

public affairs



CIVILIAN FAREWELLS — Sixty-seven draftees of western Oakland County are shown as they gathered at the Farmington induction center Monday to await their first day of active Army duty. Many were accompanied by family members and together they shared coffee before the 7 a.m. departure for Fort Wayne in Detroit, from where they will be shifted to Fort Knox. It was the largest group of draftees yet called by the Farmington Selective Service Board this year.

Conservative Index

Local Congressmen Rated

Jack McDonald ranks as Michigan's most conservative congressman, but Marvin Eech ranks as one of the more liberal, at least in Republican circles.

The Observational Congressmen recently got numerical rankings from a national organization called Americans for Constitutional Action (ACA).

ACA selects a number of votes and rates lawmakers from zero to 100, with conservatives getting the highest ratings, and so, how a person interprets his congressman's rating will depend on his personal point of view.

In general, ACA gives good marks for votes against foreign aid, tax increases, spending increases and new federal programs.

BY THESE standards, McDonald, a former Redford Township supervisor serving his first term as 19th District representative, received an 88 for the year 1967.

Eech, a former college instructor, and state legislator who now represents the 2nd District (which includes Plymouth), got a 59 score.

Meanwhile, William D. Ford, a Democrat who represents the 15th District (including Garden City, Westland and Canton Township), got a 7 score for his 1967 votes, raising his

Pay Up In Wayne County

Pay raises are planned for Wayne County's 8,000 employees to cope with what is described as a "critical problem of recruiting and holding qualified employees."

The board of supervisors recently approved two labor contracts containing pay increases and improved fringe benefits for approximately 5,000 employees.

The board also adopted a resolution declaring its intent to extend the same improvements to the remaining 3,000 employees not covered by the contracts.

House OKs Big School Aid Boost

All but one Observational state representative last week voted for a state aid bill for schools and a revision of the aid formula to help poorer districts.

The bill passed 92 to 13. All opponents were Democrats, including Rep. Richard A. Young, of Dearborn Heights, whose 33rd District includes parts of Livonia and Westland.

Voting in favor were Reps. John Bennett (D-Redford), Louis Schmidt (R-Livonia), James Tierney (D-Garden City), Vincent Pettiprin (D-Westland) and Raymond Baker (R-Farmington).

REP. YOUNG, an attorney and second-term legislator, told The Observer Newspapers the bill had many good points, but that he objected to it on four grounds:

1. It failed to follow the recommendation of the Thomas report on school finances, made to the State Board of Education, which suggested that school taxes be collected on a statewide basis and related to districts on a per capita basis.

2. It awards more money to districts on the basis of percentages of minority groups.

Young said race was "a poor basis to identify people who need more aid better education."

3. The bill awards more money to districts with a high population density, again on the assumption that more education is required there.

4. The bill fails to set up an outside audit or check to evaluate school spending.

Young noted, however, that he later voted to give the bill immediate effect so that local budget-fighting could be speeded up.

Social Security

New Doctor Bill Plan Voluntary

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of articles by Sam F. Test, Social Security district manager in Detroit-Northwest Office, telling what the Social Security amendments of 1967 mean to you and your family.

Nearly half a million older Americans not previously enrolled have signed up for the voluntary doctor bill insurance under medicare since the start of the current open enrollment period last Oct. 1.

Although most older people in the northwest suburban area are now enrolled in the program that supplements their basic hospital insurance under medicare, some failed to take action by April 1, in order to get the protection.

Early in February, most of those not yet enrolled for the doctor bill insurance and for whom the Social Security Administration had addresses, received a reminder letter from the commissioner of Social Security. Along with the letter was a card for the person to send back, marked "yes" or "no."

AMONG THOSE who visited our office recently was a 69-year-old man who noted that he had never had a day's sickness in his life until he was rushed to the hospital last November for an emergency operation.

His hospital bill amounted to slightly over \$400, all but \$40 of it covered by his basic hospital insurance under medicare. But since he had not signed up for the voluntary doctor bill insurance, he had to pay the bill of his surgery, the anesthesiologist, and his family doctor out of his own pocket. Those bills, he noted had totaled over \$480.

It had been enrolled in the medical insurance program, he would have had to pay only \$136—the first \$30 of his medical expenses for the year and 20 percent of the remainder. Naturally, he is now enrolled for the medical insurance.

THOSE WHO MISS out on this second chance to take the supplementary protection will have to wait another year, pay a premium that is 10 percent higher for each full year they could have had the medical protection, but were not enrolled. And those who wait three years past their first chance to sign up for medical insurance will not be able to sign up at all.

Anyone in the Livonia, Detroit-Northwest, Plymouth and Northville area who needs assistance in applying for medicare benefits may get in touch with the social security office at 18500 Grand River, Detroit. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 to 4:30 and until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

LBJ Stuns Both Parties With Dropout Decision

By TIM RICHARD

Neither local Democrats nor Republicans now quite what to make of Lyndon B. Johnson's decision not to seek a second full term as president.

Democrats, unable to figure out the political implications of it all, called the announcement "astounding," but didn't say whom they would support now.

Republicans, with problems of their own in picking a presidential candidate, were more concerned with the implications of Johnson's war policies, at least when talking to reporters.

"I WAS UP on Capitol Hill this morning, and they're running around like chickens with their heads cut off," said Billie S. Farnum, former Democratic congressman (1964-65) in the 19th District.

Farnum, now at work on voter registration for the Democratic National Committee, said he and fellow staff workers "had assumed he (Johnson) would be the candidate."

The party organization, he said, tends to be oriented toward the White House with a Democrat as incumbent. Nevertheless, the party work remains to be done, he added.

Farnum said of the president: "Here we have a man who would rather be guided by the call of history than by the Gallup Poll. This proves what I've been saying in speeches—he is being guided by history. His decision took great guts, great courage, great principle."

Farnum himself declined, because of his party job, to discuss his own preference for a presidential candidate.

"I THINK Mr. Johnson felt he would be defeated in the Wisconsin primary, and he doesn't have the support of the majority of Democrats," said the present 19th District congressman, Republican Jack McDonald.

McDonald thought Johnson's speech was "unfair to Congress" in its criticism of budget handling.

McDonald said the additional \$5 billion in war costs mentioned by the president should be financed "by bringing home 200,000 of the nearly 400,000 troops in Europe, along with the 200,000 dependents of those troops. That will mean 400,000 fewer Americans spending money in Europe to help cor-

What LBJ Said:

"Tonight I am taking the first step to de-escalate the conflict. . . . Tonight I have ordered our aircraft and naval vessels to make no attacks on North Vietnam except in the area north of the demilitarized zone, where the continuing enemy buildup directly threatens allied forward positions."

"... I have concluded that I should not permit the presidency to become involved in the partisan divisions that are developing in this political year. With America's sons in the field far away, with America's future under challenge here at home, with our hopes and the world's hopes for peace in the balance every day, I do not believe that I should devote an hour or a day of my time to any personal partisan causes or to any duties other than the awesome duties of this office, the presidency of your country."

"Accordingly, I shall not seek—and I will not accept—the nomination of my party for another term as your president."

—Lyndon B. Johnson, March 31, 1968

rect our balance of payments deficit."

For the political implications to Republicans, McDonald said simply:

"There's only one candidate on the Republican side right now (Richard Nixon). I hope that before August there will be more than one so we have the opportunity to make a choice."

TWO DEMOCRATIC Party chairmen, Aldo Vagnozzi of the 19th District and Robert Dwyer of the Wayne County portion of the 2nd District, had similar reactions.

"The decision by President Johnson to sacrifice his own political life in the quest for peace with honor," said Dwyer, "must rank with the great decisions of history. The shrill cries of those who have questioned the honor of the president have been stilled; in an act of unequalled courage."

Vagnozzi said much the same thing, adding: "I hope this will take some of the divisiveness out of the campaign."

"The Michigan delegation is probably going to go to the national convention uncommitted. . . . It's too early to get behind someone."

"Going back to 1952, when President Truman announced in spring he wouldn't run, no one had ever heard of Adlai Stevenson (the 1952 nominee), and Kefauver had just beaten Truman in New Hampshire," Vagnozzi said.

State Sen. George W. Kuhn (R-West Bloomfield) says he has mustered the support of 19 of the 20 Republican state senators who have pledged their total support to the candidacy of Richard Nixon in his bid for the presidency.

Kuhn, who had been noticeably cool to Gov. Romney's short-lived presidential candidacy, said in his letter to Nixon:

"Never before has this nation needed the experience and able leadership that only you can provide in order to restore the respect and image of this country in the eyes of the world."

KUHN PUSHED the resolution last week to beat the announcement of New York's Gov. Nelson Rockefeller that he would contest Nixon for the Republican nomination for president. Rockefeller, however, announced he wouldn't run.

It praises Nixon as the "one candidate who can merge all elements of the party for a

suggested the 1968 presidential election could result in no Electoral College majority, with the election finally going to the U.S. House of Representatives."

MARVIN EECH, 2nd District Republican congressman, said Johnson's de-escalation of the Vietnam war "paralleled the proposal that I and eight of my colleagues offered last July."

Among the similarities, said Eech, were "a unilateral and limited bombing halt . . . with a maintenance of supply line raids to protect our servicemen" and "a willingness to move toward greater de-escalation should the Hanoi government reactivate."

Eech was "delighted," by the de-escalation, adding: "The world now awaits Hanoi's reaction."

"Being a Republican," Eech added, "I think the political dimension of this is severe for the Democratic Party. I'll just worry about the Republican side. I want to see us have a candidate and a platform that are forward-looking and pragmatic."

Kuhn Rounds Up Nixon Support

victory in November," and notes that Michigan Gov. Romney has withdrawn.

The resolution got the support of all but one GOP senator, and the single exception, Harry Delmas, of Battle Creek, said he felt it was "just too early to back any presidential candidate."

BESIDES majority leader Emil Lockwood and Kuhn, the GOP senators who signed the resolution were:

Gilbert F. Bursley of Ann Arbor; Charles O. Zoller of Benton Harbor; Oscar E. Bouwsma of Muskegon; Anthony Stamm of Kalamazoo; John F. Toomp of Cadillac; Robert Vanderkammen and Milton Zaagman, both of Grand Rapids; James C. Fleming of Saginaw; Harold W. Humphreys of Lansing; Thomas F. Schweigert of Palosky; Gary Byker of Holland; L. Harvey Lodge of Waterford; Frank D. Beadle of St. Clair Shores; Mrs. N. Lorraine Beebe of Dearborn, and Robert J. Huber of Troy.

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