

'Never Had Chance' Writes Charter Commissioner

EDITOR:

The proposed new City Charter didn't have a chance in the April 11 election. Its defeat was ordained last November when it was first presented to the electorate. It might be said that it was "bad seed." Its chance of obtaining a favorable vote from Livonians and thus: be given the opportunity to grow was blighted the moment the Charter Commission voted 7 to 2 to present the proposal to the

voters on the November 21, 1967 ballot.

The two "no" votes were not of themselves the kiss of death for the document, although the public's confidence in the proposal could not have been as strong as if all nine members had voted "aye."

What was important was that of the two dissenting Commissioners, Ron Mardiros and John McCann, Mardiros took his position for political reasons.

In a letter to the Observer which was printed November 8, 1967 I expressed the opinion that Mardiros was taking a position of dissent in order to build a platform from which he would launch a political campaign. At the time I suspected he would be a candidate for City Council. His objective was more ambitious than that, he's running for Congress.

Back in October, 1968 when Mardiros took his stand against

the Charter he based it mainly on his disagreement with the Charter's treatment of civil service employees, firemen, and the millage limitation. On that basis he actively campaigned against the Charter. I feel that his efforts were not motivated out of a desire to defeat a document that was bad in its entirety for in truth the vast majority of city officials and community leaders agreed that there was enough

good in the Charter to warrant its passage. Mardiros, it seems, felt it more important to develop a political following by playing the champion of the underdog; to wit, the civil service employees, firemen, and those misquoted citizens who thought the Charter was designed to make it easy for elected officials to line their pockets with cash.

As the one commissioner who campaigned against the charter

he received much more attention than the seven who approved it and worked quietly for its adoption. Mardiros' efforts paid off as the Charter went down to defeat on November 21 by a mere 85 votes. At that point in time the future attempt to get the Charter adopted at the general city election was doomed.

The local campaign and elections overshadowed the meager efforts of the charter commission to present their case to the voter. Political

campaigns. They felt they could not risk election or re-election by taking on an issue so unpopular, who had once indicated support for the Charter took a hands off attitude during the campaign. A Charter revision that had already suffered one defeat.

The Observer newspaper thought it had done its job in the first 10-around and thus gave the second attempt of obtaining approval very little attention. The newspaper overlooked the fact that six months had elapsed since the last election. Individual citizens and citizen groups did not expect for a second effort largely because of the overshadowing events outlined above.

It is interesting to note that subsequent to the November 21 election, Mardiros obtained many of the changes he wanted in the Charter. This time he voted in favor of submitting it to the voters. However, he certainly did not campaign for its approval as he had previously campaigned for its defeat.

He was conspicuously silent. On election day, instead of passing out leaflets under a vote on the Charter proposal, Mardiros was busy obtaining signatures on his nominating petitions for the office of Congressman. An act that if not illegal was unethical in my opinion.

Instead of stumping for the Charter, a document that has cost Livonians thousands of dollars to prepare, Mardiros was busy launching that campaign he was thinking about last November. And the Charter went down by an almost 2 to 1 margin.

Of course some blame for the Charter's demise must fall on the shoulders of others. The other seven Charter members must share some of the burden for allowing Mardiros to prevail upon them to make the changes that cost the support of the Mayor and other city officials. I have already indicated that the Observer has taken thought that the education of the voter was complete or at least did not require some review.

Community leaders and political parties did not promote attention to the proposal. Commissioner John McCann maintained a firm stand against the Charter because he maintained current millage limitations, a position that over-looked the good points in the document.

Personally I agree with the seven other Commissioners that felt that the six-month limit should be maintained. Property taxes have become penalty taxes and should not be expanded in the words of Councilman Jerry Raymond "a man's home is no longer a true measure of a man's wealth."

I must admit that McCann was consistent in his position and that we knew where he stood. The final blow to the Charter was Commissioner Shade's last minute change of position from yes to no. The net result of all of these factors was an undivided and confused electorate. A confused or uninformed electorate will usually vote "no."

I submit, then, that the question of a new Charter has not been settled on its merits. I submit that the good features of the proposal outweigh the bad and that this was more true of the first version than the second. I further submit that patchwork amendment of the existing Charter is not the way to get the job done. The original idea of the Charter revision commission was to avoid the patchwork approach.

The Charter Commission is allowed one more try before the idea of revision must be set aside. I think that they should make another attempt. Each of the controversial sections should be reviewed and modified in the best interests of the people of Livonia and not special interest groups or particular city officials.

I think that with the proper approach the support of the Mayor, the Council, citizen groups and others can be obtained and the value and importance of a new charter can be sold to the voter.

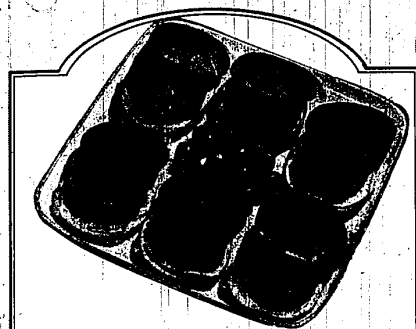
BOB BENNETT, Livonia
Beautifying Move?
EDITOR:
On election day, after voting at Hull School, as I was driving on Fairlane Avenue about 8:30 a.m., I observed a Thunderbird parked alongside the road. A gentleman was at the wheel, and outside the car was a man removing campaign posters.

I asked what they were doing. One man replied "this road they has to be cleaned up." I asked who they were backing, no one replied. I saw a Ventura poster in the rear window.

Perhaps Ventura backers are smiling with Mayor Klocke in his efforts to "keep Livonia clean?"

RONALD J. JAKUBCIG

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49¢

Fresh Ground

3 lbs. or more
Larger Quantities \$55 lb.

Fresh Lean Ground Chuck 79¢
Fresh Ground Meat Loaf 69¢
U.S.D.A. Choice Veal-Beef-Pork 99¢
Beef Rib Steak 99¢

U.S.D.A. Choice Beef

CHUCK STEAK

59¢

Center Cuts



Farm Fresh Grade "A"

Pump and Tender Specially Selected

Whole Fryers

29¢

Fresh Grade "A" Spring

Split Broilers

Large 3 lbs. & Up

3 Legged Fryers

Fresh Roasters

Fryer Breasts

Fryer Legs

Fryer Wings

FRANCO-AMERICAN Spaghetti

Tasty Spaghetti

Franco American

15-1/2 oz. wt. can

14¢

Meadowdale Enriched Flour

5-lb. Bag

39¢

For Stubborn Stains Comet Cleanser

14-1/2 oz. wt. can

9¢

Hygrade's Plump Ball Park Franks

1 lb. Pkg.

69¢

Glendale Smoked Polish Sausage 1 lb. 59¢
Edgemoor Smorgas Pack 1 lb. 89¢

Fresh Dressed Lake Smelts

39¢

Fresh Boneless Cod Fillets 1 lb. 69¢
Boneless Fillets Pickeral 1 lb. 99¢

Reg. or More to Hold Save 15¢

AQUA NET 13 oz. wt. can

44¢

"It Works Wonder"

Bayer Aspirin 100-ml. bottle 59¢
Surgical Lint 50-ml. bottle 77¢
Oral Antiseptic Mouthwash 14-oz. 1-lb. bottle 77¢
Listerine 14-oz. 1-lb. bottle 77¢

Kraft's Processed Cheese Loaf

VELVEETA

2-lb. Loaf

88¢

American Sliced Kraft's Cheese 1-lb. pkg. 59¢
Crisco Soft Margarine 1-lb. can 39¢
Crisco Creamy Cream Cheese 8-oz. wt. pkg. 29¢
Pure Meadowdale Butter 1-lb. 69¢
Crisco Fresh Mandarin Saled 1-lb. can 39¢

This coupon worth 10¢ off on 3-lb. bag of Apples

Good April 15 thru April 20

Limit one coupon per family please

WRIGLEY

This coupon worth 15¢ off on any 1-lb. bag of Country Kitchen Luncheon Meats

Good April 15 thru April 20

Limit one coupon per family please

WRIGLEY

This coupon worth 20¢ off on any 1-lb. bag of Donuts

Good April 15 thru April 20

Limit one coupon per family please

WRIGLEY

Comet Cleanser 14-1/2 oz. can 9¢

With This Thrift Ticket and feed purchase of \$5.00 or more, Limit 1 per Customer

Good Thru April 20

WRIGLEY

Special Label Tide-Cheer or Bold 1-lb. box 58¢

With This Thrift Ticket and feed purchase of \$5.00 or more, Limit 1 per Customer

Good Thru April 20

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