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## Redford Twp. Police Present Their Views

Editor:  
 It was with much interest that I read your recent editorial concerning "No Union—No Work Tactics." We agree with the basic premise of your editorial, which seems best summed up in your paragraph: "All governments, representing all taxpayers, should not give away the rights of each citizen."

But beyond this innocuous statement, the rest of the piece seems to stumble along on imperfections, innuendo and self-serving rhetoric which doesn't really say very much, especially with regards to truth and fact.

Take first the headline: "Redford Township Voters Should Stop No Union—No Work Tactics." Who in the world said anything about not working? Sure, our association is asking for a so-called "union shop," but nowhere in our budget proposal do we make any threats about not working.

If you had read our proposal at all, and it seems rather evident that you hadn't, you would have read this statement at the very beginning of that document: "We desire to discuss the following topics and included thereunder you will find our requests relative to each described topic. We will anticipate bargaining collectively with you on each of these matters."

That doesn't sound very threatening to me and it certainly doesn't indicate that we're going to refuse to work if we don't get our way. We're policemen, sir, and we place our obligation toward the fulfillment of that duty second to nothing.

Another disturbing statement: "How many potential public employees will not accept public service because they believe that membership in a union requires more meetings to attend, money paid out in tribute to union leaders who have achieved a sinecure?"

Your use of the word "sinecure" is at best curious but aside from that let me state clearly that officers of this association receive no salary for their work, no remuneration of any kind. Some tribute.

Further, you repeatedly refer to the Redford Township Police Officers Association as a "union." I don't know if that is intended as a barb or not but I prefer to think that it isn't for I am sure that you are well acquainted with the many other facets and interests of our association, including our contributions to the

community and to charity and to the intelligent pursuit of a sometimes slippery objective—a modest but dignified, sufficient and fair place in the social spectrum of the community for the men who serve it.

There isn't a man on this department who isn't frequently and sometimes daily called upon to place his life on the line because, simply, that is his job. We neither seek nor desire any accolades, hero medals or merit badges. Each of us is a policeman for a reason buried deep inside each man and many of the men on this department joined in a day when they earned little more than a newspaper carrier makes today.

But we do ask that we be given a chance to earn a decent living in the process: that we be given the opportunity to provide our families with at least some of the comforts enjoyed by those around us—and we ask that these requests be given a fair hearing by fair men. We issue no ultimatums.

It is my feeling that we have something special here in Redford Township—something that we should not let slip away through petty bickering and gross misunderstanding. We have a fine community and a fine government.

We do not have to take second billing to any around us. We are proud of the department we work for, the men who lead it, the township we live in, the people we have as neighbors. We hope the day never comes when that pride begins to fade. It need not.

Redford Township Police Officers Association  
 Thomas Goscinski, President

## A Canadian Speaks Up

Editor:  
 Being one of thousands of loyal American citizens of Canadian birth, I was surprised that the Observer Newspapers would print such an insulting editorial as the one in this week's issue.

I was always under the impression that, to be an editorial writer, you had to be dry behind the ears, and have at least the equivalent of a third grade education.

W. E. Arthurs  
 1800 N. Territorial Rd.  
 Plymouth

# From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

You're not supposed to talk about it.  
 Not out here in the cool, clean, white suburbs.  
 Particularly not during this long, hot summer, when Negro riots are tearing the cities around

this country to bits.  
 No, you're not supposed to talk about it.  
 But they're still shooting in Newark, New Jersey, and they don't know when it will stop. Twenty-five dead so far. Who

knows how many it will be when it's over . . . in Newark.  
 Then it will go somewhere else: Senseless, insane, terrifying shooting.  
 Watts. Tampa. Boston. Cincinnati. Newark.

And the list goes on.  
 People—human beings are shooting other people just because they happen to be firemen, trying to put out a fire. A 12-year-old kid was killed in Newark over the weekend, when he happened to be putting out some trash for his mother and got caught in a cross fire.

No, you're not supposed to talk about it.  
 But if you're not going to talk about it, what are you going to do?  
 Ignore it and hope it will go away?

Not on your life. Not with our great cities festering with the stinks and sweat of slums and Negro ghettos.

You don't ignore 10 or 20 million people who are mad and who also happen to have guns.

So what do you do?  
 You can attack them on editorial pages of newspapers for being absolutely nuts. You can say that riots and violence don't ever settle anything.

Then you sit back and listen for the great alliance. For the people who are rioting don't read editorial pages, and the people who do read editorial pages don't riot.

You can say "Let's beat their brains in. Teach 'em respect for law and order."

So then you get both sides doing the shooting, and even more getting killed.

The Human Relations Commissions have tried, but haven't been all that effective so far.

But, still, you're not supposed to talk about it. Not here.  
 So why do they riot and loot and burn and destroy and kill?

On Monday, the Detroit News ran a piece by a man from the Associated Press, A. F. Mahan, which tried to get at one side of the problem.

He wrote: "The No. 1 generator of hostility among Negro adults in Michigan is often the Negro's inability to buy a house he can afford in the area of his choice."

That's a big part of the problem.

But do you ever hear it discussed, openly and rationally, out here in the suburbs?

No.  
 Why not?

Because some people believe the longer you don't talk about it, the less likely it is to happen.

Because some other people are afraid that if they talk about it, they'll be called nigger-lovers and forced out of town.

That's too bad. Because the only way to dispel fear and hatred is to make an attempt to talk and reason and come to grips with the problem.

They didn't do too much talking in Newark.

Not until it was too late.  
 Are we going to wait that long?



## Remember Your Harmonica Days?

A while ago, I caught one of those early World War II movies on the telly very late at night. You could tell it was made in the early part of the war because (1) its tone was patriotism rather than Freudian psychology and (2) a kid played the harmonica.

A harmonica! How many years has it been since people played the harmonica?  
 A hit later, I bumped into the "Harmonica Kittens," a dozen gentlemen and ladies from the Plymouth senior citizens organization ranging in age from 63 to 80-plus. They had harmonicas of all shapes and sizes, and they had a whale of a good time.

So did I, and so will any group which wants to hear them and contacts Mrs. Florence Gould, the coordinator and commentator. They play by ear and ad-lib—perhaps "improvise" is the more sophisticated jazz-generation term. Anyway, you'd love 'em.

Finally, just a couple of weeks ago, Time Magazine reported that Larry Adler, the concert harmonica player, getting busy in the United States again after a self-imposed political exile broken only occasionally during the last 18 years.

RCA Victor has signed Adler to a recording contract, and he will work four harmonica concertos, among other things; he recently made his first appearance in 20 years with the New York Philharmonic; last month he appeared on the "Mike Douglas Show" on television.

Moreover, he is composing—and teaching.

Maybe the harmonica will make a comeback. It came part way back several years ago, when the "Harmonicals" were

popular, but that was an entertainment fad.

No, the kind of comeback the harmonica needs is a popular comeback, a people's comeback, where you play it yourself.

The harmonica has some limitations. Unless you get a rather fancy instrument, you have to stick to the keys of C-major and A-minor, and you don't have a B-flat tone on the simpler instruments. That limits you in

the playing of more modern songs, with their minor and seventh chords and subtle shadings.

But who needs all those minor and seventh chords and subtle shadings? All that is available in Defense Department statements.

The harmonica ought to be brought back by respectable people, good and hard, before the hippies get hold of it.

—Tim Richard

## This Is The Week That

By Don Hoenshell

It will be maybe a generation or two before the nation that discovered electricity and the cure for polio makes sense out of county government.

County government, of course, is archaic, dating from English common law when the nation and state were rural and needed guidance. Cities then were the centers of commerce in a wilderness.

Now, with a fraction of agriculture the farmer can keep the nation in food and the ratio has been turned. Three out of four people live in cities or in urban centers, like Oberverland.

But county government hangs on, like your appendix and tonsils—almost useless except as a means to keep doctors in Cadillac and station wagons.

The Wayne County Apportionment Commission charade of recent days makes it all a travesty.

It adopted a 26-district plan for Wayne County to meet a July 13 deadline with the pious hope that the United States Supreme Court will upset the state constitution and its own hallowed precedent.

Consider this, folks.  
 On May 8, State Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley wrote a Dear Jim letter to Secretary of State James M. Hare stating the state law which created county apportionment commissions is unconstitutional.

Not binding, you say, and you're right.

But before that the Michigan Supreme Court, by a vote of 5-2-1 followed the reasoning of Justice Harry F. Kelly in an advisory opinion to Gov. Romney, which, after pages of fascinating prose, said:

"My answer to the governor: The constitutional (Michigan) provision is valid and, therefore, PA 1966, No. 261, is not."

OK, so an advisory opinion of the Supreme Court is not binding either, just a bunch of lawyers giving advice to the governor of the state. An Appeals Court case is pending.

The first case is now before the United States Supreme Court, which has a policy.

It is that a Federal question must be involved for it to upset a state constitutional provision. In Michigan, then, the policy says the United States will not upset this:

That every township must be represented by a member of the Board of Supervisors. Great triumph for the Michigan Supervisor's Association, and let's hear it for the Court House Gang.

The 26-member plan in Wayne County is thus shot full of holes.

## Just Who Are Dems?

There's more nonsense than sense in the action of the Plymouth Township Board, approving the recommendation of Supervisor John McEwen that ousted Irving Rozian, longtime member of the Planning Commission and twice its chairman, from that Board.

Rozian has long been one of the most respected members of the Commission and was a leader in the abortive fight to get the State Highway Department to change its proposed extension of M-14 through the Township.

There was an indication that Supervisor McEwen failed to recommend Rozian because of the latter's Democratic Party leanings. Perhaps the same reason could be suggested for the removal of Township Attorney Earl Demel after 27 years.

Which brings one face to face with the facts of what makes a Republican or Democrat in Ply-

mouth Township.

Supervisor McEwen has twice run for office in the Township on the Republican ticket, winning a term as clerk and his present term as supervisor. We don't suppose it will open any eyes when we remind all that McEwen was employed in the City-County building for 30 years—during a period when a Republican never held office. He also was a prime booster of Gov. John Swainson, his next door neighbor on Gov. Bradford in the Township—as we recall, Swainson was a Democratic Governor.

Trustee Ralph Garber, who cast one of the votes to oust Rozian, was chief assistant prosecutor of Wayne County for 25 years. Again during a period when none but Dems ruled the roost. He's a Republican member of the Township Board, just as all others.

Nutted! —R. T. Thompson

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