

Dems Should Stage Campaign For Election

The calendar in the city clerk's office in Westland says there is a city election scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Apparently, the candidates for the four City Council seats are trying to have the public forget about it—at least Democratic candidates.

THE FOUR Democratic nominees, which include three incumbent councilmen, have two Republican challengers in a city which has been predominantly Democratic for 12 years.

The Republican candidates, Milton Hack and Robert Wagner, are making an effort to carry their campaign to the voters, who will elect four councilmen in two weeks' time.

But the Democratic office holders and nominees are apparently hoping that the less said, the fewer voters will get out on

election day, the smaller the chance the citizens, dissatisfied with the current legislative body, will get out and upset any hopes.

But Westland voters deserve better than that.

THIS IS especially true since this is the first city election since Nankin Township incorporated as a city in April, 1966.

After the Nov. 7 election, voters will not get a shot at any office holder for another two years.

Since this is the first election since incorporation, it will give citizens a chance to mark the incumbents' "report card" for their performance in office for the past 18 months.

But this is difficult when the voters are not being told how the city officials are doing—or not doing.

—Leonard Poger

From the Publisher's Desk

OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

STRAWES FLYING in the brisk October wind:

- Detroit's Mayor Cavanagh unveils a plan to annex part of Plymouth Township to Detroit, for a non-segregated "New Town";
- Governor Romney's proposed state-wide open housing bill runs into trouble in the Legislature, mainly from suburban lawmakers who are afraid of white

backlash;

- Peter Libassi, special assistant for civil rights in the Health, Education and Welfare Department, suggests that "we think it is possible to make all suburban districts desegregate their teaching staffs regardless of whether they have Negro students";
- Vague rumors circulate that Detroit, which makes its water

system available (for a fee) to many communities in Observeland, will use this as a clout to force some suburban understanding and help in the tangled racial situation confronting the inner city.

WHAT IT ADDS UP to is that the suburbs are going to find themselves under heavy — and increasing — pressure to take

positive action in the racial crisis that right now is putting our society under perhaps its greatest strain since the Civil War.

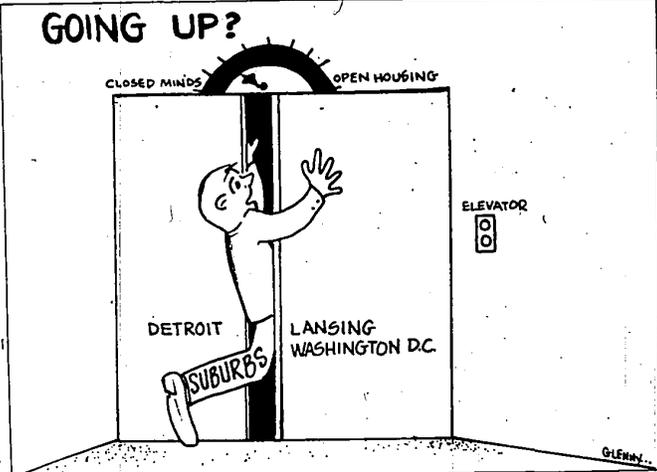
By and large, the pressure is not now coming, nor will it come, from the suburbs themselves. They simply do not face the problem, largely because they are suburbs and therefore predominantly white.

Rather, the pressure will come from the cities like Detroit, which are caught in the fearful squeeze of heavy demands from the Negro community without having enough money to pay for the needed programs. It will come from Lansing, where the progressive attitude on civil rights taken by both political parties will be melded increasingly into the network of state law.

And it will come from Washington, where the clearing equal opportunity sections of the U.S. Constitution give the federal government the power to withhold money from areas that are not complying with the spirit of the laws.

This pressure will not be directed against the suburbs just because people in Detroit or Lansing or Washington are sore at them. It will come, quite simply, because the suburbs are the place where the votes and power and money happen to be located in our society.

For example, Governor Romney knows he can't pass a state open housing bill without the votes of the suburban legislators. Detroit is having financial problems partly because people and industry are leaving the inner city, moving out to the suburbs, and thereby fattening the suburban tax base.



This Is The Week That

By Don Hoenshell

This is the story of Crazy Norman and his First International Fish Fry, an event that contributed as much to the seasonal political jollies as anything else.

There's a lesson here for us all.

It is conceivable that untold hundreds of barrels of beer will be drained and tons of smelt destroyed before the next election.

FIRST OF ALL, Crazy Norman wasn't crazy. His square name is Norman Nader and he still runs a delightful little restaurant on East Jefferson in Detroit. A sort of city hall watering spot.

Norman watched the city council and others at luncheon and later at night while they met strategy over the ground beef and blue Swiss.

At that time the late former Councilman Ed Conner had to turn away people from his annual fish fry. Councilman Jim Brickley had a pancake breakfast. Even the city hall newspapermen had an annual bash to benefit Father Kern.

One day Norman made his decision.

"From the talk I hear around the place, I could be as good a city councilman. I think I shall run, and what better way to get launched than with my own fish fry."

It had worked for the others and maybe this is just the way.

So Norman booked a giant hall in the Veterans Memorial Building, hired two orchestras and made other arrangements, including 5,000 tickets.

The night of the bash a janitor stood alertly at the door announcing that the site of Norman Nader's debut had been changed—to Norman Nader's restaurant.

There, Norman presided. The crowd was small, consisting almost entirely of reporters whose tickets were complimentary.

"Come on in and cry with me," he said.

SO IT'S THE season again for this kind of doing. This will grow until during the last days of the campaign candidates will be attending three breakfasts, 12 luncheons and several banquets at night.

Gov. Romney liked to hit them all on campaigns, but he beat the system. He scheduled his arrival for the speechmaking, leaving immediately after. His driver rounded up hamburgers during the speech.

It worked great if you like hamburgers.

In the suburbs we're already having some of these as the parties get an early foot going in 1968.

The political contribution laws make parties like these the major—and proper—way for people to support their candidates and parties. A man who can buy a \$25 dinner ticket, for example, can't give the same \$25 check to his tiger and wish him well.

BUT BACK briefly to Norman. With everything planned well and arrangements made, why did his political fish fry fall on its face?

It is much easier to sell tickets to someone you can help.

Norman was a gracious host, if you don't count the amateur opera singers he sometimes brought to the place, but—like in all other political endeavors—without a vote you're nothing.

Sense And Nonsense

Why is it that city officials who are the loudest advocates of attracting new industrial and commercial tax base to their community are usually the first to vote against a rezoning proposal to bring these things to town?

Zoltan Ferency, Michigan's Democratic Party Chairman, wants to dump President Johnson from the 1968 ticket—all because LBJ didn't pronounce his name right in last year's campaign.

With 42 state governors on one ship, who could conceive of a better target for bombing practice?

First there were local controversies about parking in the street. So, solutions were found in off-street parking. Maybe the problem of crime in the street could be solved with off-street crime. But then what would politicians have to talk about?

It has been mentioned that the Nankin Mills School District in Westland, smallest in the state with 1.25 square miles, has more problems than any other district in Michigan on a square footage basis.

Suburbs Sport A Beauty

There are a thousand possible comments about the Sunday story that a Farmington girl won the Miss Teenage Detroit contest for 1968.

About a year ago, some Wayne State University sociologists pointed out that Oakland County was becoming a brain center for southeastern Michigan as more and more talent drifted from Detroit to the suburbs.

Now Oakland County—specifically, the north part of Farmington—is Detroit's beauty capital, too.

—to her school, North Farmington High School.

—to suburbia's good showing in general.

Now she will go to Dallas Nov. 4-11 to compete with 60 other girls from all over the nation for

the U.S. title with its college scholarship, wardrobe, stock in several corporations and chances for fees for personal appearances.

Our best wishes go with Miss Teenage Detroit-Farmington.

—Tim Richard

Dems Go Suburban; GOP Turns Egghead

"The science of politics is probably the most fascinating operation around.

During election campaigns the party organizations move into high gear and much attention is paid to them. What happens in the off years?

That's when the going is tough and the party regulars make plans, plot new strategy and try to raise the necessary cash to either pay past debts or to finance the next campaign.

In the past two weeks an example of different twists to the off-year projects has appeared. In the interests of being non-partisan, it's nice that one project came from the Republicans and the other from the Democrats.

LET'S TAKE a look at the Democrats' project first simply because it has received more notice in the columns of the news media.

This is a fund-raising project dreamed up by the Oakland County organization of the party. It's an effort to reach the small contributor of \$1 or so rather than the big-wigs.

This is the hard way since the Dems will have to convince many more people to raise the same amount of capital.

The project is called "DEMO '68" and is described as "one new program of Oakland Party."

The party workers are circulating Oakland County looking for the funds.

The idea is better than \$25 a plate dinners and the famous President's Club. The project will work only if a great deal of shoe leather and elbow grease is expended in its behalf.

THE REPUBLICANS' new project takes the higher ground of the intellectual approach. It's a low-key, quality type magazine called "The Michigan Republican Quarterly."

The editor, Charles E. Schultz of Albion College, states in the first article of this publication, "Eggheads and the Republican Party" that:

"Popular opinion holds that

eggheads or intellectuals are usually liberal to left-wing in their politics. Consequently, they are seldom associated with the Republican Party. . . . Within recent memory there have been so few active Republicans in the colleges and universities of Michigan that they could be counted on both hands with several fingers left over."

"This inaugural edition of The Michigan Republican Quarterly" hopefully symbolizes the changing trend in the partisan allegiances and political orientation of intellectuals. It is a joint effort of the Michigan Republican Committee on the Arts, Professions and Sciences and the research staff of the Michigan Republican State Central Committee. Intellectuals and research are two sides of a single coin, the increasing currency of which in party activity signifies the modernization of Republican politics."

MUCH HAS BEEN written in the past few years about the changing complexion of the political parties in the nation. These two items signify this change.

The Democrats are seeking to raise funds in Oakland County—the bastion of the GOP trends within the metropolitan Detroit area and the Republicans are going after the eggheads.

In the interest of a contest and a realistic two party system, good luck to both.

—Sue Shaughnessy

SYMPTOMS OF THIS pressure are already cropping up in Observeland, both in terms of resistance and of thoughtful and constructive response.

The Plymouth City Commission will hold its first reading of a proposed open housing ordinance on Nov. 6. This will be followed by a public hearing on Nov. 13 after which the ordinance will be further considered by the Commission.

The Plymouth Ministerial Association has ignored a record favoring the proposed ordinance, and the commissioners are giving it careful scrutiny. Chances are that some form of ordinance will pass, although opponents in Lansing could change that.

In an event, the developments in Plymouth are among the most encouraging signs of a constructive and positive suburban response to the crisis facing our entire society.

Rumor is that Farmington will soon be considering a similar step.

After the riots that blazed through the big cities, this slimmer, more thing has become clear: A new item has been added to our national agenda, one which makes it impossible for us to continue an attitude of business as usual.

Whether the suburbs, including those served by these newspapers, meet the challenge will go a long way to determine if our country can stand up to the strain of its racial ills.

Sense And Nonsense

People who are the first to urge local citizens to solve local problems are usually the first to vote against tax increases for better school and city services.

Why is it that racial problems are always discussed in all-white suburbs where the homeowners are striving to protect their "property values" rather than look at human values?

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