

# City, Township Heads Fight Water Hike

Politics and still waters run deep and Mayor Jerome Cavanagh is up to his neck in a squabble with suburban communities over an increase in water rates.

All but five of the 42 communities in Wayne County buy water wholesale from the Detroit Water Board which recently hiked wholesale rates 15 per cent.

The increase has stirred up such a controversy that public hearing for community and township officials has been set

Nov. 28 by the Detroit Water Department's Sewage Disposal and Water Supply Committee. It will be held at 2 p.m. in the City-County Building auditorium.

The committee is a watchdog group set up when the County sold its water department to the City of Detroit in 1959. The committee's job is to make sure the Detroit Water Department does its job and without profit insofar as its suburban customers are concerned.

Its recommendations go to the

Board of Supervisors who in turn could vote to join the communities in their only recourse to blocking an increase in this instance, a suit filed in Circuit Court.

Communities can bypass the committee and Board of Supervisors by filing their own suit but it would be less expensive to have support of the County governing body and the help of its experts in such matters.

It was along about here that Mayor Cavanagh jumped out of the deep end.

First, the City of Riverview announced its intention of a court action without going through the Board of Supervisors. Some dissenters contend this would be a mishmash of red tape because 51 per cent of the members of the Board of Supervisors are from Detroit and could be expected to be nervous by home ties and Cavanagh.

Riverview Mayor James L. Jones said Friday that the matter had been turned over to attorneys and a course of action

will be decided in the City's Common Council soon.

But setting off the most explosive furor of political firestorms was a move originated by Dearborn Heights Mayor John L. Canfield that a bill be sought in the Legislature to force Detroit to take its future requests for rate increases before the Michigan Public Service Commission. The latter regulates the rates of all public utilities except water.

In retaliation apparently, Cavanagh proposed that suburbs

buying water from Detroit should in the future have to pledge an end to racial housing discrimination.

Retorted Canfield: "Water rates and civil rights

have as much to do with each other as equality and the electric light bulb."

Which was Canfield's way of saying what most people thought of the Detroit mayor's outburst.

## 8 Receive In-School Teaching

Eight Observerland students are among 660 from Western Michigan University spending four and a half days each week away from the campus this semester as part of the directed teaching program in the School of Education.

The students, all future teachers, are assigned to schools throughout Michigan with the exception of two in the Chicago area. During the semester they have the opportunity to put educational theories and classroom techniques into practice under the guidance of experienced teachers.

In addition to teaching, they take part in extra-curricular activities of the school where assigned.

The area students and assignments are as follows:

FROM LIVONIA—Carol Ann Opalinski, Wayne School in Portage; Diane Reno, Cooper in Livonia; Karen Sten, Franklin High in Livonia.

FROM REDFORD—Kathleen Lawson, Livonia Cooper; Frank Sommariva, Busch Junior High in Centerville; and Judith Munley, Mac Arthur School in Southfield.

FROM PLYMOUTH—Shirley Johnson, Lowell Junior High in Livonia; and Krikan Fluckey, Lincoln School in Livonia.

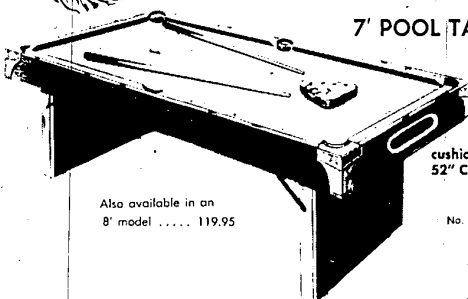
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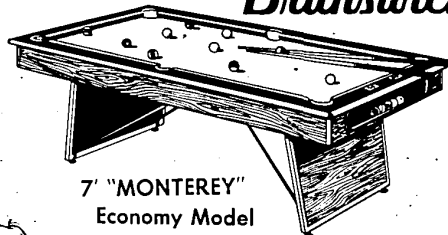
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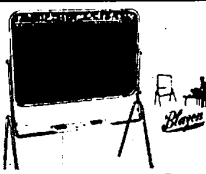
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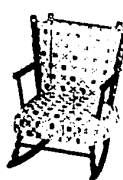
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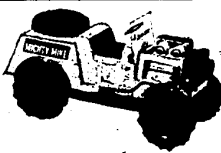
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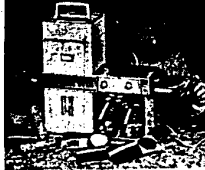
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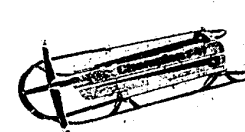
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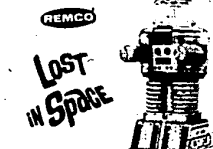
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## VA Seeks Income Report

More than 78,000 Michigan Veterans and dependents who last year received \$66,561,600 in Veterans Administration pensions will be called on December 1 to make their annual accounting of income.

Robert M. FitzGerald, manager of the Regional Office in Detroit, said VA needs the income information to determine the veteran's or widow's entitlement to more pension, less pension or any at all.

Cards for reporting this outside income—from wages, self-employment, Social Security, other annuities or retirements and investments—will be mailed with pension checks to be paid December 1.

Window envelopes are enclosed to facilitate return of the report cards to the proper VA office. Veterans drawing service-connected disability are not concerned.

ON THE BASIS of experience, VA knows pretty well what to expect.

Of some two and a half million VA pensioners throughout the country who must report, at least 50,000 will put the card into the window envelope backwards, resulting in misdirected mail and processing delays.

Some 4,000 Michigan veterans will spindle or bend their cards, causing more problems. Another 1,000 will take out their checks and throw away the report card and envelopes.

At least 2,000 will lose their window envelopes and in addressing substitutes will send the cards to the regional office where they usually do business but which are probably not the addresses on the cards in front of them.

A HARD CORE of 10,000 in this state will fall once again to report at all by the Feb. 1 deadline and will have their pensions cut off by VA to refresh their memories. Ultimately most of these will file reports and get back on the rolls.

Finally, perhaps a thousand beneficiaries simply won't bother to report because they know their increased incomes will cut off their pensions anyway.

For these, VA has a special treatment. It has to collect any pensions paid from state or federal sources made him ineligible. If no report is received, the amount due would be all payments received during the year. That's the law, FitzGerald explained.

## Realty Sales Up-Elsea

Stanton M. Elsea, president of Elsea Realty and Investment Co., announced October real estate sales for his firm totaled \$2,250,145.

This represents a slight gain over September of this year and an increase of more than 50 per cent over October 1966 when \$1,419,025 worth of real estate was sold.