

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

PHILIP H. POWER

RUDOLPH MAZUREK

DALE O. PERIN

FRED J. LEVINE

RICHARD T. THOMPSON

FRED J. WRIGHT

Managing Editor

Circulation Director

Member Michigan Press Association, Suburban Press Foundation

This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenshell

Nobody knows whether George Romney can shake every hand in America because he really hasn't tried yet and at 60 he's still chasing the horizon.

In Michigan he has lapped the muse twice and may be the state's finest political distance runner, except he's not been timed against the original, former Gov. G. Mennen Williams.

Williams would conduct a one-man blitz, invading every store on Main Street to shake hands. A white tornado in a bow tie.

ROMNEY DID IT the same way in his Michigan campaigns. Whether you agreed with him or not, here was a middleweight hand-shaking champ. Maybe he should try out in the thin air of Mexico City in the 1968 Olympic Games.

In 1962 Romney was doing the 100 in 9.6 seconds down a street in Birmingham with Dave Broder of the Washington Post—in better shape than most political reporters—sprinting beside him in step.

Romney suddenly wheeled into a beauty shop to shake the hands of the captive audience under the dryers. When he came out to pick up the pace again, Broder said:

"Another half block and I think I could have taken you, George."

Now Romney says his major problem is the "need to reach the people." He said his early announcement for the GOP presidential nomination won't hurt him, though he's the first.

"I consider it an advantage,"

he said. "I'm not as well known as I need to be."

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, a small state where a candidate's entourage and the reporters on expense accounts mean an economic boom, the technique is great. There and here you pluck votes off a tree.

But when the going gets wild and planes are late and 25,000 meet them at the airport, egad, I got that word from a London Times reporter at the press conference, and, thank you, Cyril.

If Romney tries the technique on a nationwide basis, watch it, Mrs. Murphy in Boston and Mr. Callero in Houston. Some guy could beat on your door at 3:15 a.m. and say George Romney wants to shake your hand. Don't be grumpy if it happens.

Romney is in great shape for the run for the Big One. He runs a mile before breakfast and plays an instant 18 holes of golf whenever he can. Three golf balls for six holes.

HE AND WILLIAMS have the same talent in one respect. Both can snooze for 20 minutes and completely relax. After that they're good for another 24 hours.

Williams used to observe bedtime by going off to an all-night restaurant and having a milk shake. Sometimes with a marshmallow if exhaustion and giddiness had set in.

Romney must do something like that.

Egad, Thank you again, Cyril.

'Metro' Stalks Weak Local Governments

That of "metro government" going to get you and swallow you up, you figure?

Your l'il charming, autonomous town going to get overshadowed by that regional monster, you fear?

Could be, the way things are going.

It seems some of the opponents of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments are working overtime at clipping COG's wings in order to prevent it from turning into that "metro" bogey.

The backers of COG say, "Don't get scared, fellows, it's only a planetary thing."

Truth of the matter is that COG could grow, in time, into a "metro" system, good or bad, if there's a power vacuum that "grass-roots" government can't fill.

AND "GRASS-ROOTS" government some day seems to be trying to leave that vacuum. Witness:

Sense And Nonsense

Michigan's Legislature is now the 74th. Remember when 65 was the mandatory retirement age?

From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

They had a town meeting the other night over in Plymouth.

It wasn't fancy. It wasn't cluttered up by hi-falutin' talk or garish TV cameras. It was simply people from Plymouth coming together to consider a proposed open housing ordinance and to express their opinion to their elected City Commissioners.

That a meeting like this can still happen in the middle of all the hoop-la and sham of American politics is something that we can all be thankful for on this day before Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS, in Oberverland and everywhere else, are elected to represent the people. This doesn't mean that they

owe their constituents slavish copying of the mass of public opinion. They have a responsibility to lead those whom they represent, bringing to the best public interest the talents and judgment that (hopefully) led to their election.

But a public official has an equally great responsibility to face those who elected him—directly, candidly, and honestly. That's what the old New England town meetings did so many years ago! They put the city fathers on the spot, made them listen to the views of the people, and forced them to take note of the views of the electors.

That's what happened in Plymouth last week, and local govern-

ment in Plymouth is the stronger for it.

THE ISSUE of open housing, particularly in suburban areas characterized by their 99 and 11/100ths per cent pure whiteness, is a touchy one. Our distinguished state legislators (including those from this area) showed themselves unusually adept at shying away from the issue when it came up this month in Lansing. Presumably they're all thinking it over with great care while they are off deer hunting during the 25-day recess they called against the wishes of both Governor Romney and the Democratic leadership.

It's a tough issue. It involves property rights, land and home values, social planning, and cer-

tain important parts of the Constitution. It also involves a sense of morality, justice, and plain human conscience.

Most politicians (especially suburban ones) regard the issue much like Mao Tse Tung: It exists, but thank heavens it's confined to another continent. Except for the people who are flat against it, the pols prefer not to bring it up and do anything they can to avoid taking a stand on it.

They know all about the white backlash, even to the exclusion of their consciences' own inner lash.

THAT'S WHY THE action of the Plymouth City Commission was so constructive and effective. They had the guts to hold a public hearing on the issue, to hear the pros and the cons, to get the numerous points of view all from the people. They didn't try to sweep it under the rug.

OK. The Commissioners themselves didn't agree among themselves about the ordinance. Some (George Hudson, James Jabara, and Arch Vallier) didn't vote for the ordinance on the second reading; others (James Houk, James McKeon, Peter Schweitzer, and Robert Smith) voted for it. It's anybody's guess how the vote on final passage will go when it comes up December 4th.

Fine. The Commissioners differed. So did the people who came to the town meeting.

Some said that the ordinance was morally right and ethically necessary. Others said it would compromise property rights. Still others said it was socially responsible. Some said it would lower the value of their homes.

Some threatened (marches down Main Street, etc.) One man kept insisting that there wasn't any problem. Another made a dire speech about the effect of white backlash on budding political careers.

BUT THE PEOPLE got their say so. All who came.

They got it face to face with their representatives.

One man got up and said he thought Mayor Jabara wasn't calling on people in a fair order. Right to his face. And the Mayor explained how he was proceeding and gave the man a chance to speak . . . in his turn.

The people talked with amazing clarity and eloquence. They felt deep about the matter, pro or con. And they had the opportunity to say how they felt.

We could do with more of that out here.

And that it happened at all makes me feel that Thanksgiving does mean something, after all.



JFK On Thanksgiving

Our Power And Peril Grow

Today, the fourth anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, is just a day before the Thanksgiving holiday. His 1963 Thanksgiving proclamation was one of the last messages Kennedy ever wrote. It said, in part:

"Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a day of Thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God."

After reviewing the story of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving, he said:

"Much time has passed since the first colonists came to rocky shores and dark forests of an unknown continent, much time since President Washington led a young people into the experience of nationhood, much time since President Lincoln saw the American nation through the ordeal of fraternal war—and in these years our population, our plenty, and our power have all grown apace."

"Today, we are a nation of nearly two hundred million souls, stretching from coast to coast, on into the Pacific and north toward the arctic, a nation,

enjoying the fruits of an ever-expanding agriculture and industry and achieving standards of living unknown in previous history. We give our humble thanks for this."

At this point he issued a warning: "As our power has grown, so has our peril."

President Kennedy concluded:

"Let us therefore proclaim our gratitude to providence for manifold blessings—let us be humbly thankful for inherited ideals—and let us resolve to share those blessings and those ideals with our fellow human beings throughout the world."

(you're fired)

Hooray! for Kitchen Carpet

Stevens Gulistan Carpet

New stain-proof Broadlooms make life a lot easier
End mopping, waxing, polishing...enjoy comfort underfoot...add care-free beauty to the room most used...thanks to 100% HERCULON® olefin pile fiber

Stevens Gulistan Carpet
—HERCULON—
Stain-Proof Guarantee

Average 10'x12' to 11'x12' kitchen installed wall-to-wall now only less than the cost of quality hard surface flooring. Easy terms, too!

\$129.99

New and true! Enjoy broadloom elegance and get a lifetime bonus of easier floor maintenance. Join the switch to carpet in the kitchen. Made possible, practical and economical with 100% Herculon olefin pile fiber. We give you a 10-color choice in Stevens Gulistan "Brampton" installed over heavy padding. Or, take "Tulley" in one of 7 tweedy colors, backed with its own foam rubber padding. Whatever you require or choose, have a kitchen of the future in your home today. Low prices prevail on seamless carpeting for larger kitchens, also.

Call 476-8360 for convenient At-Home Shopping

RITE Carpet Co.

7 MILE AND MIDDLE BELT—ACROSS FROM LIVONIA HALL
STORE HOURS: 9 to 5 Daily; 9 to 4 Tuesday and Wednesday

CHUCK MATSON



- Group Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Pension Plans
- Life Insurance
- Annuities

NEW YORK LIFE
Insurance Company

17000 West 8 Mile Road,
Southfield, 356-9480

Hillside Inn

- FIVE BEAUTIFUL ROOMS AVAILABLE, SEATING 20-120 PERSONS
- AMPLE PARKING
- ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING TO MAKE EACH PARTY A MEMORABLE EVENT
- DELICIOUS FOOD & COCKTAILS

—PRIVATE PARTIES—

Call 3-4301 Closed Sundays 41661 Plymouth Road
Plymouth, Mich.