# Just Chattin'

Here's Another Side To The National Debt Picture

.By W. W. EDGAR

INE many others across the land I have been disturbed with 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—

question—
"What would happen if we ran our homes on such a

basis? "The recent boost was \$39 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

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."

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

explained, "it would require 1000 to reach a height of eight inches."

That was interesting So, I did a bit of figuring myself. If \$11 million in thousand dollar bills was a stack eight inches high then a billion dollars in one thousand dollar bills would be 8,000 mehrs high—or 867 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 (lipit, 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, Congressmound of offiftints 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.

seemingly slowness of the payments of 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 deled out in huge quantities with little or no thought of the consequences.

quences.

The place to launch an economic drive according to Mrs. Griffiths is to curb those who play polities with federal funds. This is the type that goes to Washington and makes much of the fact that he wants 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 tin from Mrs. Conference.



chool.

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

dents than any other professional group.

This dedication is why communications from the MichIgan and National: Education Associations (the teachers'
professional groups) are just about slowly 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:

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Some of the results of the survey were:

\*\*Teachers believe (305 to 211) that schools are placing too much emphasis on preparation of the college bound.

\*\*Only 158 believed that their school system had "adequate" programs for non-college bound students at sopposed to the 384 who said no.

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\*\*Of course, it should be noted here that the NEA teals to be the more conservative of the two groups repassenting teachers nationally. The American Federation of Teachers and has primary representation among the large school districts for example, Detroit teachers are represented by the local chapters of the Nea.

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

\*\*Should districts in Observational are represented by the local chapters of the Nea.

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\*\*Should local teacher associations back political canber should state teacher associations take the same action to the Neal and the Neal teachers are represented by the Should state teacher associations take the same action the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher associations take the same action to the Neal teacher association to

-yes, 311—no. ●Should the NEA tale the same action, 433—yes and

377 no.

378 no.

378 no.

378 no.

379 no.

370 no.

370

# Democrats Gave Suburbs Break on Tax: Vagnozzi

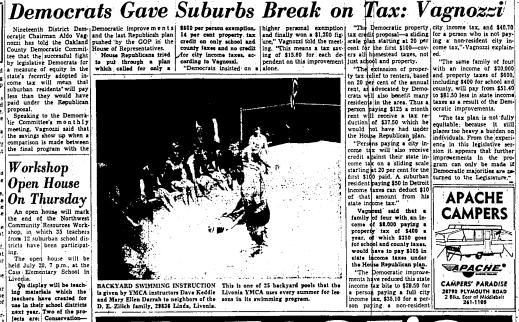
Cass Elementary School in Livonia.

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