

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Wayne County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Township of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

Everybody's Out of Step

Despite predictions of the President's advisors, economic experts, and many classified as not-so-experts, I hereby throw caution to the winds and predict a run-away inflation for 1967.

This forecast is based on one fact only: the United States—that's you and me—refuses to levy sufficient taxes to pay its bills, continuing to borrow to meet its obligations.

Holders of E and H bonds are cashing them in as fast as they are buying so we (the government) are merely turning over dollars in this department.

The rest of the borrowing—some \$250 billion dollars—comes from the creation of credit by financial institutions.

When we continue to add dollars to the market without greatly increasing the supply of goods and services (which we are not doing) prices go up, up, up.

What all of us must do in this area is to

get the word to our Congressmen—William D. Ford in Garden City and Westland, Marvin Eskin in Plymouth, Jack H. McDonald in Livonia, Redford, Township and western Oakland County—to put the brakes on federal spending without federal taxation. One of McDonald's campaign promises was a pay-as-you-go policy and here's hoping he sticks to it.

In our banking system, credit expands and contracts as goods and services expand and contract.

But when the federal government expands credit, we do not expand many government goods and services which can be purchased by you and me. Therefore, the government must tax to redeem its bonds and get the money off the market.

When it does not, prices zoom upward, and I am willing to stick my neck out: they will this year! **—BILL GAIL**

Human Rights New Victory

American citizens won another battle last week in the fight for human rights. The latest victory came in the form of a legal opinion from a panel of three Wayne County Circuit Court judges who ruled in a split 2-1 decision that the controversial Detroit "Homeowners' Rights" Ordinance is unconstitutional.

Although the ordinance itself affects only Detroit directly, if the local law were upheld legally, it wouldn't take too much imagination to see that followers of "Poin-dexterism" would soon push for similar ordinances in suburban communities.

The original ordinance which was endorsed by Detroit voters during an information vacuum caused by a four-month long newspaper strike, clearly violates the state and federal constitutions and every precept of moral behavior.

The new unconstitutional ordinance gave property owners the privilege (not the right) to discriminate in the buying and selling of homes for whatever reasons they want. In short, it keeps them from selling to racial and religious minorities, in violation of the state and federal constitutions and allows them to get away with it.

But, no more.

The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution says in clear language that "all persons born in the United States are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or PROPERTY (capitals are the author's, not the Constitution's), without due process of law."

If a person is denied the right to buy and acquire property solely for racial or religious reasons, it is wrong—morally and legally. The law and court rulings have been on the side of people in the matters of human and civil rights.

The proponents of the Detroit homeowners' ordinance have argued in past years that private property rights include the privilege of disposing of that property as he sees fit. But, what they don't realize is that property rights is a two-way street. One direction involves a person selling his land. The other direction concerns a person moving in the front door, or acquiring land. Governments can't lock (or unlock) the back door, the selling process, without affecting the front-door section of the issue.

If a person is denied the right to OWN property on the basis of race or religion, he is being deprived of his rights under the 14th Amendment, and that's that.

—LEONARD POGER

Review and Consent

An interesting situation is taking place in Ecorse where the city is asking its largest taxpayer, Great Lakes Steel Corp., to pay its taxes weekly to the city to meet its payroll and other bills. In return, the corporation gets to view all the bills before it hands over its tax bill. Since the individual taxpayer, through the wonderful device of a withholding tax, pays the federal government weekly, maybe the private citizen and business should be given the same opportunity to review and approve all of the bills before they are paid.

—LEONARD POGER

OMBUDSMAN

(A special feature in The Observer Newspapers) — we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-up cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!

Dear Ombudsman:

I have been a faithful reader of your paper as long as I have been in business in Livonia — as a matter of fact I am also an advertiser. Your paper has always proven to report the happenings of the community in a factual manner and your editorials express a logical point of view.

All of this leads up to a recent disappointment I feel I must complain about. On the entertainment page several weeks ago there was a column by Wally Roberts urging readers to go to see, "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." He said eve... kids would

enjoy it and it would not be

offensive because there was enough slapstick in it for them and the adult portion would be sophisticated enough so as to be over their heads. I left my place of business and drove all the way to the Mercury Theatre in Detroit to get tickets and they refused to sell me tickets for children. "No children allowed" they said. Now this is a long trip and I have would have made it had not Wally Roberts of The Observer suggested it. Who is Ombudsman?

Don Miller
Burton Hollow Hardware
Livonia, Mich.

Dear Mr. Miller:

Wally Roberts is most indignant with the theatre for not selling you tickets — particularly since they do not state in their ad they will not sell children's tickets. He thinks it is ridiculous and so does Ombudsman—however, the show has been such a success, this is probably the reason.

After discussing the problem it was agreed, there will be two tickets sent to you, one to the theatre and one to Ombudsman. They should be arriving in a few days. It's more fun for Ma and Pa to be occasionally leave the kids home for a "night out."



THE OBSERVER looks forward to new challenges 1967 will bring to our area. We want to be a part of meeting whatever obstacles there are to achieve new accomplishments, greater progress in education, city planning, human relations, and fiscal reform. We pledge to work toward, and

with, good government in both the local and state level and keep you informed of what is happening in your local community and in Lansing. We are grateful for our supporters and our critics and want to join with both to make our community a wonderful place in which to live.

Letters To Editor

From The Source (Water)

Open Letter to Lewis Wynn, Garden City:

Your letter concerning water rates in the December 21, 1966 issue of the Observer suggests that you have a misconception about how your water rates are established.

The consumer rate that you pay as a Garden City resident is established by the officials of Garden City. Your letter implied that the consumer rate in suburban communities is set by the Detroit Water Service. It is not.

Local community control over its own rates and billing is one of the unique features of the regional water supply system operated by the Detroit Water Service. Each local community also has control over the local water distribution system's maintenance and expansion.

There are two major steps taken in order to provide you and other suburban residents with high quality water. The first step is filtering the water and pumping it to a suburban community. This step is done

by the Detroit Water Service. The second step is distributing the water within that suburban community and collecting consumer bills. This is done by the suburban community.

The Detroit Water Service charges for the services it provides each community. This rate or cost is based on an established formula which is applied to all communities. The rate structure is fixed by the Board of Water Commissioners, three of whom are suburban representatives.

The second step in the water supply process is performed by the local community. It distributes the water to its residents and commercial and industrial users through a series of water pipes it owns and maintains.

The local community establishes the local rate to consumers, leads the consumer's meters and collects the local water bills.

Naturally, the wholesale price of the water is a factor in determining the local retail — or consumer — rate. However, it is not necessarily the major factor. In some cases the suburban community's cost from its local government is two or three times the cost to its government from the Detroit Water Service. The mark up varies from community to community since each has built its local distribution system at a different pace and under different financing conditions.

I am sure that your local water department will be most happy to discuss with you how your water rate is established and how the water revenues are used. The rates charged by the Detroit Water Service are a frequent topic of discussion between DWS personnel and officials of the many local communities we serve. To my knowledge, we have never refused to review our rate practices and policies with any suburban official or group of officials.

TOM McPHAIL
Information-Educational Services

LOUIS J. SCHULTZ
Director of Community Relations, Northville State Hospital

The next time you have grapefruit, wash off the seeds and plant them in shallow bowls for some household greenery.

OBSERVING the Scene . . .

By MYRA CHANDLER

An so 1967 looms before us a big question mark. Internationally we pray it will bring peace in Vietnam. But as long as there is greed in the hearts of men it is unlikely there will be peace on earth.

One area I can assure you will be far from peaceful will be the State House of Representatives. Always a scrappy bunch, this year will be even more interesting. They are divided 55-55 between Dems and GOP, and I look for the Dems to have the rank and file trouble more than the Republicans. Most of the Republican legislators are new—and it will take them a little while to warm up, catch on to each other's little endearing and annoying qualities—and so they might be inclined to be more polite and cooperative with each other, until they find out.

But the Dems, on the other hand, have bred enough familiarity among themselves to have a certain healthy contempt for each other—and the fur will fly. House speaker Kowalski has his friends, but to him as some enemies he cannot control even with "we guys gotta stick together" routine.

"Yes," this is the year I see The Governor (if he has time) accomplishing many of his pet programs for the State. There should be no stumbling on fiscal reform this year. Every one of the new GOP members campaigned on it—they were all Romney's boys, so he's got to follow.

With this strange august body of men that represent every economic and ethnic group in our State there is bound to be a lot of igner pressure—not to miss a meeting, not to have a hangover and think fuzzy, not to up and catch a cold and die—but be present and note to maintain that scary balance of 55-55.

It's really going to be a confusing year for the lobbyists, or as they prefer to be called "Legislative Agents." Up to this new era they have managed to court one party—their leaders—and their whip or another. Now all is confusion—and they must really pick up a new scene of where the power will be—it will take some little time.

We received our annual list of Legislative Agents in the mail the other day. It is always interesting to see if any new ones are added like lobbyists for broken-hearted ladies or defeated candidates. Something new besides Michigan Bell or school districts.

I don't remember seeing an "Agent" for Soap & Detergent Association before, but they have one this year.

As a matter of fact we have several "Agents" living in our area. Some are attorneys and some are just employees in Lansing to listen, advise and get consent.

Stanley Snyder of Redford Township represents the Michigan State Police Trooper Association.

John Dent of Livonia represents Beneficial Management Corporation of America.

Robert Duhan of Garden City represents Metropolitan Association for Improved School Legislation. (You know he is busy).

Carl Parsell of Redford Township represents the Detroit Police Officers Association.

And would you believe Stanton Schaefer of Northville represents Mich. Savings & Loan League, Mich. Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Assn., Mich. Psychological Assoc., Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., Mich. State Veterinary Assoc., American Mutual Insurance Alliance, American Title Co. of Michigan, Midwest Title Co., Great Lakes Title Agency of Detroit, Inc. He is a legal consul.

James A. McNish, Redford Township, Michigan Federation of Typographical Unions.

Richard Smith, Garden City, Detroit Board of Education.

Roger Walker, Farmington, Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

They all have their work cut out for them.

Open Letter To "Mr. President"

Open Letter To
Lyndon B. Johnson, President
White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

How can Ambassador Goldberg and Secretary Rusk support England and U. Thant against anti-communist Rhodesia and South Africa when it is clearly against our interest? For example, England, in November, 1966, owned 10 of the 17 non-communist nation ships that went to Cuba. To Viet Nam it is many times this number. U. Thant, the neutral nations who seldom agree with us unless we are writing a check for the U.N. or a neutral are not any different. I ask, Mr. President, why help destroy real friends like anti-communist Rhodesia and South Africa, I would like to sug-

gest, Mr. President, anything labeled "non-strategic material" is a fragment of the imagination. Food, clothing, and medicine help to kill our boys because soldiers, guerrillas or terrorists are people and need the most basic items to help them kill as do those innocent civilian workers of the country or countries who support our enemies. Our news media continually repeats innocent civilian-military opinion when one is killed.

My opinion is if we really times this number, U. Thant, the neutral nations who seldom agree with us unless we are writing a check for the U.N. or a neutral are not any different. I ask, Mr. President, why help destroy real friends like anti-communist Rhodesia and South Africa, I would like to sug-

BRUCE E. DUKE
Farmington



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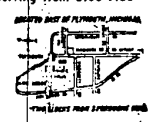
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