

Observer Newspapers

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

From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

"If you think of it, it seems a strange and ironical arrangement that when the country has entrusted to a particular group of men the arduous and delicate task of conducting the business of the nation, we at the same time permit them to be harassed by every form of obstruction and vituperation."

"It is as if we had employed a surgeon to perform a delicate operation and had then arranged that his elbow should be jugged at the most critical moment."

Lord MacMillan,
Former Prime Minister of Great Britain

N I think so. So does President Johnson, who gave me a nicely printed card with this quotation on it when I visited him at the White House last year.

It's not only a nice thought, but also it says something interesting about the President and about the troubles he's had lately with the public opinion polls.

For the President is profoundly in agreement with Lord MacMillan. For him, politics is a delicate, highly skilled profession, involving the most subtle and complex movements of people, laws and power.

To him, the practice of politics is something that must of necessity be conducted through quiet talks, precise timing, and infinite patience.

These feelings are, of course, quite understandable. Much of President Johnson's political training, particularly while he was the Democratic Leader in the Senate, was as a Washington "insider man."

An insider man doesn't posture before the public. He doesn't relish the attentions of the press. Most of all, he doesn't want to have his political elbow jugged at the wrong moment, for that would tear to shreds the fragile fabric of quiet consensus that is his job to build up.

Sure, President Johnson has had to fight elections as an "outside man"; and he's not all bad at it. But the main thrust of his experience and, I think, his interest is toward being the political insider man.

At this, he is fantastically good; perhaps the best of any President in this century.

But it's clear the President is buggered by all the criticism he's getting and upset at the fact that he's running behind Governor Romney in the public opinion polls.

LOOK at it this way.

Take a surgeon, an inside man if you will. He's the best in his business; you choose him to do an operation for you. You don't then come around jogging his elbow and griping at him in the middle of the operation.

Instead, you let him finish it. If he does it well, you'll ask him to do other operations for you, if you need them. If he doesn't, you'll pick another surgeon or perhaps even sue him for malpractice.

I think it's clear the President looks at his role in this way.

He's been chosen by a landslide to lead this country. Why don't you let me do my business, which is tough enough. I can hear him saying, "and lay off that griping!"

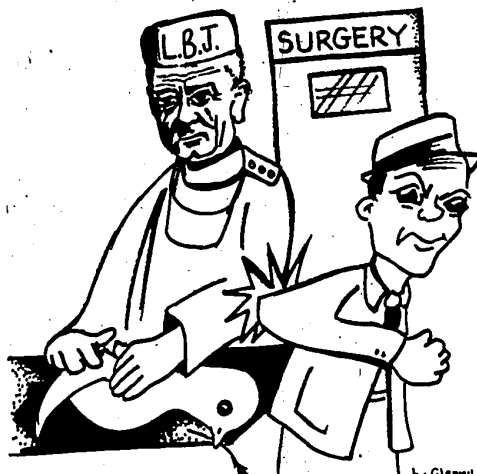
An understandable complaint. Understandable, but limited, I'm sure. For a President cannot be only an insider man. He's got to be an outside leader, meaning that he's got to cope with public griping and expect to have his arm jugged at the wrong moment. It's all part of the job.

In order to be an insider man, a politician has to get elected. And that means being a good outside man, which is the trouble President Johnson is having currently.

But (and Governor Romney, please note) a politician can't only be an outside man.

Romney looks mighty good in the public opinion polls, but it's well known that when it comes to the delicate, skilled profession of constructing a consensus he leaves a lot to be desired.

And it's equally well known that you can't run a government by public opinion polls alone.



by Glenard

Letters to Editor:

Educator Urges Tax Reform

Editor:

Why not light a candle rather than curse the darkness?

I have attended numerous discussions regarding the need for tax reform to meet our educational and other state needs. The consensus is that tax reform (an income tax) is essential if we are to adequately provide for our future needs. However, it is obvious that Mister and Missus Individual Citizen is much more interested in whether he or she is going to have an extra hour of daylight after work, than whether (A) this would cause our school children to have an extra hour of darkness when they go to school in the morning or (B) whether our children and students are going to have a great deal more intellectual darkness as a result of the inadequate financing of education at all levels.

If we are to have tax reform, the time is now and the place is the legislature in Lansing. Unless Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, Mr. and Mrs. Student and also, Mr. and Mrs. Newspaper, immediately confront their respective state senators (particularly) and representatives with this need, they will be just as guilty of the death of tax reform as the legislators they elected who are currently opposing it. They also will be just as guilty as those citizens who stood by, in recent incidents when a fellow citizen was being beaten or attacked, and did nothing.

Without tax reform or increased revenue, educationally, we will receive \$402,737,000 less than the State Board of Education recommended last December, \$166,874,000 less than the governor originally recommended, and 20 million less than are being provided this year and in the face of increasing enrollments.

What can and should be done? Every person, organization and newspaper that is concerned with fiscal reform should contact their respective state senator (particularly) and representative and:

A. Acquaint him with the need for tax reform now, and

B. Get answers to the following questions:

1. Are you for tax reform?

1a. If not, how do you propose to meet the future needs of education and the state?

2. Will you support the governor's recommendations?

2a. If not, what are your recommendations generally, and specifically regarding the items in the governor's tax reform proposal?

3. Acquaint your legislator with the fact that his vote in this matter will be significant in your evaluation of his qualifications as your legislator.

4. Keep contacting him and having your friends and fellow constituents contact him.

The legislators are waiting to hear the voice of the voters.

— will your voice be heard or will you continue to wear your hands and to curse the darkness?

James F. O'Neill
Member, State Board of Education

Family Y Christian?
Editor:

Perplexing! . . . perhaps provocative! . . . but I hope published!!!

Should a man who, as a boy, enjoyed and greatly benefitted in countless ways, for 10 years, from the salubrious influence of the Young Men's Christian Association dare to pose questions regarding the Livonia Family Y?

I think it appropriate . . . If he has treasured memories of saving pennies for a membership . . . trudged miles, through all kinds of weather, to get to the Downtown . . . and participated, not only in the recreational amenities, but also in the Young Men's Christian Association's basic program of Christian teachings and service.

Perhaps, at this point, a brief history of the Young Men's Christian Association would be in order: Founded in London in 1844 it began operations with 12 associates who sought through religious fellowship to maintain and extend Christian standards of conduct. In 1851 associations were organized in America. By 1881 programs of physical education and vocational training were introduced to assist and prepare Christian youth for adult life. Membership in 1952 had reached 2,825,186 in the United States. In World War 2 the Young Men's Christian Association, in an agreement with the Federal Government, helped organize the USO and extended its services to all men in service for the duration.

Now, to the questions, rhetorical as they may appear to the jaundiced mentality.

Nowhere, save one, is the word "Christian" mentioned in four brochures promoting the Livonia Family Y. The one place where "Christian" is even alluded to is in a testimonial written by The Reverend William S. Nelson, President, Livonia Ministerial Association. Would it be so uncharacteristic of me to ask . . . So, What's the Score?

One brochure of Y's attention to a "Media/In Room." I wonder if the Y's came from the United States "meditation" room which is completely devoid of religious symbols or texts and resembles a nightmarish cross between an ancient pagan temple and a Picasso modern art exhibit. Is the mention of "Christian" or of Bible study classes, which I once knew, omitted because a large portion of the building funds will be provided by the United Foundation? A conjecture at best!

It could be that the obvious omissions have a similar rationale as to leaving the word "Marriage" out of the teaching manuals for the Sex Educational Program in Livonia Schools, inapparently named "Human Growth and Development." You know the adage, "Out of sight—Out of mind!"

Let I leave you with a bad impression . . . I wholeheartedly support a Family Community Center. But, if we are to use the good name of "Young Men's Christian Association" let us not forget its original purpose as a namesake for HIS teachings.

George Kindred
Livonia

Ed. Note: The Livonia Family Y is for men, women and children of all faiths, geared to the need of ALL Livonians. If you enter the Livonia Family Y Meditation Room with a Christian attitude, Mr. Kindred, I am sure you will find reverent peace for after all you must agree, it is a state of mind and has nothing to do with art and artifacts.

Bar Changed Over
Residents Protest
Editor:

As a resident on the south side of Plymouth Road, the same area in which the Shaggy Lion Bar is located, I am very upset over the council's decision to approve 600 girls and that type of entertainment. When the residents of this area were asked for their approval it was for a restaurant with a liquor license to serve drinks along with meals.

I am sure that none of the council would like to live in an area near the type of Bar that attracts its patrons and stimulates them with "go-go girls." As the mother of five children I am concerned with their safety as well as the safety of the other children in this area.

I hope the council will reconsider the approval of this type of entertainment for our city.

Mrs. William O. Bartel
Livonia

Ed. Note: Sorry Mrs. Bartel, the City Council of Livonia overrode the Mayor's veto.

Name School After City
Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to express sincere thanks to all the students and directors and the people who in any way contributed to the performance of the wonderful Spring Concert at Bentley High School. It gave a feeling of pride to see and hear such a fine group.

It is the hope of this writer that the Board of Education will give serious consideration to the name of the next high school. It should be Livonia High School. This is a matter of concern to a lot of Livonia parents.

Interested parent
Livonia

Senior Answers Critic
Editor:

A letter appeared in The Observer Newspapers from H.B. last week concerning Senior Citizens.

I would like to ask that person a question. Can the Council legally spend city money on playgrounds, buses, parkland, golf courses and entertainment for all ages?

Why begrudge the Senior Citizen a place to meet and have a little enjoyment in later years?

We are taxpayers too. We helped build Livonia. Some have lived in Livonia for 40 years.

A Senior Citizen
Livonia

Ed. Note: We agree with you — and what is more important so do the seven men who direct the City.

OBSERVING the Scene . . .

By MYRA CHANDLER

It is tragic but true—seldom are laws passed unless on the heels of some horrible event or experience. Thus the inhuman treatment of little Debbie Coffman has caused the State Legislators to look up from their tax problems and see if Michigan laws are strict enough to control parental misbehavior.

The State Legislators, despite hue and cry against the Bill passed "Implied Consent" thus tightening the reins on drunk drivers.

The bill protects the non-drinking driver, but also contains constitutional safeguards for the drinking driver.

Michigan is the 18th state in the nation to pass this type of Legislation of protecting ourselves against ourselves. Not since the Garden of Eden has this been unnecessary.

House and Senate Committees reported nearly 250 Bills just before the April 13 deadline. One of the Bills educators are watching with a keen eye is the one passed out of the House Education Committee recommending \$83 million school aid appropriation. This is some \$62 million more than proposed by the Governor in his budget.

The House State Affairs Committee, killed a Bill that could lead to the merger of the medical and osteopathic professions in Michigan. It rears its head every year—and each time gets a little closer.

Every year there is legislation submitted to take away from the City of Livonia the paltry \$500,000 the City gets for having the DRC in its City. Senator Frank Beadle of northern country wants part of that resource. So far each year it has failed because someone from Livonia always screams. One year maybe no one will be looking and then it'll slip it through.

Due to the passage of a Senate Bill, if you're a bank official, you may now serve on a school board. Previously it was considered "conflict of interest." Now it is not.

Another Bill passed by the Senate limits permanent teacher certificates in Michigan to U. S. residents. Foreign exchange teachers are exempt for one year.

One darn good piece of legislation is making juvenile mischief more expensive to parents. The law raised the vision of parental liability for property damage done by their children from \$500 to \$1500. If it gets more expensive not to keep an eye on our kids maybe there will be more questions asked at home.

If you own property along Lake Superior near Munising you will be interested to know an estimated 5,000 acres of state-owned land in that area has been given to the Federal Government for use in the proposed Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Reported out of committee but not yet approved are several other interesting changes in law:

The senate also has before it a bill that would raise the annual fee for use of state parks from \$2 to \$3.

Common pleas court judges would be paid a \$5 fee for performing marriage ceremonies under provisions of another legislative proposal.

Shades of the times! The dangerous youthful sport of glue sniffing would be made a misdemeanor under another pending bill and use of butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene or propyl-gallate would be permitted in grade one sausage under provisions of another bill.

Other measures will be coming up within the next week, but none with as much hot debate as the final vote on fiscal reform. There is great wheeling going on this week by the GOP to get the necessary Dem. votes to pass the Governor's modified tax package; the new formula for distribution of highway funds to cities and the increase in gas tax will affect all of us in our daily life. These laws will be decided this week.

Lansing is an interesting and exciting spot with everybody listening, arguing and trading, night and day.

Letters to the Editor:

People To The Rescue [Appreciates Interest]

Editor:

Saturday afternoon, March 18, on a shopping trip to Detroit on the 195 Expressway we were hit from the rear and knocked from the road, upside down into a ditch.

I can never stop thanking the passerby for the help we received. We owe our lives to God—this we are sure of. But we do not know who pulled us from the wreckage where we were pinned in four inches of water.

If the persons who wrapped us in their blankets will be so kind as to give us time to have them cleaned we will return them to the police station in Farmington Township and they can get them there.

Larry and Thelma Dietrich
Livonia, Mich.

More Dog Penalties
Editor:

I think it is about time that our city Councilmen take time out from raising taxes and devote a little of their precious time to the control of dogs in Livonia. Too many people leave their dogs run to the deterioration of lawns and shrubbery. These sneaky people leave their dogs out to run either late at night or early in the morning.

We have a dog, but he is either in the yard or under control on a leash.

Vincent Liptow
Livonia

For Extra Spring and Summer
BOWLING FUN
See Maribowls Ad on Sports Page 28 This Issue

Merri Bowl Lanes
5 Mile from Maribowls
6A 7-2900

Either Way . . . Same Tune

Democrats in Farmington Township often remind us of the proverbial voice crying in the wilderness.

They make much noise, but have very little impact on the events. The Democrats hold meetings every month — something which their Republican counterparts fail to do — and can be counted upon to take a stand on the various local issues.

However, in one of the usual resolutions submitted, following the most recent meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club concerned the Township Board's action of raising the Township Supervisors' salary above the level recommended by the Township's bi-partisan salary committee.

"The issue is bigger than the \$1,350 which the Township Board added to the recommended \$2,500 salary increase (from \$10,000 per year to \$12,500) proposed by the committee. The issue is whether the committee is to function as a separate fact-finding group or merely be window dressing for the Township administration in the difficult area of raising the salary of officials," the resolution proclaimed.

"It is our feeling that if the Township Board disagreed with the committee's recommendation or had information which it felt was not considered by the committee," the Democrats assert, "the proper thing to have done was to ask the committee to reconsider the matter and to present the so-called missing information."

Our sister publication, The Farmington Enterprise, took the salary committee to

task some weeks ago for failing to provide any sort of comparative salaries within the body of its report.

We agreed with the editorial then and we still do.

Raises for elected officials are always hot political issues. We were delighted to see the Township Board take a stand on this issue and raise the Supervisor's salary closer to the level it should be.

We agree to the view that in order to attract competent public officials, a just salary should be paid. The present level of \$13,750 is certainly closer to the just level than \$10,000 and it's closer than the proposed \$12,500.

If the game of politics was not involved in the report of the salary committee why was the Supervisor's salary the only one lowered from the level the Board had originally proposed two years ago?

No similar fate happened to the pay check proposal for the Township Clerk and the Township Treasurer and simply because of disagreement with a person's policies or because of his own controversial stand, the position requires that a certain salary be paid.

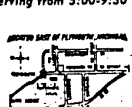
The Democrats also took exception to the fact that the Representative Board member and the Township Board were serving on the committee. We don't really blame them for that, but had the situation been reversed it is almost certain that the same comments would have been made about the Representative members of the salary committee.

—Sue Shaugnessy

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