

Must Public Workers Join?

Labor Law Is Not Clear on Union Shop

Can school districts and municipalities agree to hire only union members?

The Michigan Attorney General, Frank J. Kelley, says the matter is unresolved.

"It is not possible at this time to say that the legislature has required or authorized a governmental agency to enter into an agreement providing for a closed shop or union shop," he advised this newspaper by letter.

He explained the two terms, saying, "A closed shop is one where only union members may be hired. A union shop is one in which non-union members can be hired but must become a union member within a prescribed time period."

Kelley noted that the legislature did not specifically answer this question when it amended the Hutchinson Act to permit collective bargaining by public agencies and their employees.

The statute contains provisions both characteristic and uncharacteristic of a closed or union shop. Section 11 provides that a representative selected by a majority shall be the exclusive representative of all employees in the unit.

"On the other hand, the same section allows the individual presentation of grievances under certain conditions. Section 15 states that the obligation to bargain collectively does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession."

But he noted a somewhat contradictory condition, which has also been cited by Livonia City Attorney Steve Polgar, that makes it unlawful for a public employer "to discriminate in regard to hire, terms or other conditions of employment in order to encourage or discourage membership in a labor organization."

Polgar gave an opinion to the Livonia City Council last fall in which he called attention to the same situation that public employers are expressly prohibited from encouraging membership in labor organizations.

"Accordingly, it is the conclusion of the Department of Law that a closed or union shop may not be permitted and any contract that may ultimately be negotiated that provides for such a limitation would be invalid," Polgar declared.

Despite the uncertainty about the question, a number of governmental units in this area and throughout Michigan are granting union shop provisions.

Custodians and bus drivers in the Livonia School District and Garden City employees are among the bus groups which have insisted that public employers join the union officially recognized as the bargaining unit. They have signed contracts to this effect.

Redford Township has a completely open-shop situation. No worker is forced to become a member in order to hold his job.

When Detroit grappled with the problem last spring, Albert G. Leggat, director of

the city's Labor Relations Bureau said, "One official told me that in the absence of any strong language prohibiting the union shop, the new state law, in his opinion, would be interpreted as permitting the union shop."

Teacher groups have not generally sought to make membership in their association a condition of employment, but public workers represented by the American Federation of State, Municipal and County Employees have made a strong push to obtain such a provision in their contracts.

Little objection to the practice has been heard from individuals who don't belong to unions, although recently in Allen Park, 17 women office

Charter Issue Discussed By Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club, at its last meeting, featured a pro-and-con discussion of the revised City Charter which was defeated by a 21-10-1 margin in the Aug. 2 primary election.

Charter Commissioners Gerald Coleman, Arnold Folker, and Dr. Francis Schmiedt discussed the charter before the voters' rejection of it and the Kiwanis members also held a question and answer period on the document.

The program was presented by the club's public and business affairs committee.



The Observer

LIVONIA OBSERVER
PLYMOUTH OBSERVER
WESTLAND OBSERVER

REDFORD OBSERVER
FARMINGTON OBSERVER
GARDEN CITY OBSERVER

Wednesday, August 10, 1966 Page 1-B

Raeside Heads County Board

John Raeside of Redford Township has been elected president of the Wayne County School Board Association and Stedra Schreiber of Livonia, secretary.

Other officers of the group which serves the county's 43 school districts are Edward J. Pongracz of Grosse Pointe, vice-president; Norman O. Stockmeyer, of Westland, treasurer; and Mrs. Helen Mueller of Lincoln Park, corresponding secretary.

Monthly programs over the past year have included:

- Informational meetings relative to innovations in curriculum practices.
- Legislative activities of member boards.
- Discussion concerning problems affecting all boards. The current problem of negotiations was topic for the May meeting.

"We want the Wayne County School Board Association to serve its members in the most practical fashion," said Raeside.

"To give this statement added support, our board has sent out a survey form to all boards in Wayne County to personally ask them how their association can be of more service to them in the coming year."

Raeside has been a member of the Redford Union School Board for the past 8 years and is employed by the Financial Department of Livonia.



John Raeside

Chevrolet Central Office located in the General Motors Building.

Mrs. Schreiber is president of the Livonia School District which covers most of Livonia and northern portions of Westland.

Marine at Da Nang

Marine Lance Corporal Donald J. Sucher, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Sucher of 28094 Ravine Drive, Livonia, is serving in Vietnam with M-115, a unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, based at the Da Nang airfield.

Drop Trial, Witness Fails To Appear

A Westland Municipal Court trial for a youth charged with damaging an airplane at National Airport was dropped last week when the complaining witness failed to appear.

Charged with malicious destruction of property was Donald Stivers, of 5710 Harvey, who was said to have damaged a Cessna aircraft after he and several motorcyclists had driven up and down the airfield's runway on the night of May 21.

At his arraignment, two days later, Stivers stood mute and a not guilty plea was entered for him.

The prosecution's witness was Joseph Tesar who didn't appear for the trial scheduled for Aug. 2.

Bentley Grad Assigned

Airman Ronald R. Hahn, son of Mrs. F. O. Bithman of 2669 Elm Lake, has been assigned to MATS AFB, Calif., after completing Air Force basic training. A graduate of Bentley High School, he will be trained on the job as an administrative specialist with the Air Training Command.

RED HOT AUGUST VALUES

Berry's Home Supply is continuing its' sizzling hot prices right through the summer months, but remember this, despite Berry's low prices you still get SERVICE AFTER THE SALE!

8mm KODACHROME II MOVIE FILM Roll Type \$1.59 Limit Two	CHARCOAL BRIQUETS 10 LB. BAG 49c	RCA — 4-SPEED Phonograph \$15.88	G.E. 8-CUP COFFEE MAKER \$8.95	RCA AM RADIO \$8.88
RCA — 4-SPEED AUTOMATIC CHANGER Phonograph \$34.88	G.E. 6-TRANSISTOR RADIO Complete With Case, Battery & Earphone \$4.95	10-6-4 FERTILIZER Covers 3,000 Sq. Ft. \$1.29	RCA CLOCK RADIO \$11.88	
Price 12-inch PORTABLE TV \$69.88	G.E. 2-Speed — Automatic WASHER Hamilton — 2 Cycle 4 Temp. GAS DRYER \$138	RCA Deluxe Television 21" PORTABLE \$148	Speed Queen — Automatic WASHER RCA Whirlpool — 18 Cu. Ft. CHEST FREEZER \$199	Philco — 12 Cu. Ft. — 2-Door REFRIGERATOR \$168
Frigidaire — Jet Action WASHER \$158	RCA Mobile Maid DISHWASHER \$98	General Electric 12 Cu. Ft. REFRIGERATOR \$168	Ameco Quality FREEZER \$219	Model SM 3008 Mobile Maid DISHWASHER \$179
		Frigidaire 2-Door 13 Cu. Ft. Copper—Auto. defrost REFRIGERATOR \$198		• 3-way washing action • Plus 100-watt drain • Give saving washing power • No hand wringing or squeezing... just lift off large or hard dried articles. • Automatic detergent dispenser adds detergent at the proper moment.

MID-SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE! Save 35%

ON SKY LITE PATIOS

ON CONTEMPORARY STYLE PATIOS

CALL TODAY FOR FREE ESTIMATE

KE 8-3410

AIRLITE ALUMINUM CO.

22047 FENKELL, DETROIT

1. A door wall and roof cover with heavy duty panels for room and kitchen, cheerful and keep out hot summer sun.
2. Hinged 8000 aluminum (G.I.) attached with rigid vinyl panels for easy structural work.
3. Do it yourself or we will. If you're looking for something that is modern, modern and for superior to anything you've seen, then choose these features:
4. A structural that not an "Awning".
5. Built in cover of aluminum vinyl has water seal that drains through the frame.
6. "N.W." support posts to set your patio all with the same desirable, but hard to find component — vinyl.
7. Many more features two ways to position.
8. Available in 6 colors.

See how much this G. E. Freezer saves you!

CHST FREEZER

Spacemaker 19' Refrigerator-Freezer

Hold Nearly Twice As Much Food ... Requires No More Space!

\$249

GET BERRY'S LOW LOW PRICE

Fast Easy Credit

BERRY'S HOME SUPPLY

27419 JOY ROAD at Inkster Road

BERRY'S STORE and WAREHOUSE OUTLET

KE 5-5060 or GA 1-1717

Open 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Daily

Closed Sunday