

Observer Newspapers

MYRA CHANDLER
Editor in Chief
FRANK MCGUIRE
Retail Advertising Manager
RAYMOND SAGE
Advertising Production Manager

PHILIP H. POWER Publisher
RICHARD T. THOMPSON Managing Editor
FRED J. LEVINE Classified Advertising Manager

MILTON SMITH General Manager
LARRY DARNELL Circulation Manager

Serving the rich Northeast 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.

Strike Question Unanswered

Westland's municipal employees strike was over almost as fast as it began but the issue which prompted it is still unresolved.

Mayor Thomas H. Brown points out that the City Charter gives him the authority and responsibility to administer all city departments. The union leadership replies that the mayor, illegally, ordered a change in working conditions during current contract negotiations.

The state labor mediation board will receive the question of whether the mayor order concerning the use of identification cards in privately-owned cars used for city business and the three-day suspensions "were reasonable."

This is all very fine but it evades the key to the whole issue: is the mayor's responsibilities as outlined in the city charter abridged by the state's labor laws.

It seems that the answer is "yes".

Fortunately, city services were not affected to any harmful extent by the strike but the city and union leaders should realize that any minor dispute could spark another labor problem in the future.

Another point which was in the background of the short strike was the "illegal" of public employees' strikes.

However, there is no penalty for such a strike and it behooves the state legislature to either drop the strike provision from the state law (there were 21 municipal employees strikes last year, not to mention the numerous public school teachers' strikes) or no one has been reported fired as yet) or put some teeth into the law to make it meaningful.

—LEONARD FOGER

Cheers (?) for Betty Crocker

How big a monetary reward should a student receive for participating in a contest approved by his school, \$5, \$10, \$25, \$500, \$5,000?

This question bothers some school board members; others have shown no particular concern.

In Livonia, however, the board has been reviving its policies and has been giving its considered judgment to the matter.

It does not appear the question should be too hard to resolve.

IL-A student enters in a contest, representing his school, the prize awarded to the school and not the student.

If the student is to receive a prize of substantial monetary value, the school should not support the contest, but allow the individual to enter such contest outside of school.

The next question is one which is answered by making an arbitrary decision. What is the monetary limit which

should be placed on prizes? Should student contestants win dictionaries, encyclopedias, savings bonds, drafting tools, mechanics tools, \$1,000 scholarships, \$4,000 scholarships?

Or should such prizes be awarded apart from actual school-sponsored events?

Remember, when a student enters such contests, he knows in advance what the prize will be.

In athletic contests, big prizes are forbidden.

Although the athlete may wind up in the big leagues or college as a baseball, football, basketball, or hockey star, this is not guaranteed by his participation in school sports.

Should not the same thinking apply in other areas of scholastic endeavor?

If the reader has any concern about big prizes for school-sponsored contests, speak up! Talk to your board and let the members know how you feel.

—BILL GAIL



Hot Wire to Livonia Schools

On School Tax Reform

Everybody's been talking about state tax reform for years and now it seems that a great many people are about to do something about it.

In Lansing, Governor George Romney courageously kicked off the current discussion by offering his proposals to find new and different taxes to help pay for the rising cost of governmental services.

In Livonia, a group of citizens interested in good and efficient government and in maintaining educational standards have formed the Livonia Committee for Fiscal Reform for Quality Education. They will hold an open forum with key state experts on fiscal reform and state educational problems on Thursday evening, March 2, in the Bentley high school auditorium.

The Observer has received a number of letters reflecting reader questions and concerns over fiscal reform. To answer these questions, we are again running our HOT WIRE to cover the subject of tax reform and the educational needs of the state, as well as Brickbat's 'n' Bouquet for people with brief and spicy pro and con opinions on the subject.

DROP HOT WIRE a line containing your questions and comments on fiscal reform. Observer address is 33050 Five Mile Road, or phone GA 2-3160. We will try to get the best answers from experts in Livonia and elsewhere in the State.

HOW HIGH?

Q—Fifty years ago the Federal government started out with a very small income tax of around one percent. Now, I'd guess, most Livonians pay from 25 to 35 percent in U.S. income tax. What's to keep State officials from doing the same thing? Give'm an inch and they'll take a mile.

R. O.

A—It could happen. Many citizens are concerned about this. Some want to peg a constitutional limit on how high any state income tax will go. If you feel strongly about this, write your State Senator.

tor and your state Representative to push legislators limiting the percentage size of any income tax levied in Michigan.

IT IS FAIR

Q—Why do owners of rental properties fix their heads eyes on their tenants and say, "We have to pay the taxes. You renters don't!" We do pay property taxes in our rent. I still think it's as fair a tax as an income tax, and is probably just as steady since incomes can and will go down when auto slows down hit Michigan.

R. M.

A—True enough. You, as tenants, do indirectly help to pay the property tax. But the best authorities still believe a well planned tax on income is the fairest of all taxes since it automatically goes up or down with ability to pay. When times are bad, property taxes go on even if there is no income while in recession times, wages and profits are taxed on income. High or low, which a person receives.

more fun. They drink more, make more noise in the hotel corridors, solve more if the world's problems. They're all alike. Lemme tell you about a guy who, . . .

Lines like these, late at night at your friendly tavern or downtown bar, are a great way to get into a fast fight.

Far be it from me to explore, right here, all the differences between the two political parties. For one thing, we don't publish news papers of unlimited size. For another, it would be nice to keep what few friends I've got.

However, I did have a new experience over the weekend, one which may help shed some light on the differences between Republicans and Democrats.

On Friday and Saturday I attended my first Republican State convention, held in Detroit, having just attended the Democratic State convention in Grand Rapids.

Now, I like political conventions. They're exciting; they produce lots of news; and the gossip goes around. In the hotel corridors it will be worth the price of admission.

Going to two different state conventions on two successive weekends is too good an opportunity to miss to add my bit to the continuing debate about the differences between the two political parties. What follows is a (largely unedited) transcript of my notes, taken late Friday night and then again Saturday afternoon.

Republicans are quieter than Democrats. They talk in well modulated tones. When they fight, they don't toss in references to their opponents' ancestry, as some Democrats are prone to do; they just look intense and surly.

Democrats are more spirited than Republicans. When they have a party at a convention, they have

Letters to the Editor: Theatre Hailed By Legislator

Renewing Powell
Open letter to Representative McCormack, Speaker
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

If Representative Powell is an example of our public morale, what must the private be? It is inconceivable to me that your body would consider condoning, and by news reports you are condoning, for all practical purposes, Rep. Powell's actions are more shocking and indicate all of Rep. Powell's talents are not limited to political and lawmaking.

Sir, if our morally conscious news media is correct, your position in this matter seems to me indefensible.

Bruce E. Duke
Farmington

Renewing Powell
Open letter to Representative McCormack, Speaker
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

If Representative Powell is an example of our public morale, what must the private be? It is inconceivable to me that your body would consider condoning, and by news reports you are condoning, for all practical purposes, Rep. Powell's actions are more shocking and indicate all of Rep. Powell's talents are not limited to political and lawmaking.

Sir, if our morally conscious news media is correct, your position in this matter seems to me indefensible.

Bruce E. Duke
Farmington

Renewing Powell
Open letter to Representative McCormack, Speaker
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

If Representative Powell is an example of our public morale, what must the private be? It is inconceivable to me that your body would consider condoning, and by news reports you are condoning, for all practical purposes, Rep. Powell's actions are more shocking and indicate all of Rep. Powell's talents are not limited to political and lawmaking.

Sir, if our morally conscious news media is correct, your position in this matter seems to me indefensible.

Bruce E. Duke
Farmington

From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

REPUBLICANS? Democrats? There isn't a difference between 'em. They're all alike. Lemme tell you about a guy who, . . .

Lines like these, late at night at your friendly tavern or downtown bar, are a great way to get into a fast fight.

Far be it from me to explore, right here, all the differences between the two political parties. For one thing, we don't publish news papers of unlimited size. For another, it would be nice to keep what few friends I've got.

However, I did have a new experience over the weekend, one which may help shed some light on the differences between Republicans and Democrats.

On Friday and Saturday I attended my first Republican State convention, held in Detroit, having just attended the Democratic State convention in Grand Rapids.

Now, I like political conventions. They're exciting; they produce lots of news; and the gossip goes around. In the hotel corridors it will be worth the price of admission.

Going to two different state conventions on two successive weekends is too good an opportunity to miss to add my bit to the continuing debate about the differences between the two political parties. What follows is a (largely unedited) transcript of my notes, taken late Friday night and then again Saturday afternoon.

Republicans are quieter than Democrats. They talk in well modulated tones. When they fight, they don't toss in references to their opponents' ancestry, as some Democrats are prone to do; they just look intense and surly.

Democrats are more spirited than Republicans. When they have a party at a convention, they have

OBSERVING the Scene . . .

By MYRA CHANDLER

"Will the real Oakland-19th District please be seated."

And therein lies the only real excitement of the entire Republican Convention last weekend in downtown Detroit. There they were—too to too—two separate groups of 54 both wanting to be seated as the Oakland 19th Official Delegation.

The Wayne 19th was united and seated. Delores Kory, chairman, performed with a cool head during the sticky portion on the floor of the convention when the two delegations were trying to be seated. Obviously the majority of the Wayne-19th favored the moderate Cartwright group. Part of the organization work and assistance and liaison between the Livonia-Redford Township 19th Congressional District and the 19th Oakland was accomplished by Robert Rieddorf—a shrewd, quiet-spoken man who served as Redford Township Republican chairman in previous years. He was caucus chairman at the Convention.

The old axiom "from all bad comes some good" holds true with the power fight of this weekend.

Although the Wayne 19th supported the Oakland 19th, Cartwright moderate Republicans, it has not always been so "blue skysville." In fact, ever since the district was gerrymandered by Solidarity House Democrats several years ago, there has been plenty of bloodshed.

The gerrymandering was done to get rid of some key legislators—and in some cases the maneuver succeeded for the Union Democrats. In the case of my late husband who was then serving as State Representative, it did not work because he moved without informing Solidarity House, therefore was still in his Livonia area instead of being thrown in the Dearborn Democratic area as they planned.

When the smoke settled on the new district map it left two organizations in the same district which had hardly met—namely the 18th District Wayne, (Redford and Livonia) and the 19th District Oakland (Western Oakland). Both were used to running a strong organization. Both were used to electing candidates and both liked it the way it was. Who was to assume leadership? The scrap-leaders like Ruth Davenport of Oakland and Marvin Priddon of Livonia both drew from the hip—and for a while the fur flew. But as always, there were peacekeepers present and an uneasy truce resulted, but it was not a happy family.

The real cohesive job was accomplished this weekend when the cousins down the block picked on the cousins next door (in philosophy), and only then did the two put their arms around each other and became blood cousins. There probably will be scraps still, but now that they have a common outside enemy (in philosophy), they have also found a common ground on which to build a strong, unified 19th District. Members of the Redford-Livonia group are Romneys and the newly-seated Oakland-19th members are Romneys—although as many as 37 were either delegates or alternates on both the Cartwright-moderates or Powell-conservatives.

Cartwright, the leader of the moderates is a conservative person and so is Powell.

To be conservative is not to be against Romney. Powell group supporters are ultra-conservative and include some active Birch members.

For the final record and for the armchair politicians the Republican delegates from Livonia and Redford Township may take credit for teaming up with the moderates from Oakland County portion of the 19th Congressional District and dumping Christian Powell of West Bloomfield Township as chairman and electing John Cartwright also a West Bloomfield man.

Mrs. Mary Dumas of Livonia won an easy victory for the vice-chairmanship, trouncing newcomer Hope German in a standup vote. Mrs. Dumas succeeds Mrs. Delores Kory of Redford Township who had moved up to Wayne 18th constituency.

Mrs. JoAnn Van Tassel, of Pontiac, a 1966 legislative candidate, was elected secretary and Eldon Funk of Redford Township was unanimously elected treasurer.

The four 19th District members to the State Central Committee, governing body of the party between conventions, are Mrs. Isabel Haynes of Farmington, a Romney supporter from the beginning of her political career; Dale Feet of Waterford Township, Marvin Priddon of Livonia and Mrs. Marion Donaldson of Redford Township.

Members of the district committee will include: Redford—Jay Hughes and Robert Reidsoff. Livonia—William Duffy, Arthur Hogarth and Jack Reault.

64th State House District—Norman Skeirk and Arthur Hogarth, both of Farmington, and Robert Dupree of West Bloomfield.

60th House District—Wendell Peterson and Clifford Cottrell.

61st House District—John McKinley, Gary Duncan and Naomi Griffin.

62nd House District—Roland Folk.

63rd House District—Bruno Jandasek.

Among the Cartwright moderate group of state convention delegates who were seated were 12 Farmington persons:

City—Norman M. Skeirk, Louis C. Doyle and Delos Hamlin.


Township—Clerk Floyd Cairns, Ruth Davenport, Isabel Haynes, Peter Kollins, Thomas McMillan, Helen Thomas Nolan, Donald Oliveto, L. David Strader, trustee Davidson.

TO THE FLOOR of the convention and ready to be seated at last, Cartwright-moderates of the Oakland 19th district surround their newly elected chairman John Cartwright to get their credentials. (l-r) John Cartwright; Delos Hamlin, Mr. Republican from Farmington; and Clifford Cottrell, newly elected vice-chairman.

Redco BLANCHARD Grinding Services

• Tool and Precision Grinding—Castings, Weldments, etc.
• Tool and Six Way Severs Up Operation—Production Runs
—All Types of Materials.

• PICKUP AND DELIVERY •
Call Adam Kaminski at 261-1400
13311 Stark Road—Livonia
Between Schofield and Plymouth Roads



Hillside Inn

- FIVE BEAUTIFUL ROOMS AVAILABLE, SEATING 20-120 PERSONS
- AMPLE PARKING
- ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING TO MAKE EACH PARTY A MEMORABLE EVENT
- DELICIOUS FOOD & COCKTAILS

—PRIVATE PARTIES—

Call GL 3-4301 Closed Sundays 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Mich.