

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.

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With



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. If passed by the community after determining the legality of the petitions, a two-thirds majority vote would be necessary to dissolve the village government.

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

The petitions come as a climax to a year of rocky developments. Cited as causing the movement were: (1) Rezoning of some property from agricultural to industrial by the assistant township manager and his control over the council. (2) Personnel problems within the village hall. (3) Sharp differences between the village manager and township supervisor, Frazer Staman. (4) Charges that the higher taxes proposed few years ago were more communistic services. (5) 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 it hopes will spearhead the efforts in getting a better stronghold on the serious problem.

The Township Board has instructed Supervisor John Canfield to call a meeting of Wayne and western out-county officials to consider possible controls to the traffic hazard.

Canfield has invited representatives from Royal Oak, Nankin, and the western out-of-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.

Police and traffic officials say but this is not the answer, canfield said. As soon as the motorist is far enough away from the corner where the car is he's off and racing again.

—The Dearborn Press

PLYMOUTH—Electors in the Plymouth Community School the Plymouth Community Sch District will go to the polls on Monday, Nov. 23, to vote on a bond issue of \$4 million dollars or more which will provide for improved present buildings and facilities of more classroom facilities.

The Board of Education decided on the date during a three-hour meeting at which they also discussed proposed construction details with an architect and maximization 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 lead of these two ideas is 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 school board of the bond issue has not yet set a figure on the cost of such a combination building has not yet been set.

—The Plymouth Mall

LIVONIA—Residents of Livonia will pay a city tax of \$1.85 million this year.

That's before the somewhat unpredictable equalization factor is applied. But, based on last year's equalization by the state and county, the final figure should be about 10 mills to apply against individual assessments.

That covers only the city portion of taxes. The school tax will be in the area of 25 mills per capita, the final figure range.

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

—The Livonian

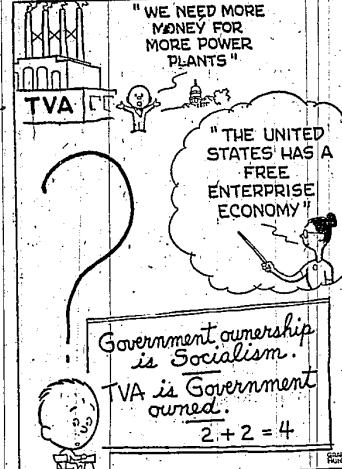
SOUTH LYON—The South Lyon Planning Commission has authorized a change in the city's zoning ordinance to allow both flat and projected signs on buildings in the present business district.

A compilation of figures based on the 1959 Michigan Newspaper Directory and Ratebook, published by the Michigan Press Association, shows total circulation of Michigan Newspapers in 1959 was 3,191,523—highest on record.

—The South Lyon Herald

John Clappison Sells Insurance Phone GR. 4-5111

ECONOMICS LESSON



MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Groups Forming to Promote State Economic Development

IN MICHIGAN

nearly every-

Michigan's 56 daily newspapers had a total circulation of 2,390,613 and the 302 weeklies had a circulation of 800,910.

AMONG THE LATEST TO ANNOUNCE

39th annual 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 SECRETARY OF STATE

ON OCTOBER 1.

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