

# College Trustees Reject Public Meeting

## Would Violate Pact

OBSERVER

Second Front Page

## Millage Fails, Inkster May Close Schools

Taking a position that an open public meeting on the subject of the dismissal of six probationary instructors would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the existing contract with the Faculty Forum and would serve no useful purpose, the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees has refused a request of nine representatives of the student body for such a meeting.

The students met with Chairman Harold Fischer and Vice Chairman Mrs. Jane Moenke more than a week ago in an informal discussion of the matter and did receive a promise of an open meeting with the Board at a special session. However, Fischer called the Trustees to an executive session last Wednesday at which seven of the eight were present, learned that it would be impossible to have a quorum present prior to the regular meeting on Feb. 7, and then issued a statement of the events from the meeting.

FISCHER EMPHASIZED that no official action was, or could be taken, but that a thorough discussion took place and resulted in agreement on the following points:

1. That the evaluative criteria and procedures used by the Office of Instruction are objective, pertinent, consistent with law and compatible with accepted practices, and were well within the spirit as well as the letter of the contract existing between the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Forum.
2. That Division Chairmen of the faculty must exercise a greater degree of cooperation and participation in the evaluation procedure than has been the case up to now. In this connection, the Board received assurance from the Administration that the College that steps will be taken to improve the evaluation procedure.
3. That the Office of Instruction has throughout exhibited a high degree of awareness of its responsibility for protecting the rights of all individuals under contract to the College.
4. That, particularly in the case of probationary instructors, but applying equally to all members of the faculty, a confidential relationship between the individual and any question is involved in any question of the competency of a faculty member. This confidentiality cannot be breached. Individual faculty members always have the right to discuss their status problems with the Office of Instruction. Two of the six probationary instructors involved here have already exercised this right.
5. That the contract existing between the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Forum provides a mechanism by which any faculty member, group of faculty members, or the Forum itself can seek redress of any believed wrong. This mechanism, as enunciated in the contract, accepts the principle of confidentiality.
6. That, bound by a legal contract, the Board of Trustees cannot contravene its terms by opening to public discussion such matters as the contract specifically requires to be held in confidence.
7. The Board took notice of the fact that in recent days some faculty members have dismissed or failed to meet their classes without having made proper prior arrangements as required by the contract; and expressed concern over such contravention of the contract by these faculty members or by any faculty member.

IN CLOSING the Board's statement of the situation, Fischer said the Trustees also expressed the opinion that a source of action demanded by some faculty members would be contrary to the principle of continued quality education at the College—a principle to which the Board believes all members of the College community are dedicated.

SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY, a bill seeking about \$21 million in state funds to help support parochial schools will be submitted. A statewide campaign for support already is under way. The funds would be in addition to auxiliary and bus services which parochial schools already receive from local school districts which in turn receive state funds. The bill is designed to help ease the non-public schools financial burden.

EDWIN NOVAK, state board of education president, said that Gov. Romney's 1968-69 budget recommendations for state school aid are "\$67 million shy of what is actually necessary." Romney asked for a \$794 million increase including \$55 million from the state general fund and \$24 million from local school districts which in turn receive state funds. The bill is designed to help ease the non-public schools financial burden.

IN OTHER ACTION, the State Board of Education is refining a set of 14 proposals aimed at correcting or preventing the following points:

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ing the many factors that convince thousands of students each year to drop out of school. The report has yet to be revised to satisfy the board but the proposal is expected to help the approximately one-third of the boys and girls who drop out of Michigan high schools each year.

THREE WOMEN, Mrs. Gilbert Liggins and Mrs. Robert Cooley of Trenton, and Mrs. Ervin Salgen of Pontiac, announced that they have gathered more than 3,000 signatures from persons outraged over plans to send an Air Force sergeant to Vietnam, leaving five motherless children at home. The women said they were going to send the signatures to the White House hoping that the President would take notice of the plight of S. Sgt. John L. Wolfe, whose wife died two years ago. So far, they claim, they have been unable to get any action from senators or congressmen.

GILBERT A. DAWES, of Ishpeming, has been named by Acting Gov. William Milliken to the State Safety Board. Dawes, 46, succeeds Robert P. Moulton of Iron River who resigned.

THE MICHIGAN STATE DEPARTMENT OF Highways announced that President Johnson has cut \$7.6 million from Michigan's share of highway construction funds. "Combined with state matching funds, this will mean a \$10 million cutback in our construction program," said John P. Woodford, deputy state highway director.

TWO OBSERVERLAND U.S. Congressmen, Marvin L. Esch (11-2nd Dist.) and Jack H. McDonald (10-10th Dist.), have joined four other Michigan representatives and Senator Robert P. Griffin to take an active part in Governor Romney's presidential primary campaign in New Hampshire. Romney asked for their endorsement and appreciation of the offer of assistance.

HARRY WHITELEY, publisher of the Presque Isle County Advance in Rogers City, has been named to succeed C. Kumpke, managing editor of the Midland News, as president of the Michigan Press Association. Other officers are Frank Angelo, Detroit Free Press, president-elect, Jim Brown, Ingham County News-Mason, vice-president, Blair C. Bedient, Albion Recorder, treasurer, and Elmer E. White as executive secretary.

A PROBE BY the Senate Investigations Committee urged by Senator Robert P. Griffin is expected to hasten talks between the striking Teamsters Local 375 and the Detroit News which has been dragging on since Nov. 16.

THE DETROIT BOARD of Education announced it will file a suit against the state to force a decision on constitutional responsibilities of the Legislature regarding financing. The Detroit officials are saying that financing of public education, according to the Michigan Constitution, is totally a state responsibility, and should not be shared by partial reliance on local taxes, geographical location or wealth of individual school districts.

GENERAL MOTORS strikes that have forced the layoff of 47,000 auto workers have drastically curtailed railroad operations in Lansing causing further layoffs. New York Central and the Grand Trunk Western report an 85 per cent drop in business because of the shutdown at Oldsmobile and Fisher Body. New York Central has laid off 36 men and Grand Trunk says it has had to layoff 18 men.

JOHN KOBS, who had only four losing seasons in his 39 years as Michigan State University's head baseball coach, died Jan. 19 at his home of a heart attack. He was 69.

## 17 Cars And Trucks Damaged In Crash

TRAFFIC IN both directions on a section of I-696 running through Farmington Township was disrupted for two hours in Monday's dense fog by a series of car-truck collisions involving at least 17 vehicles. Although vehicular damage

## Action Hit By Pupils

Feeling that they are getting the "run around" from the Board of Trustees and the administration, representatives of the Schoolcraft College student body have made a second request for an open meeting with the board to discuss the ramifications of the firing of six probationary instructors two weeks ago.

In a letter signed by co-chairmen Earl Menary and Richard Flynn, the student group, which met in an informal session with the chairman and vice chairman of the board, stress that their group feels this matter is "pertinent" and ask for an open meeting.

THE LETTER INDICATES that Menary and Flynn are co-chairmen of a group called The Student Senate Investigation Committee of Schoolcraft College.

"It has been brought to our attention that students have no right to question the procedures of a college, but as future leaders of the community we feel it is our duty as the mainstay of the college to see that 'quality education' be insured for not only ourselves but for future students of Schoolcraft," the communication reads.

"We do not question the devotion and many hours spent by the Board of Trustees, but we do suggest the reconsideration of the relevancy and importance of this matter. We further suggest that a special board meeting, open to the public, be called."

The letter continues "We would like our position made clear: we are making no contentions or allegations, we are merely trying to determine what procedures are used in the valuation of instructors."

"We, as students, taxpayers and voters feel it is our responsibility and right to know the facts as it is the responsibility of the general public to be aware and concerned about quality education."

The letter continues with the information that Chairman Harold Fischer had promised that "if sufficient time was allocated (allowing for the 48-hour time limit), he would call a special meeting of the board on Wednesday, Jan. 24."

Then it details the actions of the group in the following manner:

"Monday-1/22-68-A letter was hand delivered to Mr. Fischer in time for the 48-hour requirement, requesting a special Board of Trustees meeting opened to the public, Jan. 24."

"Tuesday-1/23-68-A committee was formed by the Student Senate to investigate the evaluation procedures of instructors at Schoolcraft College."

"Tuesday-1/23-68-Vice President John Brinn met with the co-chairmen of the Student Senate committee. At this time the committee was informed that there were procedures, but there were no published procedures, nor was the committee informed as to what the procedures were."

"Tuesday evening - 10:45 p.m.-Mr. Fischer notified the committee by telephone that there would be no open meeting Jan. 24, 1968; there would be a closed session of the Executive Board of Trustees and the administration. He also stated at this time that he felt there would be a special meeting Jan. 31, 31, at which the students would attend and be able to address the Board of Trustees."

"Thursday-1/25-68-Appointed members of the Student Senate Committee went to see Mr. Fischer to find out definitely if there would be an open meeting of the Board of Trustees, Jan. 31. At this time Mr. Fischer stated that the Board of Trustees would not meet until the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, Feb. 7, 1968. He indicated that the Board of Trustees were too involved with outside commitments and that the situation was not pertinent enough to warrant a special meeting."

"He further stated that special communication would be sent voicing the opinions of the board by no later than Friday morning, Jan. 26. This communication to be sent to the administration, faculty, students and to the press in time for the Saturday deadline for publication in the Sunday papers."

## Consumers To Invest \$2.8 Million

In Livonia Area

Construction projects in the West Wayne division of Consumers Power Company in 1968 require the investment of \$2.8 million, primarily to expand and improve the natural gas distribution system, James P. Thomas, division manager, said Monday.

The division expects to add 3,750 new gas customers in 1968. An addition is being constructed to the service center

in Livonia where 310 employees are housed. The expansion, started in 1967, is adding 14,200 square feet for general purposes and 6,700 square feet for storeroom use.

AREA SERVED by the division includes 260 square miles of western Wayne county with 70,000 customers. The communities of Farmington, Livonia, Wayne, Northville,

Novi and Plymouth are included.

A major project will be the addition of 52 miles of new gas lines for the continued expansion of the gas distribution system. A new regulator station is planned for Industrial drive and Halstead roads in Farmington Township.

Customers in the WestWayne division receive supplies through a network of pipelines

bringing gas from storage fields in Michigan and from suppliers in the southwestern United States.

Thomas said the construction plans are part of a record \$187 million which Consumers Power has budgeted for projects to improve and expand its statewide operations in 1968. The company provides electric service to over 1,000,000 customers, and gas service to over 750,000 customers, in a combined service area which includes all but one of the 68 counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

AMONG THE MAJOR gas department projects is the construction of development of underground storage facilities in fields in St. Clair and Macomb counties. Included are additions to the Ray compressor station and construction of pipelines to carry the storage gas to the communities of Michigan.

Thomas said that the storage complex near Detroit is capable of producing enough gas to meet the needs of the Detroit area on the coldest day so far experienced. A record 1.7 billion cubic feet of gas was required statewide on January 4, and most of it came from the St. Clair storage facilities.

## Futurmill Strike Bitter

FRICITION BETWEEN management and striking U.A.W. employees of the Futurmill, Inc., manufacturing plant in Farmington Township resulted this week in renewed police protection for salaried personnel entering the factory.

Contract negotiations, which had been resumed Monday in the 12th day of the strike, were halted because of picket line flareups. Company officials said talks will not be renewed until the union guarantees peaceful picketing.



MORE AWARDS came to Observer Newspapers over the weekend at the Michigan Press Association state-wide newspaper contest. The Farmington Enterprise & Observer won a first place award for use of pictures, and Publisher Philip H. Power won third place for his weekly column, "Observation Point." Seen here at the Saturday awards presentation in Lansing are, left to right: Earl McIntyre, member of the Journalism Department of Northern Michigan University at Marquette, chairman of the contest judges; David Rodd, co-publisher of the Manistiquie Pioneer-Tribune, chairman of the contest; Miss Sue Shaughnessy, editor of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer; and Power.

### 1968 MICHIGAN

# AUTO PLATES

# NOW on SALE

## WONDERLAND CIVIC ROOM

(NEAR PACKER'S)

PLYMOUTH ROAD

BANK

ROBINSON

PACKER'S

FEDERAL'S

WARDS

**BRANCH OFFICE**  
**MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE**  
 JAMES M. HARE SECRETARY OF STATE

OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9:30 TO 5:30

SATURDAYS 10 TO 6 p.m.