

Editorial Page

No Wider Cars, Please

For some time we have been thinking about the increasing width of autos, and wondering if it were wise. Now we see Tennessee has done something about it.

Tennessee law requires all vehicles more than 80 inches wide to have special lighting devices on the side similar to trucks. Cars thus affected include Ford, Chevrolet, Pontiac, Lincoln, Mercury, Continental, Edsel, Chrysler Imperial and Oldsmobile.

You will recall also that last year Pontiac came out with a wheelbase six inches wider than standard. This width is something that is apt to grow year after year as cars get bigger in competition, just as this growth has now forced the Big Three to bring out more compact cars.

Now is the time for the federal government to call a halt to car widths, before so many have gotten so big it can not be stopped. No maker would be hurt now if he knew that models, say three years hence, could be no wider than 80 inches.

The only time wider cars would be better would be in rounding sharp curves at great speed. That's no advantage!

If cars get wider it's going to bring a demand for widening a great deal of highway which is now adequate. That's very costly.

Some people are calling Tennessee's law behind the times. To our way of thinking it is ahead of the rest of the nation.

Industrial Climate

From a member of an Industrial Development Corporation in a Michigan smaller town we have received a summary more complete than usual of what some industry executives have told him about the industrial climate present now in Michigan. He says Michigan has to offer at least as much as other upper midwest states.

You've heard some of these reasons before, but this is really a complete list.

Industry is afraid of the coalition of big organized labor and the Democratic party. They do not feel, generally, that they are paying more state taxes now than they should, but they recognize that Michigan with the power alignment of big labor and a Democratic party, which increases in size faster than the Republican party, can spell a lot of trouble.

They do not like their treatment in worker compensation cases where they don't get a fair shake; they don't like the high unemployment tax and the chiselling that goes with it, and rulings of the state supreme court, always against industry.

They have grave doubts of what the tax picture would have been like today had the Democratic governor also had a Democratic legislature to pass all the corporation taxes he wanted.

As substantial citizens of Michigan they ask for fair treatment; not a free ride. They want some understanding of their problems, not a deaf ear and shouts from the governor of "phony issue" whenever the question of favorable industrial climate is mentioned.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

15 Years Ago

NOV. 23, 1944

School Consolidation

Electors from the school districts in the City and Township of Farmington will go to the polls Nov. 23 to decide the question of consolidating the two school districts.

10 Years Ago

NOV. 24, 1949

New School Buses

Farmington School Board agreed to ask for bids on two more new school buses. Already two busses have been purchased by the board; this will be the third.

To Repair Landmark

Farmington City Council has submitted a resolution Monday evening at the city council meeting. No reason was given by Loomis in the letter he submitted to fellow councilmen.

Population Booms

During the past four years, combined population of Farmington City and Township has jumped an estimated 25 percent, according to records from the Detroit Office of Farmington Landmark — a local commission. The City's population is about 3,000, and the Township's 14,600.

The Farmington Enterprise

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Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Name or where you live must be given. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Favors Progressive Income Tax Plan

Dear Sirs:

I have written this attached letter to the state representative and senator for this area. The Hon. L. Harvey Lodge, State Senator, 12th District; The Hon. James Clarkson, State Representative, 4th District. I thought a number of your readers might be interested in this and, perhaps, would like to communicate their views to those who represent them in Lansing.

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas Ford Hough

The following is the text of Hough's letter.

The chairman of the Republican Party in Michigan has asked that we write our representatives in Lansing to express ourselves about the current tax crisis. This letter is my response to that appeal.

As a member of the Democratic (if I am independent in my political beliefs), I am convinced that a so-called "progressive" income tax is the only equitable long-range solution to taxing problems. A vote on this, as well as the new tax law, should be a non-partisan issue.

The short-range solution should involve sufficient money to pay up the state's creditors and should above all be enough to pay the \$205 for each school pupil and other continuing obligations. Whoever sponsors the short-range solution should be asked to stand up and take the responsibility instead of participating in the current farce about bi-partisan sponsorship.

I should add, finally, that in my work I come in contact with many people who are greatly annoyed by the heard extreme disgust expressed for what is termed "obstructionist" tactics of the Senate majority particularly. It would take a Solomon to decide who is ultimately right in this situation, but it seems reasonable to me that the Republicans, in particular, will feel the wrath of the electorate at the first opportunity. This will be the first time it will mean that the two-party system in Michigan will suffer a further blow.

Proposes Chamber of Commerce Here

Ed. Note—The following letter from township resident Daniel Hickey, was read aloud at a recent township board meeting.

In the letter, Hickey proposes that a township chamber of commerce be established. It is reprinted here at Hickey's request so that its exact proposal is known.

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Know Your Police -

This is the thirteenth in a series of articles introducing you to members of the City of Farmington Department of Public Safety and the Farmington Township Police Department.

ROBERT VICK

Patrolman Robert E. Vick is one of the newer members on the City of Farmington Department of Public Safety. Force.

He joined the force a little more than a year ago and makes his home in Dearborn.

Vick, 35, and his wife, Lottie, have three children: Joanne, 14; Sharon, 9, and Robert, 6.

A 1940 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Dearborn, Vick served three years with the military police in the Army. For a year and a half he was a sergeant in the Army police officer association.

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