how to let them know how oppressed they are."

—Prof. Dexter Williams

Despite a decade of anti-religious pressure by the Communist authorities, churches are still strong in East Germany. About 90% of Protestant children receive religious instruction. Among Roman Catholics the percentage is even higher.

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI — Novi Township took a major step toward village status last week when a higher vote decided in favor of incorporation by a slim 67 votes.

At the same time they gave a strong endorsement to the original incorporation committee by naming four of its members, headed by Walter Tuck, to the village charter commission. The commission must now prepare a village charter which if it is approved by voters, Novi will start operating as a village.

—The Novi News

LIVONIA — Taxpayers decided by their votes last week to approve a 2 1/2-1/2 mill millage rate of Education with nearly 6,200 voters going to the polls. Approved were a bond proposal, a millage increase for operation and reclassification of the school district.

The cost will amount to about \$20 a year for the average family. The first proposal which asked for a 2 1/2-1/2 mill millage rate for building and sites passed by a two to one margin.

The second proposal asking approval of an additional millage rate to cover maintenance and operation costs for one year, passed by a much narrower margin, however — 3,785 to 2,289. The third proposal asking voters to decide whether to advance from a fourth to a third class school district. The vote was in favor of the move — 3,528 to 2,471.

School officials are already negotiating to expedite plans to let contracts and begin construction on the new school building for approval of the bond issue.

—The Livonian

SOUTHFIELD — A battle of wills appeared again this week to the legal fight to prevent construction of a 24-lane bowling establishment on the southwest corner of the intersection of the road.

A court order by owners of residential property in Washington Heights subdivision has halted construction of the three-story hotel building before Judge H. Russell Holland and a date has not yet been fixed.

Suburban owners are basing their case on deed restrictions dating back to 1929 which appear to conflict with a change made in 1943 permitting commercial activity.

The survey is being conducted by the department of community and adult education, University of Michigan, in cooperation with persons from various Birmingham organizations including the school system, YMCA, board of recreation, and police department.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

PLYMOUTH — Petitions signed by 150 city residents urging the city commission to provide for truck routes "which would be both safe for our children and citizens and more advantages to the truckers" was submitted to the city commission last week. It was signed by persons in various sections of the city.

In general the petition asked that the commission make efforts to eliminate the need of through traffic going past school churches and other areas highly congested with youngsters and heavy traffic.

The petition indicated that they would assist the commission in every way possible in setting up the best possible routes.

The petitions were received and placed on file. Further discussion was called for at the next regular meeting of the commission.

—The Plymouth Mail

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THE AMERICAN WAY



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MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Shortage of Funds in State Adds Fire to Vigorous Political Fight

STORMY WINDS of the economic climate have toppled thrones and crushed empires. Historians report that Herbert Hoover was a good president but a victim of the times. The possible application to Michigan politics and government is as haunting as Black Friday in 1929.

Universities and colleges have critical need for more money to meet the need for their services. Prisons, mental health institutions, public welfare, elementary schools, and other functions the public has come to consider a responsibility of government are all crying for help.

"The only answer is increased taxes or fewer services. It is in plain fact," said a leading Democrat, "that the tax will hit only the holder of many assets."

"We must live within our income," said Senator Clyde H. Geerlings (R-Holland), Senate tax committee chairman.

The impact on partisan politics, always a factor of some sort over the past decade, will be more so in 1933 as Democrats seek to control the legislature and Republicans seek to recapture the executive side of state government.

The voter—and the taxpayer—will give Michigan the final answer next November.

Republicans, realizing that a tax increase when more than 250,000 are jobless in the state will hurt more than help, are fighting to hold the line and cut government spending.

One proposal in the House to cut the number of state employees already is in trouble.

Even some Republicans in both the House and Senate are certain the budget cannot be cut from current spending. There are tax bills waiting for action.

The only major proposal is Governor



LOOKING AHEAD

THE FARM PROBLEM Many of the so-called "farm-state" Senators and Congressmen in Washington are calling for the resignation of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Tipton Benson. Although Mr. Benson apparently has the solid backing of President Eisenhower, these Senators and Congressmen seem determined to either force his resignation or push through legislation which would short-circuit the basic aims of his agricultural program.

This is an important struggle. The fundamental issue is vital to the future of our American system. The issue is: will the two basic American principles—private enterprise and the competitive market—work successfully in agriculture, or must agriculture become permanently a government artificially controlled operation? If it should become permanently a government artificially controlled operation, the American economic system, which is one of the main reasons supporting our whole freedom structure, could not survive. The issue is just that important.

Not Much Progress

The American farm problem has engaged the serious attention of the House of Representatives in every phase of our national life. The primary goals of the present U.S. Government program are the result of the painful wisdom of outstanding farm leaders, agricultural economists, and Secretary Benson's official family in the Agriculture Department. After more than five years, however, the program has made only a little headway toward the goals—elimination of surpluses, stoppage of all but emergency price supports, and the returning of the business of agriculture to informal consumer control through the free market.

Secretary Benson apparently has found it impossible in a political establishment such as the Federal government to set definite deadlines for accomplishing toward thought of leaders in every phase of the complicated mass of governmental machinery built up through 25 years of political engineering. Therefore, not much headway is being made. Surpluses continue to pile up, price supports and acreage allotments are continued.

Endangering Our System

Will our government spending \$5 billion a year propping up the price of cotton, corn, wheat, and other commodities, with \$7 billion tied up in surpluses, and with the world-wide menace of Communism pushing our defense spending above \$10 billion a year—the time has come for every citizen to do (Continued on Page 4B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 23, 1933)

Two committees of citizens of Farmington Township are expected to begin soon a study of finances of the township, as the result of a meeting Monday night at Bond School attended by over 100 men and women. One committee will make a study of the general financial situation of the township and the other will devote itself specifically to the welfare program and the means of handling this problem.

Study Finances

Almost Isolated

A large part of Farmington Township and surrounding territory was newly isolated this week following heavy rains and warmer weather which left dirt feeder roads impassable. During the past week heavy rains swelled the Rouge River over its banks in several places. However, at no place in Farmington did it threaten local residents' homes. It did not rise to the flood stage experienced a year ago. The roads are the worst they have ever been, however, older residents indicated. Most residents have been forced to leave their cars on the nearest hard surface road and walk the remaining distance to their homes.

Five Years Ago (March 26, 1933)

No Hunting Law

A bill to prevent hunting with firearms in Farmington Township was approved by the Michigan House of Representatives March 19 and has now been turned over to the Senate for its consideration and action. In addition to banning hunting, the bill authorizes the arrest of violators and prescribes certain penalties.

School Citizens' Group

Letters are being mailed out this week to various civic and service organizations in the community asking them to name representatives to a Citizens Advisory Committee of the Farmington Township School District. They are being mailed in accordance with a directive from the Board of Education, Superintendent O. E. Dunkel emphasized that the committee will play an important part in the future development of the School District.

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