

# Just Chattin'

## Here's Another Side To The National Debt Picture

By W. W. EDGAR

LIKE many others across the land I have been disturbed by the ever increasing national debt and the seeming nonchalance with which the members of Congress keep boosting it.

It seems that not a year goes by that the public prints don't carry a story that the ceiling has been pushed upward again. There have been some years when it happens twice.

When this is done there is every reason to ask the question— "What would happen if we ran our homes on such a basis?"

The recent boost was \$30 billion and it was passed off with about as much concern as though it were 39 cents. At least, this seemed to be the attitude of the general public.

HOWEVER, I am a product of the old school that was taught, "If you want to dance you will have to pay the piper."

The boosting of the ceiling always has bothered me. Only recently, on the theory that few persons realized the meaning of a billion dollars, I had a banker friend provide some very interesting figures to give more meaning to the term "billion."

"If you had a stack of one thousand dollar bills," he explained, "it would require 1000 to reach a height of eight inches."

That was interesting. So, I did a bit of figuring myself. If \$1 million in thousand dollar bills was a stack eight inches high then a billion dollars in one thousand dollar bills would be 8,000-mchgs high—or 667 feet.

Whew! What a staggering thought. This would be higher than the Penobscot Building in downtown Detroit.

Now, place side by side 39 stacks of thousand dollar bills—each higher than the Penobscot—and you have some sort of an idea, not of the national debt bill, but only of the recent boost.

Then, in the mail, came a letter from one of my favorite members of Congress, Mrs. Martha W. Griffiths, and I developed an entirely new concept of the national debt.

IN HER letter, Congresswoman Griffiths deplored the fact that the powerful Ways and Means Committee, of which she is a member, was forced to devote more than 14 weeks to the debate on boosting the debt.

She pointed out that this time could have been better spent on a study of the Social Security program and the seemingly slowness of the payments for medicare and such things.

"After all," she stated, "raising the national debt is only providing the money to pay our bills."

Then she asked, "And what would happen—if we didn't pay them?"

The real problem, as she pointed out, is the other side of the picture—the side where the money is doled out in huge quantities with little or no thought of the consequences.

The place to launch an economic drive according to Mrs. Griffiths is to curb those who play politics with federal funds. This is the type that goes to Washington and makes much of the fact that they are wanted to take care of the "folks back home," so he votes for all sorts of grants.

Then, when it comes time to pay for those "plums" they scream economy—when it is too late.

This is a new side of the picture and I am thankful, again to one of my favorite members of Congress, for enlightenment.

Take a tip from Mrs. Griffiths—watch the spenders from now on.

# Democrats Gave Suburbs Break on Tax: Vagnozzi

Nineteenth District Democratic Chairman Aldo Vagnozzi has told the Oakland County Democratic Committee that the successful fight by legislative Democrats for a measure of equity in the state's recently adopted income tax will mean that suburban residents will pay less than they would have paid under the Republican proposal.

Speaking to the Democratic Committee's monthly meeting, Vagnozzi said that the savings show up when a comparison is made between the final program with the

Democratic improvements and the last Republican plan pushed by the GOP in the House of Representatives.

House Republicans tried to put through a plan which called for only a \$500 per person exemption.

14 per cent property tax credit on only school and county taxes and no credit for city income taxes, according to Vagnozzi.

"Democrats insisted on a higher personal exemption and finally won a \$1,200 figure," Vagnozzi told the meeting.

"This means a tax saving of \$15.60 for each dependent on this improvement alone."

"The Democratic property tax credit proposal—a sliding scale plan starting at 20 per cent for the first \$100—covers all homestead taxes, not just school and property."

"The extension of property tax relief to renters, based on 20 per cent of the annual rent, as advocated by Democrats will also benefit many residents in the area. Thus a person paying \$125 a month rent will receive a tax reduction of \$37.50 which he would not have had under the House Republican plan."

"Persons paying a city income tax will also receive credit against their state income tax on a sliding scale starting at 20 per cent for the first \$100 paid. A suburban resident paying \$50 in Detroit income taxes can deduct \$10 of that amount from his state income tax."

Vagnozzi said that a family of four with an income of \$8,000 paying a property tax of \$400 a year, of which \$250 goes for school and county taxes, would have to pay \$105 in state income taxes under the House Republican plan.

"The Democratic improvements have reduced this state income tax bill to \$29.50 for a person paying a full city income tax, \$35.10 for a person paying a non-resident

city income tax, and \$40.70 for a person who is not paying a non-resident city income tax," Vagnozzi explained.

"The same family of four with an income of \$20,000 and property taxes of \$600, including \$400 for school and county, will pay from \$51.40 to \$81.50 less in state income taxes as a result of the Democratic improvements."

"The tax plan is not fully equitable, because it still places too heavy a burden on individuals. From the experience in this legislative session it appears that further improvements in the program can only be made if Democratic majorities are returned to the Legislature."

## Workshop Open House On Thursday

An open house will mark the end of the Northwest Community Resources Workshop, in which 35 teachers from 12 suburban school districts have been participating.

The open house will be held July 20, 7 p.m., at the Cass Elementary School in Livonia.

On display will be teaching materials which the teachers have created for use in their school districts next year. Two of the projects are: Conservation—What is Happening in the Metropolitan Area, and Community Resources for Neare Streets.

Other projects are: A Make-Believe Trip to Europe, Michigan Indians—Yesterday and Today, Study of Human Growth and Development, and An Evaluation of Career Opportunities in Art.

The teachers have also become actively involved in the study of their communities by taking various field trips through local industrial and business enterprises.

The workshop is offered through Michigan State University and is directed by Carl Boyce and Charles Jackson.

School districts are represented by the following teachers from Livonia, James George, Dorothy Hill, Bill Lawson, Darwin Long, Carolyn Loothe, Joe Lyons, Sharon Mazy, Viane Popko, and Ellen Kaplan; from Farmington, Buhl Burton, Sharon Maher, Jacquelyn Sturtz, Cheryl Smith, Linda Van Dyke, Susan Galvin, and Kathy Waggoner; from Garden City, Edith Benedict, Rowena Flournoy, and Bob Kirschner.

Other districts' teachers are Detroit's Ken Brown and Bertha Godwin; Allen Park, Joan Butler and Sharon Larys; Taylor Township, Barbara Deay and Sharon Leach; Nankin Mills, Joyce Green and Kathryn Kirk; Southfield, Isobel Fenton; Cherry Hill, JoAnn Dolan; Plymouth, Dorothy Johnson; Redford Union, Dorothy Keeney; and Wayne, Arnie Moore, Judith Shuman, and Patricia Laveroni.



BACKYARD SWIMMING INSTRUCTION This is one of 25 backyard pools that the Livonia YMCA uses every summer for lessons in its swimming program.

# THURS. FRI. SAT! KRESGE'S

## July SEARCHERS

**Fluffy, Napped Thermal Blanket**

3 Days Only **2.88**  
Our Reg. 3.46

A blanket for all seasons... cool in summer, warm in winter. A luxuriously soft blend of rayon, cotton, nylon, Raspberry, gold, beige, avocado or blue. Washable. 72x90".

Like 127 Charge 127

**65% Dacron® Polyester/35% Cotton—Permanent Press Blouses, 30-40**

3 Days Only **2.93**  
Our Reg. 3.99

Roll-up-pleer styles with convertible or Bermuda collar, white and pastels. 30-40".

Girls' Sizes, 8-14, Reg. 1.88..... 1.37

**With 25% Du Pont Stretch Nylon Stretch Denim Capris**

3 Days—Reg. 3.99! Permanent press cotton/nylon, in half a dozen colors. 8-18.

Girls' Sizes, 7-14, Capris, Reg. 2.87..... 2.27

**Men's Combed Cotton Knit "K-6" Golfers' Shirts**

3 Days Only **1.47**  
Our Reg. 1.99

Cool, comfortable cotton knit of excellent quality. Made with acrom-plicker underarm insert and split bottom. In white, yellow, olive, powder blue or maize. S-M-L-XL.

**7-Oz. Can 6-12 Spray**

**63¢**

3 Days—Reg. 87¢! Non-stainable insect repellent spray. Repels mosquitoes, chiggers, gnats.

net wt.

**20-Oz. Yard Guard**

**1.67**

3 Days—Reg. 1.87! 20 Oz. Yard Guard and coloring books to keep children happy on hot days.

net wt.

**Kiddy Books**

3 Days Reg. 25¢-29¢ Ea. **3.37**

Large story books and coloring books to keep children happy on hot days.

**Yardgoods Sneakers**

44" wide, 2-10 grad. plus. cotton and Avon® rayon/nylon. Solid points.

3 Days—Reg. 39¢ Yd. **3.88**

FMC Corp. T.M. Polyvinyl chloride

**Save on Head 'n Shoulders Shampoo**

3 Days—Reg. 67¢ Lb. **4.22**

Big-size morsel of tasty milk chocolate with a thin candy shell.

Like 127 Charge 127

**Head 'n Shoulders Shampoo**

3-7/10 oz. Tube **63¢**

Reduces any naturally oily hair, retains natural body. Easy to comb.

Like 127 Charge 127

**Curl Free Kit**

3 Days—Our Reg. 2.96 **2.22**

Agave No. 13 Oz. "Regular" or "Hold-Hold" spray.

Like 127 Charge 127

**Hair Spray**

3 Days Only—Reg. 71¢ **4.88**

Agave No. 13 Oz. "Regular" or "Hold-Hold" spray.

Like 127 Charge 127

**6-Oz. Noxzema Toothpaste**

3 Days—Our Reg. 83¢ **6.72**

6-Oz. medic K-mart brand, your guarantee of tested quality.

net wt.

**DO IT YOURSELF Upholstery CENTER**

Wholesale • Retail

**LIVONIA INTERIORS and FABRICS**

31379 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150

425-4760

<b>WESTLAND CENTER</b> Wayne & Warren Road	<b>LIVONIA MALL</b> 7 Mile at Middlebelt	<b>WONDERLAND CENTER</b> Plymouth at Middlebelt
<b>PLYMOUTH</b> Main at Ann Arbor Trail	<b>FARMINGTON PLAZA</b>	<b>7-GRAND SHOPPING CENTER</b>
<b>8-MILE &amp; BEECH SHOPPING CENTER</b>	<b>SHELDEN CENTER</b> Plymouth and Farmington	
<b>TELE-CRAFT SHOPPING CENTER</b>	<b>GRANDLAND SHOPPING CENTER</b>	<b>WAYNE</b> 35004 Michigan
<b>CHERRY HILL PLAZA</b> Cherry Hill at Inkster Rd.	<b>7 MILE at EVERGREEN</b>	

**NOW YOU CAN "CHARGE IT" AT KRESGE'S**

## Impressions

Teachers as a group are probably the most dedicated and most juvenile (at times) group of individuals around. In this period of militancy for public employees and teachers they are certainly entitled to bargain for the best. They become juvenile when they whine and complain about the poor pay of teachers and the "poor" conditions of one district.

The answer to this is the fact that no one is chaining them to a desk in a particular district or to any desk in any school.

A good teacher, however, probably works harder and cares more intensely about his profession and his students than any other professional group.

This dedication is why communications from the Michigan and National Education Associations (the teachers' professional groups) are just about always read when they arrive in the stack of mail.

This week the results of a survey conducted at the NEA's national convention arrived from the MEA headquarters in Lansing.

Some of the results of the survey were:

• Teachers believe (308 to 231) that schools are placing too much emphasis on preparation of the college bound student at the expense of the student who is not college bound.

• Only 158 believed that their school system had "adequate" programs for non-college bound students as opposed to the 384 who said no.

• The explosive question of bussing students to maintain a racial balance drew 418 opposed to the idea, while 123 agreed.

Of course, it should be noted here that the NEA tends to be the more conservative of the two groups representing teachers nationally. The American Federation of Teachers tends to draw the "activists" among the teachers and has primary representation among the large school districts. For example, Detroit teachers are represented by the AFT, while school districts in Observance are represented by the local chapters of the NEA.

On the question of political action by the associations the opinion was just about divided.

• Should local teacher associations back political candidates with endorsement and financial support? 522 said yes while 222 said no.

• Should state teacher associations take the same action 499—yes, 311—no.

• Should the NEA take the same action, 433—yes and 377 no.

On the question "Should teachers, after school hours, work actively as members of political parties" only 89 said no, while a resounding 438 agreed with the premise of political action.

A majority of the teachers (210) said that they would not strike even after the association had "exhausted all of the legal remedies and the school board still refused to negotiate in good faith." Only 183 said yes to this question.

Maybe this survey is indicative of a new maturity on the part of the teachers and the days of the stereotype of the little white haired old lady who can't do much else is dying for the teaching profession.

We hope so.