

# Readers Express Concern About Education

## All Could Be Lost

Editor:

As the former Mayor of Berkeley, I wish to express my deep regret and concern over the failure of the fifteen cities to agree on the much needed East-West Expressway that has been an issue now for the past nine years. The fact that two cities, Roseville and Pleasant Ridge would not agree on any terms whatsoever which would result in a solution to this serious problem can only mean the loss of local control and power for home rule cities.

I might remind the two protesting cities—that it was just two months ago that the Legislature was attempting to dictate policy to home rule cities in a number of areas. Only the strong opposition by local units of government throughout the entire state defeated these proposals. Now today, however, Governor Romney and the Legislature have no alternative but to call for a special session of the Legislature and take this "power of control" away from all cities (some 400 in Michigan) because of the unwillingness to agree by two cities, Roseville and Pleasant Ridge.

The loss of local control and power to me and to many other mayors is too high a price to pay for home rule cities and in the long run it will be deeply regretted.

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Also of great concern here is that the State of Michigan stands to lose 181 million dollars and the loss of a vital needed expressway to the more than 4 million citizens of metropolitan Detroit.

Therefore, I strongly urge that the City Council of both Roseville and Pleasant Ridge reconsider their respective positions prior to the necessity of forcing action at the state level.

Governor Romney should be commended for his concern, patience and perseverance in his many attempts to negotiate an acceptable compromise agreement in an almost impossible situation. The real losers here are the 4 million citizens of metropolitan Detroit.

**GEORGE W. KUHN,**  
Former Mayor of Berkeley

### Will Look It Over

Editor:

Myra Chandler's comments about the proposed Garden City Charter were interesting.

If there is any possibility whatsoever that an ambitious person could use it for purposes of building a political machine to perpetuate power then we should all study the charter very carefully.

I think most people would prefer a weak mayor for two years than a strong tyrant for four years. They wouldn't have to wait so long to get a good man or woman in office.

**STANLEY GLAMBS**

### Kindred For Kuhn

Editor:

On August 2, 1966 we have the opportunity to take the first step in returning to Washington D.C. the ethics, honesty and capability that is to be expected of our duly elected representatives. For on that date we will flock to the polling place to select the candidates for the office of United States Congressman from the 19th District.

If you believe that your Congressman should have the experience and background to be an effective and true representative of the electorate who placed their trust in him... your choice must be Richard D. Kuhn!

Dick Kuhn's educational qualifications, law practice, business experience, community service activities, family success story, and exemplary record of attendance and leadership during Michigan's Constitutional Convention (plus, 3 yrs. as Page in the U.S. Congress) places him far above the other candidates.

There is not enough space here to detail Dick Kuhn's qualifications and his sane

approach to constitutional government and today's inherent problems. However, if you agree that we should fight inflation and high taxes by less government spending; if you oppose foreign aid to Communist countries; if you favor reduction of government competition with the private business; if you want a less Federal interference in local government... and if you believe in individualism, initiative, and incentive; as the criterion for a strong America VOTE FOR DICK KUHN!

**GEORGE KINDRED**  
Livonia

### Objects

Editor:

In reviewing the school board hearing on the Park School "Shared Learning Experience," it is evident that the Board has failed to communicate with district residents. Certainly the bad manners of one speaker at the hearing and the childishness of two couples is to be condemned. The board, however, followed its normal, self-righteous procedure in which there seems to be no hope for recognizing views of the community, let alone adopting them.

Worse than that, the board seemed eager to deny federal participation in the "Experience." Livonia has participated in background work, paid for by federal funds. Certainly the "Experience" follows in time and objective the establishment of federal programs in the area of the "Experience." History of an answer, the board provided more ammunition to those who petitioned for the hearing.

Lost in the shuffle was the most significant provision of that evening—the 1412 guideline for educational policy-making. Fortunately, the Observer reprinted this statement on its editorial page on June 29. Mr. Katz assumed that we all accept the assumption "that teaching children about the world around them is a legitimate function of the public school system." This may well be, by itself, but his line, "informed decision-making about social conflict situations may be even more important to (the children's) future than their knowledge of basic principles of mathematics or science."

There are two major objections to the Katz credo. First, under the school may assign a lower priority to basic education than to "social" education. There are enough unemployed already without creating more by failing to provide our children with skills traditionally taught in public schools. Second, the school can claim any social situation as a prop-

**A Missile Expert**  
Airman Randolph B. Tengel, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Tengel, 19774, Spomer, Redford Township, has been selected for technical training at Sheppard AFB, Tex., as a U.S. Air Force basic facilities specialist. The airman, who recently completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex., was graduated from Redford Union High School in 1964 and attended Palm Beach Junior College, Lake Worth, Fla.

er classroom. Who is qualified to select and to teach field trips to social conflict situations such as labor-management negotiations, divorce court, Saigon, etc.? Have we parents really yielded this responsibility to the public school system? If the state is responsible, church, family, boy scouts, etc. can be forgotten. I, for one, reject the Katz philosophy.

**DAVID M. STEVENS**  
Livonia

### Editor:

In this week's editorial Bill Gail has written an article entitled "Be Silent (If You Agree)." Since I do not agree, I feel I must take my pen in hand on this point. However, I wish to make it abundantly clear that it is with Mr. Gail I do not agree and not the Livonia School Board.

Mr. Gail has evidenced an incredible lack of accuracy in writing his editorial. He not only has failed to mention facts pertinent to the issue in question but what is even worse, he has either deliberately misconstrued the applicable law or in the alternative has failed to properly investigate the state of the law.

The article begins by indicating that employees must be members of the union in order to obtain a job. This would indicate a closed shop which is barred both by federal and state law and as a matter of fact, is not provided for in the contract between the municipal employees and the school district.

Mr. Gail then goes on to explain what he really means is that new employees will be required to join the union within thirty days from the date of hiring, a clause common to the vast majority of collective bargaining agreements and commonly referred to as a Union Shop and that old employees presently on the payroll will not be required to join the union but will have to pay the sum of \$3 per month in dues, a clause which is known as the Agency Shop Rule and has been upheld in every court decision in the United States.

He indicates that between these two clauses the union would

not have a right to demand to voice their opinions, since the union is now their spokesman. This, of course, is complete hogwash, since the employees are the union, elect their own representatives and at all times have the right to voice their opinion in union meetings and through the use of their vote carry out those opinions.

The greatest distortion of all is when Mr. Gail indicates that if an employee dissents, he may not only be booted out of the union but he will also lose his job in the process. This is absolutely incorrect.

First of all, an employee is protected by the Constitution of his union and always has the right to dissent. Furthermore, if he acts in a manner contrary to the union's interest, he is entitled to a trial before his fellow members and in the rare instance where his fellow members determine that he should not hold union office or membership, the only recourse is to bar him from union membership.

However, under such a circumstance, the union would

not have a right to demand that the employee be fired and if, in fact, they would make such a demand, they would be guilty of an unfair labor practice and as such subject to the sanction of the Michigan Labor Department.

Moreover, no employer would be required to discharge an employee under such circumstances and, in fact, the employee under these circumstances would be saving himself the \$36 a year which seems to disturb Mr. Gail anyway.

It seems to me that even on an editorial page a reporter worth his salt should make a cursory investigation of the applicable law before he comments on it and then, if he doesn't agree with it, he should write in a manner that indicates what the law is, as well as what the editorialist's opinion is.

It would appear that Mr. Gail's editorial should be saved for the National Right to Work Committee, since it smacks of the same absurd and erroneous propaganda which they have foisted upon the public for to these many years.

It seems to me that the Observer Newspapers if they expect to be respected for their opinions in the community, should be obligated before commenting upon the law, or for what may or may not happen under a collective bargaining agreement to at least become aware of the facts and the law as they pertain to the issues in question.

**ALLEN J. KOVINSKY,**  
General Counsel for the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO  
Editor's Note:  
We are all polarized. Thank you for your opinion.

THURS. FRI. SAT!

# KRESGE'S

THURS. FRI. SAT!

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