

Bentley Mid-Winter Instrumental Concert February 5

Danger Lurking In Charter Change Says One Author

(In an effort to stimulate thinking about the coming charter election Feb. 21 THE LIVONIA OBSERVER is running a series of articles pro and con on the issue and try to answer some questions regarding charter revision. Regardless how voters feel about the charter they should select nine candidates to serve on the commission so that should it pass they could have a voice in selecting those studying it).

BY W. W. EDGAR

Within the past few weeks much has been written and said about the "need" to "revise" the charter for the City of Livonia.

It has been said that the present charter is outdated, that it was written with aims little above that of the old township government and that it is woefully weak as an instrument of modern day requirements.

Nothing has been said about the dangers and the gamble involved in any attempt to rewrite it.

But, as a member of the original Charter Commission, I can't refrain from sounding a warning that danger lurks at every turn and that any revision is bound to be an upward revision that would prove costly and possibly cause an upheaval in our present way of life.

Knowing full well that I will be charged as being biased—and I plead guilty—I would like to point out the safeguards that were emphasized in the writing of the present charter for the protection of the citizens.

When the Charter Commission set about its task more than 15 years ago it was with the feeling that we had a mandate to set up a model city and provide the greatest good for the greatest number.

With that in mind we laid the solid foundation for the protection of the citizens:

1—A tax limitation of five mills. (The city operated on one mill for the first four years of its existence).

2—A strong Mayor form of government.

3—A non-partisan government.

There was much more to the Charter than this, but these three (plus others) formed the foundation. And it was the unanimous feeling of the Commission that the adoption of these three things would be a real safeguard.

First, it meant that no administration through the years could boost the taxes above five mills without a vote of the people. That was important then and it is important now.

Second, we preferred what is known as the "Strong Mayor" form of government for several reasons. Chief among them was the fact that we would have one of our own residents for a chief executive—and not an imported City Manager who knew nothing of the community or its people and would be interested only in spending our money to make a showing and bring about a better offer of employment from another city.

Third, being agreed on a non-partisan government we hoped to remove as much politics as possible and not have a city divided against itself with two political factions fighting each other to the end that little would be accomplished.

In building the charter on this foundation we added the various Boards and Commissions and in so doing took the advice of many experts who appeared



OPENING A headquarters for the Wayne 19th District Republican party at 2025 Middlebelt road at Mrs. Elly Peterson.

GOP Will Win -- Elly

Republican State Chairman Elly Peterson, addressed an overflow crowd of Livonia and Redford citizens at the official opening of the Wayne County 19th District Republican headquarters, 2025 Middlebelt Road, Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Mrs. Peterson expressed confidence that local actions such as the opening of a new district office, formations of a women's and young republicans club and excellent candidates will lead to Republican victories in Lansing and Washington in 1966.

The fiery state chairman blasted unnecessary secrecy and civilian bungling in the Viet Nam war and suggested that trained military men should be making more of decisions on the conduct of the war.

She also discussed the united financial drive to aid all Republican candidates and cited numerous examples of corruption and waste in the Job Corps and War on Poverty programs.

GOP Ladies Look At Charter Revision

An intensive study session, complete with a panel discussion and a question and answer period will be presented Thursday, Feb. 10, at 1 p.m., dealing with the proposed Livonia charter revision.

Audrey Whitehead, Helen Taddono and Veda Vogel, a committee appointed by the local Republican Women's Federation, planned the program to aid Livonians in making an informed decision in the Feb. 21 election.

Men who have worked closely with the charter and are most familiar with its strengths and weaknesses will discuss the issue at the new site of the Wayne 19th District Republican headquarters, 2025 Middlebelt Rd.

Rudolph Kildear, council president and one of the most vocal opponents of the present charter will present the experiences of the city council in working with the ideas from the office of the chief executive will be presented by Mayor Moelke, Steve Polgar,

A Combined Effort

Bentley Orchestra, Concert Band and Junior Varsity Band will join forces in the presentation of the school's annual Mid-Winter Concert the evening of Feb. 5, in the school auditorium. The concert will be conducted by Robert Clark, director of the instrumental assemblies at Bentley.

Highlights of the orchestral portion of the program will include the Intermezzo from the Harry Jan's Suite by Kodaly, the Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 8, and the overture, Iphigenia in Aulis by Gluck.

The Concert Band will be heard in the Death and Transfiguration by Strauss, and the Finale to the Glazunov Symphony No. 3. The Concert Band

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'Bomb For Peace, Hard To Believe In Vietnam War and Events

By FAITH GELLESPIE

FOCUS ON VIETNAM: "We are playing into the Viet Cong's hands by saying we are 'bombing for peace'..."

So said David Arnold, last week in a speech on the question, "How the U.S. Got Involved in Vietnam."

Dr. Arnold, who is the director of the Center for International Studies at Ohio University, served for 14 months (1961-62) as a working Service Reserve Officer with the U.S. Information Agency, working in Saigon and in the Mekong Delta.

In tracing the historical background of the Vietnam dilemma, Dr. Arnold discussed the following which he feels are the three major reasons for distrust toward the U.S. on the part of the Viet Minh, and now the head of the Viet Cong in North Vietnam.

1) In 1946, after promising the Vietnamese that we would get them a U.N. Trust Territory, we changed our mind and supported the return of French to Vietnam, which had been French-Indo China prior to World War II.

2) In 1954, the Geneva Accords were drawn, dividing the country into North and South Vietnam, but promising reunification by general elections. Subsequently, the U.S. recognized South Vietnam as a separate nation, and convinced its leaders not to hold the scheduled elections. "Ho Chi Minh felt tricked," Dr. Arnold said, "because he would have won his majority if free elections had been held."

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