

# Reader Speaks His Piece About Housing Ordinance

Editor:

In a recent issue of the Plymouth Mail and Observer the "Readers Speak Up" column included a series of observations by Harry W. Deyo regarding the Plymouth "Open Housing Ordinance" which he spoke against during the recent public hearing held prior to the passage of the Ordinance.

To properly preface my comments I spoke briefly at the same meeting but in favor of the Ordinance. It is my contention that Deyo's logic is fallacious and therefore his conclusions untenable. As a result I feel that it is my duty as a concerned citizen and a Christian to comment on Deyo's observations, and point out specific faults in his logic.

From the large number of obvious discrepancies I doubt that I will cover them all, but as they can be left as an exercise for the reader.

Deyo's statement of belief is incomplete. He says that he believes in the Constitution, then neglects to include freedom of religion, and freedom of the press, which are very much subjects of discussion in his correspondence, as inherent in a free and decent society. On the other hand he includes the

## A Mess For Sure

EDITOR:

After reading the article on the Plymouth road work by the state from Ann Arbor and the mouth Road to Inkster Road—that is a mess for sure.

As a construction man with 50 years of experience on all classes of work, this project was a mess to start with. The old road bed was in bad shape, but as work went around it got worse and you can be sure it is going to get worse—if possible.

I am in full accord with our city engineer on this matter in regard to catch basin projection 2 1/2 inches up now is dangerous. Wait until the snow comes and the scrapers clean off the snow.

There will be no tops on the holes—just big holes by the curb that any car will fall into. Then see what happens.

As our engineer said, the lanes are too narrow by the state's own requirements. This is a state job that you read about sometimes in the press. We do it and you have nothing to say about it.

I had seen some things done on that job, and I wondered about the supervision. Experienced or not—most are not from the look of things. This condition will be as is until next June at the speed this mess was done.

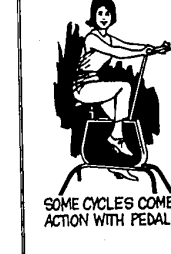
We drivers will be wise to stay away from the curbs at least 13 feet and take a chance on not hitting something else on the road or detour to Schoolcraft to Inkster Rd. and then come back again.

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freedom of association as one of his prime freedoms.

The belief in freedom of association as stated by Deyo is fine to express in theoretical terms, but in actuality it undoubtedly has never been seriously abridged. Those of us who hold or have held security clearances know that as a practical matter abridgment of this so-called right, even though it be on a voluntary basis is an essential ingredient in defense of the United States of America. Sorry, but there are those of us who believe that the United States has the right and duty to defend itself against those who have pledged her destruction.

As a legal technician it may be very right and proper for Deyo to state flatly that he believes in the Constitution with no reservations given. However the framers of the Constitution tell us why it was drawn up in the Preamble. I quote, "We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Sorry, but many people think that the Constitution was written to serve the purposes of American Society, as it says, and it frustrates these purposes if it provides a means for its amendment.

With regard to the question of what racial mix might be optimum for the City of Plymouth, I'm afraid that Deyo is confused by racial tensions for the problem.

The suggestion that Deyo objects to so greatly was undoubtedly meant to be a part of the solution to a very explosive situation that presently exists.

The objection to the exemption of the clergy and the various churches in Plymouth from the requirements of this Ordinance on the surface would seem quite right and proper. Deyo, however, indicates a deep respect for the Constitution of the United States.

The First Amendment to the Constitution shows that early in the life of this nation the idea of freedom of religion was of great concern. To quote: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Is the Constitution guilty of hypocrisy?

Deyo makes the statement that no attorney, having been regarded for the law, can draw a valid bill or ordinance plundering the public for the benefit of a minority. He does not however logically connect this statement to the "Open Housing Ordinance." The point has not been proven.

The position of Rep. James Tierney is not relevant to the Plymouth "Open Housing Ordinance" since he lives in Garden City and not in Plymouth. We may however listen to what he has to say and accept or reject it on its merits. A state-

ment was alleged to him that his vote on the Michigan Open Housing Bill would be in accordance with the response he received from questionnaires sent out to constituents.

Similarly, Gov. George Romney, may be a very pleasant, intelligent man, whose advice we might wish to seek, but neither is he a resident of Plymouth. On the question of whether

colored people destroyed property values, Deyo dismisses this with a simple statement that they do. No supporting logic is supplied. The assumption is made that we should take Deyo's word for it. Personally I had never heard of Deyo until the hearing on Open Housing.

I have no intention of condoning the risks nor will I

comment on the specific events Deyo describes. However, he does not cite the sources of his information on the individual incidents.

My attempt here has not been to arrive at any specific conclusions of my own founded on a logical base, but rather to indicate that there is little logic for opposition to Open Housing. Essentially alike the opposition

to Open Housing that I have seen has been an emotional ground. I must commend the local churches in addressing what I consider to be the major social problem in the United States today. If the penalty for taking this stand means the loss of some members, I personally feel that this is made up for by the increased vitality of its message.

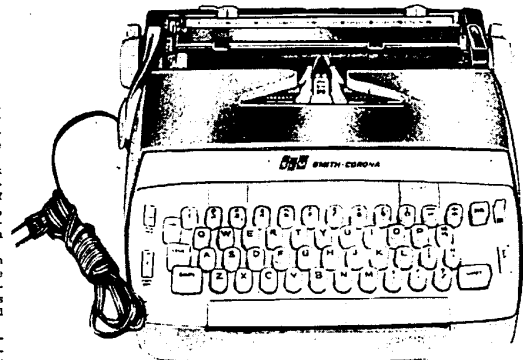
I might point out to Deyo that the Clergy of Plymouth are not taking this step in favor of Open Housing without substantial support from members of their congregations who are quite ready and willing to stand up and be counted. Incidentally, I have renewed my pledge for 1968.

I must comment favorably towards the approach that the city commission has taken, even including those who voted against the "Open Housing". They did not reach their decisions without considerable soul-searching. When elected representatives of the people do their jobs in an intelligent manner, one must respect them even when he disagrees with their conclusions. DONALD A. STICOM

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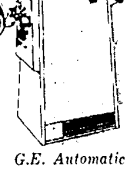
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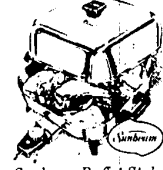
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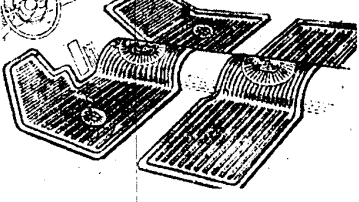
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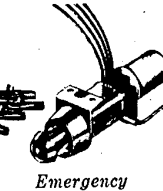
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