

# OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

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## This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenschell

Mac was a newspaperman who had a problem adjusting his work and recreation, so he took his typewriter to his favorite saloon and wrote his column on the bar. Once the bartender gave him a glass of water, pure and unpolluted. Mac sipped and uttered a political truism: "Not bad but it needs a gimmick or it'll never sell."

Think about it a minute.

There was the chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage—if you could afford a garage and a pot. Roosevelt's New Deal, Truman's Fair Deal, Eisenhower's Great Crusade.

Following, there was JFK's New Frontier and LBJ's Great Society.

IN MICHIGAN, we deal more in the fun of the thing than in the written word.

Go back a few years and tick them off. There was Gov. Harry F. Kelly, the solid Catholic Irishman; Gov. Kim Sigler of the flamboyant wardrobe, the airplane and the hero figure of a grand jury investigator.

The airplane was Kim's downfall (you should excuse the expression, sincerely). It got to be a fetish, and it was pointed out he should have been in Lansing rather than in Detroit.

There was that terrible night with snow falling and the fields soaked in by weather that Sigler hit a television antenna near Battle Creek and plunged to his death.

### Sense And Nonsense

Women are being taught in Detroit how to maim an attacker by screaming, biting and kicking in the groin. Just pretend he's your husband, ladies, and forget the lessons.

## One Survey Which Isn't Too Snoopy

Sometimes, surveys can get pretty snoopy.

This is one of the kind. It seems to be pretty good.

It's being conducted by the U.S. Office of Civil Defense, which, if you haven't been following the papers closely, is still around.

OCID for five years has been surveying public buildings, selecting some for shelters and setting them up with two-week supplies of food, water, sanitary and medical supplies, and radiation detection stuff.

Now, it's surveying residential structures of the one-, two- and three-family size. Livonia and Garden City residents by now have probably received questionnaires, and other Oberseerland municipalities will be surveyed either by mail or by interviewers.

They say the answers will be confidential.

There's little reason to worry. The questions in the mail survey are hardly personal. They main-

ly have to do with house roofs, basement walls and distances from other dwellings.

The accompanying letter says that most public shelters in Michigan "are located in commercial, industrial, school and other public buildings in the major cities. But these do not serve the needs of all city residents and families of residential location, job location or other factors. . . Families may find that the nearest public shelter is too far away."

It can't do any harm to fill out the questionnaire and send it along to the Census Bureau.

"Every family that lives in a house with a basement," they say, "will be mailed a specially prepared Civil Defense booklet, a label on the cover will provide information concerning the fallout protection factor. . . A general information booklet on protective measures that can be taken by individuals and families will be sent to occupants of homes without basements."

Fair enough.

# From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

The expressways are still jammed. The war in Viet Nam drags on. Taxes continue to rise. And winter is coming in with the usual sodden and gray hesitations.

In the middle of all this grimness, it's reassuring to know that there is at least one group on the alert and fully prepared for the disasters to come.

The Patriotic Party, occupying a point in the political spec-

trum somewhat to the right of the John Birch Society, has come forward with a useful little flyer now being distributed in various areas of Oberseerland.

"ALARM," it opens. "Can you survive the next war? It has already been planned." That certainly snapped my head around; some writers, those Patriotic Party flacks.

"Next time, they will destroy all utilities, gas, water, lights,

and plan to murder all policemen and their families." Evidently, the Patriotic Party has sources of information somewhat better than the Detroit Police Department combined with the FBI and CIA.

BUT FEAR not. The PP has a nifty plan for suburban homeowners to survive in the middle of the impending chaos. They assume that martial law will be

imposed when the riot starts, and that everyone will be confined indoors "as long as a month or more."

That's a long time, but the plan has it all worked out:

- "Have a gun, and plenty of ammunition. Nothing wrong with a bow and arrow."

- "At least a 30-day supply of food. You will NOT have refrigeration."

- "A supply of drinking water must be stored in jugs, bottles, barrels, etc."

- "Portable radio and flashlight and extra batteries."

- "Portable stove for heat and cooking. Fire extinguisher."

- "Walkie-talkie for neighborhood communication."

- "First-aid equipment."

The PP says they'll be glad to help you organize, and they mention a series of three rallies held in Detroit and Dearborn. "Persons suspected of being Communist or Black Power sympathizers will NOT be admitted."

CLEARLY, THE Patriotic Party is not your ordinary slaps-a-sh organization. Discipline. Toughness. Follow orders. Hut; two; three; forsaard haarch!

Woe to the PP member who doesn't follow the carefully worked-out plan.

Let's move our portable tape recorder around to pick up an interview, some months in the future, between Patriotic Leader Smith and new recruit Jones. The conversation takes place in PP headquarters, after a sudden and unannounced inspection of Jones' house.

"WE SAID quite clearly that you should have a gun and plenty of ammo." PPL Smith isn't too happy. "Even a bow and arrow is OK. But a bunch of your wife's kitchen knives and your son's BB gun simply won't do."

"But you oughta see my wife with those knives when she's mad," Jones sputters. "And the neighbors say my son is more dangerous than John Dillinger with that BB gun."

"No insubordination, Jones! I'm here to give you your orders, not to accept back talk."

"Now, you've got enough food for 32 days, although I wonder whether five gallons of peanut butter is entirely suitable to keep up your strength."

"But my son likes it."

"O.K., O.K. But look, you've entirely disobeyed instructions with respect to the drinking water. You were supposed to store it in jugs, bottles, barrels, etc., just like our leaflet says."

"Yeah, I suppose you're right. My wife's pretty sore at that bath tub full of cold water. She wanted to take a bath the other night, and I wouldn't let her. I said the riot could come any day now, and what's a little b.o. as a price for safety. I'll get some barrels, etc."

"Well, you'd better. And you'd better do something about that stove situation. We simply can't have Patriotic Party members with an old 55 gallon drum and a bunch of broken up furniture in their basement. Get hold of Consumers Power Co. and ask about bottled gas."

"O.K., O.K. Reinmember, I'm new. This counter-emergency business. Is there anything else that should be fixed up?"

"You bet there is. And this is serious. Where is your walkie-talkie for neighborhood communication? You know you were ordered to have one! Where's it?"

"Well, I talked to all the people in my neighborhood about it, and none of them had walkie-talkies. And if nobody else has one, I can't use mine very well for neighborhood communication."

"You mean you TOLD your neighbors a bout t' your plans!" roars Smith. "That means you've broken our standing order about secrecy! Everybody will know what we're doing!"

"But shouldn't they?" mutters Jones. "After all, if we're going to save people from the riots, shouldn't we try to save everybody?"

"You must be some kind of Communist or Black Power sympathizer! We aren't interested in helping just everybody. Just our Patriotic Party members. You're expelled!"

"Well, I guess that's OK," Jones says. "My kid really has wanted to shoot that BB gun for the past couple of weeks."

SOUNDS SILLY, I know. But riots are serious enough to be of concern for everyone, without having the waters muddied by extremists. . . black or white.



### SENSE 'N' NONSENSE

State Senator George W. Kuhn, whose district includes several communities served by the Observer Newspapers, had a letter to the editor published last week in a Detroit newspaper complimenting Ford Motor Co. for offering thousands of jobs to inner city residents. What he forgot to mention in between the sugar-and-spice comments about the company and its officers is that George is on leave of absence from the Ford accounting department to serve in the Senate. It looks like he is buttering up the boss even when he is not on the payroll.

The nomination for the stupidest Halloween prankster of the year should be the person (or persons) who tore down the United Foundations gas-fed torch, burning in front of the Garden City Municipal Building.

The Observer's recent editorial reviewing George Romney's past promises and record received several compliments—all from Democrats, of course. But State Senator Bill Faust wrote to the writer last week that he get the Pulitzer Prize—"at least the Democratic one," anyway.

The Secretary of State office in Lansing told a Garden City branch office that it shouldn't reserve special auto plate numbers on 1968 plates which went on sale last week. Several days after the instruction, Secretary of State James Hare himself was pictured in a Detroit newspaper presenting special WS plates to a Wayne State University administrator in observance of the school's centennial. It seems hypocrisy is the name of the game.

## Dems Get A Lesson

Westland Democrats learned a lesson the hard way in last week's first general elections in the city.

Although they campaigned on a "unity" theme following a hard-fought primary election in September, the voters, who haven't elected a Republican to office in 12 years, elected one to the City Council last week and even saw the only other Republican finish ahead of the Democratic incumbent who was defeated in his bid for another term.

During the weeks just before the election, Democrats were privately calling one of the Republican candidates a "John Birchener" although the Democrat admitted that the man was neither a member of that group nor attended any of their meetings.

But the Democrats fail to realize that 1967 is not 1964, when the GOP was split by a lot of "labels" from Birch and ultra-conservative to moderate and liberal and ultra-liberal. At that time, Republicans couldn't understand any candidate who didn't fit neatly into one of those categories.

Now the pendulum has turned 180 degrees and the Democrats, from local to the national levels, have been torn apart by "hawks" and "doves" and those who are trying to dump President Johnson from the 1968 national ticket.

It seems odd to this writer that the Democrats are falling into the same pit that spelled disaster for the Republican Party just three short years ago.

They don't seem to realize that just the simple tasks of calling the opponent some kind of nasty name, nailing up posters on utility poles near shopping centers, and passing out literature on election day just isn't enough to win these days.

Across the country, as evidenced by the recent returns in mayoralty races in Boston, Cleveland and Gary, Ind., the record shows that the average voter is getting smarter and more sophisticated about his voting patterns every election day.

STRAIGHT TICKET VOTES are a thing of the past; Democrats are campaigning openly for defeat of fellow Democrats; and Republicans have not hesitated about campaigning for other Democrats, if they feel that the Democrat is the best man in the field.

Race and religion are no longer considerations in politics, and the term "backlash" can now be placed in a political museum along with the Bull Moose Party campaign badges.

Locally, the voters indicated in the Westland election that they are earnest in their fight to maintain a sane tax rate and stop the

influx of new apartment developments.

This was shown by the fact that two of the three City Councilmen who favored turning the Birch Hill Golf Course into a shopping center and apartment complex are no longer in office. The other councilman who favored that rezoning request finished third in a field of four winners in last week's election.

The Democrat donkey had better wake up and smell the election returns or they will be in for greater shocks come next year's national elections.

This is the time for new definitions and new techniques.

—Leonard Poger

## Locking Car: A Favor To Yourself

You might just as well give your car away as to be guilty of leaving it unattended with the doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition—literally inviting thieves to take it.

Of the 500,000 cars stolen in 1966, more than 200,000 had been parked with the keys in the ignition, and 80 percent of them had been left with the doors not locked.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, auto thefts increased 12 percent in 1966 over 1965.

ONE OF THE LEADING car manufacturers has installed a buzzer on 1968 models which is set off if the key is in the ignition when the driver's door is opened—as an aid to the absentminded driver.

But for the millions of earlier model cars, drivers should be alert and take care to leave the car securely locked whenever it is not occupied, so as to:

First, cut down on juvenile delinquency, for police records show that more than half the stolen cars are taken by persons under 18 years of age and nearly 90 percent by those under 25. Almost one out of four stolen vehicles is involved in accidents. The pedestrians are filled with convicts whose first crime was auto theft.

Second, reduce the staggering overall financial loss from car theft which costs more than \$250 million a year (including items and accessories stolen from vehicles).

If you want to hold onto your car—lock it.

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