

Editorial Page

Is Civil Service Good?

Stopping many of the attempts of Republican lawmakers to reduce state expenditures in recent months is a road-block called Civil Service. Some of the legislators are beginning to take a long, hard look at its increasing role in state government.

Civil Service always sounds so good on the face of it. We suspect that it is administered very much different in Michigan than other states, under quite different rules. Michigan, we know, is the only state where the Civil Service board has such authority that it can not be challenged by other state officials.

Its power to grant overall wage increases for all state employees without any hindrance, then let the legislature look for the money to pay the increase, is all wrong. But that's the law, and what has been done.

Thinking along this line is Representative Lloyd L. Anderson, a Waterford Republican, who has introduced a bill to reduce the number of state employees by 10 per cent over the next three years. He has also sponsored a resolution asking for "line item" budgets to make it possible for the legislature to thoroughly scrutinize budget requests. As it is now, a state department makes up a very general budget request, which might be granted or the total pared. But legislators, who have to raise the funds by their actions, have no detailed budget from which they could cut items they would consider not essential.

We're top heavy with bosses, says Anderson. The ratio of administrators to employees is about one to six in all but two departments. In one department where there is one administrator for every five employees, the legislators thought they could reduce administrative people by 52. But because of Civil Service their hands were tied.

It's time more citizens and taxpayers realize just what Civil Service is doing to our state government and expenditures. If public pressure became heavy enough, perhaps some corrective measures could be taken. No one would want to put an end to the principle of civil service, but that organization in Michigan should have some of its powers trimmed so that it no longer would be a little God unto itself, unanswerable to anyone!

Keep City Clean

With the placing of twenty more trash cans around the city's business districts, it will be much easier for all of us to follow the slogan "Keep Farmington Clean and Green."

As we have suggested before, we think the only way any impact will be made would be if a number of organizations worked together on a cleanup campaign, then followed up with a strong education campaign. Detroit is always talking about keeping the city clean. There has to be a lot of talk in a campaign to get through to the population segment called litterbugs. Certainly we have them in Farmington, too!

We need a group of dedicated workers to keep driving away on publicity for cleanliness, to show examples good and bad. The city and Farmington Downtown Business District Ass'n is trying, but really, they need more help.

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

PLYMOUTH The board of education members elected Mrs. Esther Hulsing as their new president last Monday night and her first task was to preside over a three-hour session that involved the two newly elected members who are far from being in accord with former members over the high school situation.

How to fairly compare the cost of building a new high school with the cost of enlarging the present building was discussed at length by the newly re-organized board.

The newly elected trustees to the board are of the opinion that the architectural firm making the comparison between what it would cost for a new school as compared with putting on an addition to the old can not do an impartial job. They base this opinion on the fact that the firm already has a contract to draw up preliminary plans for a new high school.

It was the new trustees feeling that another firm should be engaged to make the comparative study.

The final decision was to delay action on making comparative studies, at least at the present time.

—The Livonian.

BIRMINGHAM—With \$180,000 in accumulated auto parking system surplus funds, Birmingham believes now it can seriously consider a municipal office building project adjoining these parking lots with the view of possible expansion.

The city commission instructed him to report back with facts that will help them determine the economic feasibility of a municipal parking program in this area.

In the past four years, the city has spent \$844,000 to acquire four municipal parking lots to accommodate 326 cars in the area of three business areas.

Businessmen have paid 40 percent on \$337,600 of this expenditure.

—The Birmingham Eclectic.

LIVONIA—At least one Livonian questioner wants to know "how many more homes can be built in the city on the basis of the present water supply?"

Sydney Bagatz brought up the matter last Tuesday night after city engineer John Hiltz had returned from a rush trip to check the water supply in the area north of six miles.

At that particular moment the report was poor. Livonia pumps were strained as the water level in the city's water tower, Detroit side of the pump, intake pressure at one time Tuesday was down to 1 1/2 pounds.

Some homes in the northeast portion of the city had no water pressure at all. Most of the rest of the city was not suffering. In the southern part of the city, which is bolstered by a big storage tank on West Chicago) the problem was trivial.

Hiltz said that the connection of new water lines on Farmington Road in the next two or three weeks would offer some relief to drought-stricken homes. He also noted that the city of Detroit, which supplies the water, hook in 100 million gallons more capacity at its Springfield pumping station next year.

"which will take care of that 1 1/2 pound pressure problem."

"But," Hiltz added, "it might as well face it. When we encounter long dry spells such as the present one, Livonia's going to be short of water until new major water lines come in from Detroit."

—The Livonian.

DEARBORN—The school system's three school administrators are at a court-ordered vacation this week because of a legal bombshell dropped on the Dearborn Education last Monday night.

Newly elected board members Royal Targan appeared at the board meeting with a circuit court injunction which stipulated Supt. Stuart Opelanider, Finance Supt. Albert Brainard and Instruction Supt. Herschel K. Bennett from carrying out their duties until a hearing is held.

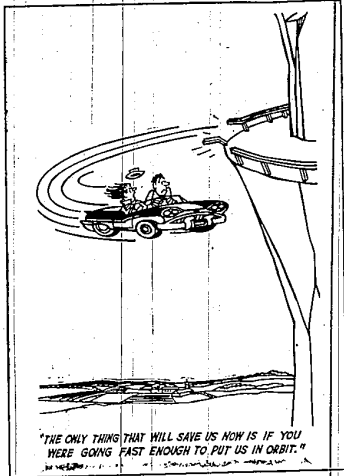
In his suit, Targan, an attorney, charged that the three administrators were illegally issued new three-year contracts by five members of the "fame duck" School Board on June 28.

This was two days before the new School Board officially took office and one day before the three contracts expired June 30.

—The Dearborn Press.

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MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Dems. Start Fight Anew for Reapportionment of Legislature

DEMOCRATS ARE STARTING another statewide fight for reapportionment of the Legislature.

The Democratic State Central Committee June 28 decided to form a committee to plan for reapportionment, a drive that has new significance for Democrats because of the 1959 dead-end in the Legislature over state finances.

THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE acted after party members in the 14th Congressional district adopted a statement blaming the Legislature for the "undemocratic" reapportionment system which permits Republicans to subvert the needs of the state to satisfy their own and their party's selfish ends.

Democrats claim areas for the Senate, a Republican stronghold by a 22-12 margin, are gerrymandered to Republican advantage.

The State Senate seats were put into the constitution of 1960 by voters.

Democrats are expected to circulate petitions to put the reapportionment issue on the ballot through legislative action. It would require a two-thirds vote of both houses to submit the issue to the people.

Senate Democratic Leader Harold Ryan, Detroit, said the proposal "wouldn't get to first base" in the Senate.

Democratic unhappiness with the present district lineup in the Senate was behind their refusal to endorse the proposal for constitutional revision that was on the ballot in November.

Delegates for the constitutional convention would be elected from present state districts.

SOME DEMOCRATS would like to see outright abolition of the Senate and creation of a unicameral Legislature.

A more likely proposal would be for the addition of seats that would be nominated by parties and elected at large.

Democrats say the addition of at-large lawmakers would give the population centers a bigger voice in the Senate without stirring up opposition by taking seats away from Republicans.

But any attempt at reapportionment will be more than a struggle for power between Republicans and Democrats.

It boils down to a fight between urban and rural areas.

EAST AND WEST MICHIGAN solded differences and reached agreement on a proposal to give special names to North-South highway routes in Michigan.

The Legislature passed a bill to designate US-131 from the Indiana border to Kalamazoo as a Mackinac Trail; M-58 and M-56 from the border to Kalamazoo as the Green Arrow Route; and US-131 from Kalamazoo to the Mackinac Bridge as the Green Arrow Route-Mackinac Trail.

The highway designation proposals were among the first to be made in the 1959 Legislature. It took about six months to work out a compromise.

A bill to designate a West Michigan Mackinac Trail was defeated after East Michigan interests said it would not be geographically accurate. The original Mackinac Trail used by Indians went north from Saginaw.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago JULY 12, 1934

New School
The new school building planned by Our Lady of Sorrows church is soon to be under construction, with the first turning of earth Thursday for the structure. Within a short time, excavating for the basement of the building will be under way, by steam shovel.

Windstorm
High winds, accompanied by driving rain, struck Farmington and vicinity Friday. Trees were blown down and window glass was shattered, and hanging was damaged of any serious extent.

Cheap
Dolos Hamlin's Market advertised flour for 25 cents for five-pound bags, and hanging was selling for two pounds for 25 cents.

10 Years Ago JULY 13, 1949

School Board President
D. Gerald Domes was elected president of the school board of Farmington township school district Monday night when the board met for the first time. Domes had been secretary of the board for a time and had been a member for two years.

Winner
Lois Deal, daughter of Miriam Mrs. Ross Deal, 2145 Jackson, won a silver medal in a speech contest at the June meeting of the Farmington W.C.T.U.

Solvent
The Farmington State Bank lost \$5,611.688 total assets, as of June 30 as compared to total liabilities of \$6,230,137. It was listed in a financial report signed by J. W. Avery, cashier.

Street Signs
The erection of street signs throughout the township is expected to be completed in about two weeks. A total of 100 signs are being erected. A number of streets in the township will be re-named.

Coffee
Hills Bros. coffee was selling for 49 cents a pound, advertised Conroy's market and food locker.

5 Years Ago JULY 15, 1954

Parking Ordinance
An ordinance establishing a parking control zone on US 16 in the vicinity of 10-Mile was adopted by the Township Board at its meeting Tuesday. No park-

Returns From Caribbean Sea

Cecil L. Eagleton, aviation electronics technician second class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Eagleton of 2068 Whitlock Street, Farmington, and husband of the former Miss Gloria K. Schumacher of Livonia, returned to Farmington, July 1, aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Independence after eight weeks of training in the Caribbean Sea.

Returning to participate in Fourth of July activities, the Independence, newest of this country's attack carriers, sailed from Norfolk in late April on her maiden training voyage, putting finishing touches on the already highly experienced jet pilots and airmen of Carrier Air Group Seven.

The work is, of course, all voluntary.

Artists are a peculiar people. They are creative and having created something would like to share it with others. They do their work must be seen. It doesn't have to be appreciated; it doesn't have to be admired; it is enough that it is just seen.

I urge Enterprise readers to come and see our show and help make it a success. Your presence will be greatly appreciated and you may even be pleasantly entertained.

Sincerely, Wanda Pusey

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