

Editorial Page

Featherbedding

An advertisement in this issue of The Enterprise reminds us of a thought which has been recurring many times. It is on the subject of featherbedding or costly made work in many industries—not just the American railroads.

Railroads get this from all sides. They are bound by complicated government regulations, restricted by union regulations and featherbedding, crippled by competition from government-encouraged air traffic.

Featherbedding is really what the steel strike is about, with the steel firms trying to trim out some of these costly practices, trying to regain a little control over their own processes and businesses. Steel has heavy competition from foreign countries, and will, soon price itself out of the market if the manufacturers can't find some ways to pare their heavy labor costs.

Newspapers have the same problems, the larger dailies where unions control nearly all methods and restrict use of labor-saving machinery. There is plenty of "made" work which is just dumped and never used because of union regulations.

Unless the public wakes up to the deep problems railroads, steel, newspapers and about every large industry in America faces, there is going to be more and more inflation, destruction of business firms, and loss of jobs by the union men themselves—and more pockets of continual heavy unemployment like our own Detroit area. The public must VOICE this support, or it will do no good. It may be naive to ask union men to give support, but it is to their own best interests in the end, as well as all the country.

The Russian Threat

After spending last Friday and Saturday at the University of Michigan listening to talks, discussions, questions and answers about the progress and likely future of Russia, we must admit to a growing feeling of uneasiness.

The event was the annual meeting of the University Press Club of Michigan, and the speakers on the program had all been in Russia and appeared to know a lot about it.

Our uneasiness is not founded on the fear of war, but rather on the startling progress made in considerably less than half a century—and more so when compared with our progress and our big head start.

They say it is a sign of old age when you feel the world is going to the dogs. Maybe so, but these meetings did make a person sort of wonder if our own world couldn't at least be improved a bit. The speakers didn't say this, they only gave facts. It was afterwards, in personal comparison, that our worry started.

The Russians recognized that education is the key which unlocks the door to greatness. We know mostly their scientific successes, but they have made significant advances in art and culture. President Harlan Hatcher pointed out that the American teacher expounds and exposes, leaving students free to make their own choice. Russian education is based on rigidly controlled reading material, a great deal of censorship, and "all the pressures you can devise by subtle pedagogical means."

The comparisons sort of remind us of the fall of the Roman empire.

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI—Petitions calling for an election to return Novi to township status are now being circulated.

It has been determined that approximately 400 signatures will be necessary to get such an election. It called by the council after determining the legality of the petitions, a two-thirds majority vote would be necessary to dissolve the village government and incorporate it into Novi.

This return to township government movement comes just one year from the time Novi incorporated a village to preserve its borders from annexations.

The petitions come as a climax to a year of rocky developments. Cited as causing the movement were: (1) Re-zoning of some property from agricultural to industrial; (2) Dissatisfaction with the village council and his control over the village hall; (3) Personal problems within the village hall; (4) Sharp differences between the village manager and township supervisor, Frazer Staman; (5) Charges that the higher-tax village government has provided fewer, rather than more, community services; (6) Charges that Novi has "four corner" government with inadequate concern for outlying areas within the village.

—The Novi News

DEARBORN—Alarmed by the increasing regularity of "hot rodding" and speeding through residential and main thoroughfares, Dearborn Township is making a move to get the village hall to get a better standing on the serious problem.

The Township Board has invited representatives from Romulus, Nankin, Taylor and Redford township as well as justices of the peace, state police and county officials to attend a special meeting to discuss the matter.

One of the things to be discussed will be the possibility of electrical speed controls.

Enforcement officers can't watch some dangerous corners but this is not the answer, car-fid said. As soon as a motorist is far enough away from the corner where the car is he's off and racing again."

—The Dearborn Press

PLYMOUTH—Elected in the Plymouth Community School the Plymouth Community School Board is to hold the polls on Monday, Nov. 23, to vote on a bond issue of \$4 million dollars or more which will provide for improving present buildings and construction of more classroom facilities.

The Board of Education decided to hold the election during a three-hour meeting at which they also discussed proposed construction details with an architect and modernization of the present high school.

It had definitely been decided not to build additions to the present high school and not to build a new high school outside the city limits.

Taking the place of these two ideas in the construction of a "combination" building, it would be built in two units with the first being completed to handle sixth, seventh and eighth grade pupils. Other grades would then be added until it would eventually become a senior high for 10th, 11th and 12th graders only.

The exact amount of the bond issue has not been set, but a firm figure on the cost of such a combination building has not yet been set."

—The Plymouth Mail

LIVONIA—Residents of Livonia will pay a city tax rate of 7.875 mills next year.

Before there was some unpredictable equalization factor is applied. But, based on last year's equalization by the state and county, the final figure will be about 10 mills to apply against individual assessments.

That covers only the city portion of taxes. The school tax will be about 10 mills and county, the final figure range.

The new rate, established by the city council, actually is a record high. It will leave the out-of-pocket result to taxpayers about the same as a year ago.

—The Livonian

SOUTH LYON—The South Lyon Planning Commission has authorized a change in the city zoning ordinance to allow both flat and; projected signs on buildings in the present business district.

—The South Lyon Herald

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ECONOMICS LESSON

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MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

Groups Forming to Promote State Economic Development

IN MICHIGAN nearly everybody talks about the state's economy. And many are doing something about it.

Among the latest to announce they will work for a more favorable economic climate are 39 business and civic leaders who will meet in December to formally organize a Michigan State Chamber of Commerce.

Articles of incorporation for the state chamber were filed with the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission early in October.

Diversified forces are being mustered to promote Michigan economic development. The Republican-controlled Legislature has created special committees to study the state economy.

Democratic Gov. G. Mennen Williams has appointed 200 Industrial Ambassadors, a special committee on Michigan's Economic Development and a commission to set policies for the Department of Economic Development.

A nonpartisan Citizens for Michigan movement has been started by American Motors President George Romney.

And both political parties are preparing for a 1960 repeat of the arguments about economic climate sounded during the 1958 campaigns.

No contest should be presented by these efforts and those of a state chamber, according to incorporators of the Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber hopes to provide a central organization to coordinate all activities geared to advance the general prosperity of Michigan.

Behind the new organization is the belief that businessmen should take a more active interest in government. The department also is expected to establish better communications with relatives of patients. Hospital officials have been too light-lipped, the board said. In some cases, relatives learned of accidents and injuries from policemen and newspapers.

Eleven of the steering committee members are from the Detroit area. They are S. D. Denly, William Day, E. O. George, W. B. Hurley, K. G. Taylor, George Russell, E. H. Rydholm, Harvey J. Campbell, Richard L. Chapman, Walker L. Ciesler and Reid.

Outstate members are Briggs, Sarvis, Vincent Footman, T. V. Clark, Paul C. Johnson, Midland; Edgar L. Harden, Marquette; Max P. Heavenrich, Saginaw; Creghton D. Holden, St. Clair; Paul C. Johnson, Muskegon; Kermit Krom, Battle Creek; William D. McIntyre, Monroe; Stephen S. Nisbet, Fremont; Walter Patenge, East Lansing; Travis W. Pearce, Jackson; Donald J. Porter, Grand Rapids; W. B. Reeve, Iron Mountain; Day W. Slagis, Battle Creek; John H. Warden, Houghton; W. R. Boris, Jackson; Rex Potter, Battle Creek; Gerald L. Johnson, Marquette; T. G. Corbett, Port Huron; A. C. Boyd, Lansing; J. T. Hay Mays, John R. H. Albert, Saginaw; John A. Chapman, Benton Harbor; W. F. Day, Lansing; and William Palmer, Lansing.

MICHIGAN'S NEWSPAPERS, representing the strongest combined force in promoting the joined forces for celebration of National Newspaper Week which ended Oct. 21.

A compilation of figures based on the 1958 Michigan Newspaper Directory and Ratebook, published by the Michigan Press Association, shows total circulation of Michigan newspapers for 1958 was 3,191,533—highest on record.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago
OCTOBER 18, 1934

New Dairy
A dairy and ice cream plant, said to be inferior to none in any community in the United States comparable in size, will be opened officially around the first of November.

Joseph Himmelspach, manager of the Farmington Dairy, made the announcement this week.

The plant, which he is being built on the property formerly owned by the D. U. R., will have a capacity of 20,000 gallons of milk and 1,000 gallons of ice cream daily. There will be ten rooms in the new plant including three offices, a store, freezing room, wash room, boiler room and receiving room. A shower room for employees will also be provided.

School Welfare
The next session of the Michigan Legislature will have to take some far-reaching action to help keep school in the state open, just as was done at the last session, Rep. Melvin H. Lee told members of the Farmington Exchange Club at its meeting Wednesday.

The present act, designed to provide \$15,000 yearly in State aid, is effective only by June 30, 1935, he commented. Rep. Lee is an advocate of a permanent program of State Aid for schools.

10 Years Ago
OCTOBER 20, 1949

Zoning Ordinance
Initial steps were taken by the Farmington Township Board toward the adoption of a building code and zoning ordinance at its regular meeting Tuesday.

The new building code is more complete than the one read months ago. Action was delayed on the previous code pending a more detailed study and revisions. The purpose of the code is to regulate building in the township. It sets up minimum requirements for construction.

The zoning ordinance has not yet been drawn up but a resolution of intent to adopt such an ordinance was passed. Work will now get underway on the drawing up of the ordinance.

Rusty Water
Farmington housewives may not be boiling rusty water much longer.

Tentative arrangements have now been made to equip the city's water plant with a rust remover, pending approval by city commission.

Cost for the rust remover installation initially will be around \$60. Monthly cost for chemical replacement should not be more than \$20, it was estimated.

5 Years Ago
OCTOBER 21, 1954

Zoning Petition
The Farmington Township Zoning Board has recommended that the request of the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company for a rezoning of property in the vicinity of Northwestern and Fourteen Mile Road not be granted.

The recommendation followed a public hearing held Monday evening.

Michigan Consolidated had petitioned the Board for a rezoning of several parcels on both Northwestern and Fourteen Mile roads from residential to commercial to light industrial.

WHERE'S CHARLIE?

WANTED TO GET THE LION'S SHARE OF HIS AUTO REPAIR WORK BEFORE WINTER CAGED HIM IN.

So he took off for General Auto Repair where it's quite safe to expect the best in service and quality. Bury your car in today for a seasonal check.

My Neighbors

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GR. 4-2144

See your plumber or appliance dealer

Approximately 300 persons jammed the Town Hall for the public hearing. Most of the residents were present to protest the rezoning.

Citizens Group
Organizational plans are now underway for the formation of a township-wide citizens' committee, an announcement made this week, disclosed.

The proposed committee will be composed of representatives of the various civic groups and subdivision associations, through out the township. A number of these organizations have already declared their intentions to participate in the organization.

The purpose of the organization will be to coordinate the various community efforts into one united program.

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