

Schoolcraft Wins NCA Accreditation; It's Well Earned

Schoolcraft College has had its troubles during its four years of operation. The kind of trouble that go with any such institution with growing pains, and as a result has had its share of criticism. But now the time has arrived to doff our hats to the college administration, board of trustees, student body and faculty for a job well done.

We refer to the announcement last week that Schoolcraft had been accepted for full accreditation to the North Central Association.

When one considers that the absolute minimum time in which a college or university can receive accreditation is four years, and Schoolcraft accomplished the feat in exactly that time, then we have to have nothing but admiration for all who worked so hard and so successfully for the certification.

Accreditation doesn't come easily. It takes a great deal of hard work by the administration, the faculty and the full cooperation of the student body.

A great deal of the credit must go to Dr. Eric Bradner, Schoolcraft president, who started working towards accreditation almost at the moment the college first opened its doors four years ago last August.

In the early stages, he received considerable help from Miss Lois Waterman, then Dean of Students who since has retired and for whom Waterman Hall, the student center building, was named.

Dr. Bradner and Miss Waterman first turned their attention to accreditation at the state level

and secured that certification in the minimum time.

That meant credits would be exchanged fully at all Michigan colleges and universities.

Then came the gigantic task of full accreditation with the NCA.

But once again, Dr. Bradner, with the assistance again of Miss Waterman, Vice President John E. Brink, Dean of Students Edward McNally and all others at the administrative level went to work.

They had to compile lengthy reports to the NCA. They had to meet with a team of investigators who made a thorough probe of the progress of the college, visiting classrooms, talking to students and faculty and getting the pulse of the college district voters.

The biggest hurdle came in early February when a three-man team made a final investigation of the college, the campus, the student body, the administration and the faculty.

Not one member of the accreditation study team was from a state where laws provided for negotiations between the faculty and administration on salaries, evaluation of teachers, etc.

That's when both the administration and representatives of the Faculty Forum went to bat and explained the entire situation to the complete satisfaction of all.

We doff our toppers to all who worked so hard and so successfully for a single purpose.

—R. T. Thompson

This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenstall

Congressman Jack H. McDonald has got to grapple at the ring of a telephone and tranquilize himself before going through the morning mail.

It's a cat and mouse game, and he's got to decide this week whether to pounce or run.

The issue before the House, folks, is open housing—whatever you choose to call it.

McDonald has until Friday.

REP. JACK H. McDONALD is a politician who never had a doubt where he was going. There was the night in Jaco's, behind the old county building in Detroit, where it was made plain. The issues then were simple. Maneuver into the chairmanship of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, then off to a \$30,000 a year prestige job as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

Live happily ever after, serving a grateful nation and leave honesty, integrity and justice as your heritage.

Open housing.

In the House, the issue will be decided by members from the suburbs. From the suburbs outside Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles where the riots made the summer hot and the hearts of men cold.

From the suburbs around Detroit where housewives are buying guns and local public officials are playing racism on the municipal political flute. The Pied Pipers of prejudice and hate.

So, how now, McDonald?

The senate has passed an open housing bill stripped of its watery exemptions after 1970. It is now before the House rules committee which will decide whether it goes to the floor or dies.

McDONALD'S DECISION is whether the Senate version should be accepted or whether the bill should go to a House-Senate conference committee, a misty pigeonhole, serving as an embalming chamber for touchy issues.

The young man is under pressure and there is no safety valve. Senator Everett Dirksen, after a flip-flop, is urging the House to accept the Senate version. President Nixon and non-candidate Nelson Rockefeller are doing the same.

Sounds like an easy game of follow the leader?

In the House, Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, of Grand Rapids, is counseling his troops to send it to conference committee. There is some doubt Jerry will make it a rise-or-fall leadership fight.

So what is McDonald to do when his leaders are marching off in opposite directions? Should he vote for sending open housing to conference and make Rockefeller and Nixon mad or to accept the Senate version and buck Ford?

McDonald has got to go for open housing on the floor at the risk of stirring up Ford—who hasn't had a better idea since he made an enemy of the English language.

OPEN HOUSING means very little for nothing in the suburbs except for a political or racial gesture.

You'd be proud to have a black—or white—family that could afford a \$40,000 home next door.

McDonald and the others from the suburbs are agonizing today, needlessly of course.

Maybe politics dictates a "no" vote on the suburbs. But, conscience, if it is a year paycheck, demands "yes."



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From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT By Philip H. Power

Most people are bored with our judicial system — until they go up before a judge. Then they might take a passing interest in it, particularly if they get fined, but then boredom sets in again within a few weeks or months.

This is the biggest problem facing a movement now getting underway throughout Michigan, sparked in part by Livonia's State JC President, Pat Duggan: It's the so-called "Honigman Plan," a proposed constitutional amendment to change the way we go about picking our judges in Michigan.

Almost everyone associated with the campaign recognizes that public indifference or misunderstanding is the biggest obstacle they have to overcome. This indifference is dangerous, says well-known Detroit lawyer Jason Honigman, author of the plan, because at the heart of our democracy is a system of law and justice for each citizen, and at the heart of our system of law and justice is the judge.

The reform groups backing a plan to make Michigan judges appointive rather than elective have a good thing going, although all their reasons aren't necessarily to the point.

We would take partial issue with two arguments the reform backers are giving for their proposed constitutional amendment, which we support: One has to do with "politics" and the other with "ethics."

AT PRESENT, Michigan voters elect all their judges. Candidates for the State Supreme Court are nominated by the political party conventions, but run on a non-partisan ballot. All other candidates are nominated and elected on non-partisan slates, with the exception of the township justices of the peace.

The theory of the group pushing the appointment plan is that taking the judges out of elective politics also takes them out of politics. That's naive, so far as it goes.

It simply puts them into another sphere of politics.

After all, judges are part of government, and government is run by politics.

The Honigman reform plan, as the amendment is called, calls for all judges to be appointed by the governor from slates submitted by nominating councils.

The governor makes the appointment, and the governor is a politician (which, by the way, is NOT a bad word, in our book).

And how do these seven-member nominating councils get there? By politics, that's how.

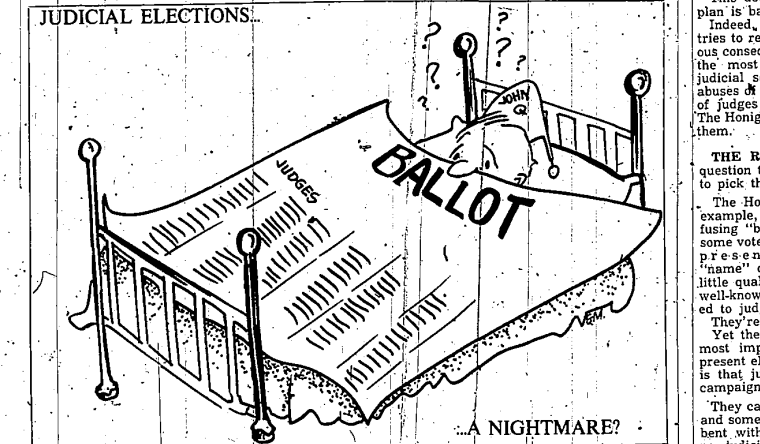
Four laymen are to be appointed by the governor, who, remember, is a politician. The proposed constitutional amendment says that not more than two members of any council may be from one political faith. This implicitly recognizes the political fact of life: that the political parties will be a source of names.

The other three members of the nominating councils are to be picked by the commissioners of the State Bar. That's politics—a more subtle kind of politics, "office politics," but still politics.

This was pointed out to a team of Observer Newspapers reporters by the suburban municipal judges and justices of the peace they interviewed. About half of the local judiciary spotted that flaw about "politics."

This doesn't mean the reform plan is bad.

Indeed, it's good, because it tries to remove the most dangerous consequences of politics from the most crucial parts of the judicial selection process. Past abuses of politics in the selection of judges are serious and sad. The Honigman plan would reduce them.



LBJ's Decision Consensus Was Gone A Personal Concession

"Stunned," said every seer after hearing President Lyndon B. Johnson say he wouldn't seek re-election, and the politicians they interviewed had a most nothing enlightening to add.

Yet while it's unusual for an incumbent president not to seek a second full term, the announcement can't be all that surprising.

A week ago, New York Times poll of 1964 Democratic national convention delegates in 50 states showed Johnson had 65 per cent support. That's more than enough to win — but it was a bad showing for an incumbent in his own party.

Worse for Johnson, the Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy forces were running ahead in the New England and Pacific Coast states, with their big population concentrations, the Times poll showed.

The mere fact that Sen. McCarthy, never a flaming light in Washington, could slice so deeply into an incumbent president's strength in the New Hampshire primary must have weighed heavily on Johnson's keen political mind.

Johnson could hardly have relished a primary campaign against Bobby Kennedy. The kid brother of the late JFK had a close enough personal acquaintance and knowledge of Johnson, through the Senate and the Cabinet, so that the campaign could have become uncomfortably messy for Johnson, even if he were to win it.

Johnson is a poll watcher. His popularity leaped to unprecedented heights after he took over the presidency in 1963-64 and got Congress to pass sweeping changes in domestic legislation in 1965-6. In the last year or more, the popularity index had dropped and was staying low.

The president combined his re-election announcement with a speech on the Vietnam war. He said he felt he shouldn't "devote an hour or day of my time" to personal political activity in his efforts to get a settlement of the war. He gave that as his reason for not running for re-election.

President Johnson came off as a political leader willing to make a personal sacrifice for his country, eliminating the hazard that his candidacy and what is good for the nation in Vietnam would diffuse or distort the national purpose.

Winning re-election without the consensus he cherishes would be worse than losing.

It's one thing to win a presidential election and quite another to be a successful president.

And so his decision not to run was both very political and very statesmanlike. The path is clear for someone else to try to weld together a new consensus.

—Tim Richard

From a news point of view, the part of President Johnson's Sunday night speech that got prime attention was his decision not to seek re-election.

To us, as American voters in an election year, that was of prime importance.

But to an outsider, there may be another way to look at it, so let's try this interpretation:

Johnson offered two concessions to North Vietnam. One was that the U.S. military machine would halt the bombing over 90 per cent of that country for an unspecified period of time; the other was that he himself would not seek re-election.

In that context, the political announcement is just one step he is taking to shorten the war.

It could be a major step. The North Vietnamese, remember, are orientals with a propensity to want to "save face." They've been verbally and pictorially harpooning Lyndon Johnson for several years now. They don't want to make him look good in an election year.

New Hanoi, if it wishes, can come to the bargaining table immediately, without waiting to see what a divided United States will do for a full year. The war and Vietnam's future can be discussed on their own merits.

The Johnson personality is no longer an issue.

Each man quite frankly cited the same two issues—workmen's compensation, and appointment decisions. Ferency thought the Democratic incumbents were right; Romney thought the Republican minority on the court was right.

But then we asked the same question of two of the candidates. They wouldn't discuss the matter. Each man gave vague promises to "interpret the law as I see it, without fear or favor." Each man babbled something about "legal ethics" preventing him from discussing these decisions.

Any kind of "ethics" that prevent a judicial candidate from discussing the issues are bad ethics, not conceived in the interest of the voters.

WE HAVE, THEN, two alternatives.

First, we can ask the lawyers to change their so-called "ethics" and discuss legal philosophy and cases openly. This they will certainly reject.

Or, second, we can amend the constitution so that Michigan no longer conducts farcical elections for judges.

The "Honigman plan" to make Michigan's judiciary appointive is a good one. It deserves your signature on the initiative petition asking an election for a constitutional amendment.

If it gets on the ballot, it deserves a "yes" vote.

Less War, More Cost

"Parkinson's Law" enthusiasts must have got a very smile out of the part of President Johnson's speech dealing with war costs.

C. Northcote Parkinson, you recall, is the English scholar who utilized the government's bureaucracy for growing at a predetermined rate, with no regard for the level of need. He says expenditures rise automatically, whether they need to or not.

And so President Johnson (1) announced a "de-escalation" of the Viet Nam war through a reduction in bombing and (2) revealed that the cost of the war would rise, not fall, by \$5 billion plus this year and next.

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

JACOB WAZUROWSKY
Editor and Director