

Local School Autonomy To Diminish

School district lines, now jealously guarded, will be blurred and highly-cherished "local autonomy" will be diminished in the 15 years ahead, a Wayne County school official predicts.

William A. Shuck, superintendent of the Wayne County Intermediate School District, looked at existing programs, trends, and made a series of predictions last week.

Shuck was a panelist in a discussion of school planning problems that was part of a day-long conference on regional planning of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (COG) in Detroit's Cobo Hall.

A NUMBER of his predictions related directly to suburbia. "Fifteen years from now, we will not have Inksters in our metropolitan area," he said, using Inkster School District as an example of a low tax base area surrounded by relative affluence.

"They (the Inksters) will have disappeared through annexation and consolidation."

School taxes, now collected on a local district basis, may then be collected on some kind of regional basis. No longer will we have today's situation where one district with a great deal of industry has a state-qualified valuation of \$300,000 per pupil while another has only \$5,000.

HIGH SCHOOL students will

no longer travel to class by automobile, Shuck predicted. "They'll come by bus. The reason is that our streets are already overloaded with cars carrying only one person. It won't be necessary to have student parking lots acres in size" as land becomes more valuable.

Schools will have educational programs that cut across district lines. There will be "centers" -- vocational, for example -- serving population areas that will totally ignore district boundaries.

And there will be some measure of racial integration. It won't be done by the simple though unpopular method of deliberately busing children into other neighborhoods, however. It will come as a "by-product" of moving them for educational reasons that made good sense.

OTHER predictions made by Shuck School district and municipal boundaries, now usually unrelated, will be brought into closer alignment. The metropolitan area will have a single data processing center.

Every part of the metropolitan area will be served by a community college. Shuck advised school administrators and board members to stop crying that "the county and cities don't understand our problems. We'd better understand theirs."



DARKNESS IN THE AFTERNOON — Motorists, with headlights ablaze like so many commuters turning homeward at the end of another day, brave a Livonia street in the middle of Tuesday's storm which erupted early afternoon into the eerie darkness of a sun blotted out by ominous black clouds. Lashing rains and intermittent hail sent pedestrians scurrying to shelter and soon left streets deserted. Winds up to 38 miles an hour were clocked during the more than hour-long storm which brought tornado warnings, also.

Tax Petition Proves Puzzler

IN LANSING, legislative leaders are trying to decide what to do if a proposed repeal of state income tax gets on the ballot in November.

Although no official opinion has been asked of the Attorney General, state Revenue Department officials have indicated that if the proposal gets on the ballot and the tax is voted out, it would mean that all 1968 withholding taxes might have

to be refunded. Senator Emil Lockwood, R-St. Louis, Senate majority leader, has a resolution pending in the Senate which would raise the state sales tax in even the income tax is voted out. This also would require a constitutional revision and a referendum in November.

IN LANSING, teachers at Lansing Community College

picked up an unexpected \$900 average pay boost from a Board of Trustees attempting to keep LCC pay scales competitive with surrounding school districts.

In March, the LCC faculty received salary improvements averaging about \$1,200 per teacher. This week's hike pushed the 1968-69 pay increase to an average of \$2,100 per teacher.

Detroit-Suburban 'Polarization' Hit

By TIM RICHARD

Detroit and its suburbs are heading for a social and racial polarization that can hurt everyone, a gathering of school and planning officials concluded.

One by one, speakers at a conference on school planning sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments, spent more than an hour painting a picture of how the gulf was growing—and hinted at the harm that could follow.

The exchange took place at the 17th annual regional planning conference at Detroit's Cobo Hall last week. The first 16 annual conferences were sponsored by the Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission, but this year's was set up by that agency's new parent organization—the five-county Council of Governments.

DETROIT and suburban officials alike pointed to three basic reasons for the social-racial "stratification."

First, the suburbs are a source of new jobs for inner city people, said J.R. Rothermel, of the State Department of Education.

Second, suburban home-building, as a matter of city and township policy, is confined to expensive homes that only white-collar workers and executives can afford. A school official from Macomb County pointed this out.

Third, the federal highway building programs and urban renewal programs have torn down slums in the inner city but haven't replaced them with housing low income people can afford, the Macomb official went on.

Fourth, the federal highway programs "have had a major role in accelerating our segregation" by allowing whites to escape from city jobs to their suburban homes each evening—so said A.L. Zwerdling, a member of the Detroit Board of Education.

ZWERDLING PREDICTED that in 10 years, Detroit, which already has a majority of Negroes among its students, would also have "a black mayor, a black council majority, a black school board"—all surrounded by white suburbs.

"If you think this will lead to a healthy environment," Zwerdling said, "then you have a better imagination than I have."

In order for the present, relatively "comfortable" mode of city-suburb life to continue, Zwerdling said, integration must be accelerated.

IRVING J. RUBIN, director of COG's Transportation and Land-Use Study, pointed to what he called the "entrepreneurial" approach of running school districts and municipalities in the suburbs.

Under this approach, he said, suburbs think not in terms of providing for the needs of a broad range of people, but of luring the most expensive type of development possible with the aim of beefing up the property tax base.

Rubin got no direct replies when he asked the school officials for their reaction to a possible state law that would limit the percentage of land that a municipality could zone for high-price residences and require a certain percentage to be in smaller lots for lower-cost housing.

WHILE RACE and social integration got a good deal of attention from the panelists and audience of about 60, two officials noted a puzzling phenomenon: There wasn't a single Negro in the conference room.

An Observer Newspapers representative asked Council of Governments leaders for an explanation. Their reply was that COG represents governments, not people on a "one-man, one-vote" basis.

Andrew Hall made the 1968 All-American fencing team for the second time in as many years. The All-American sabre man won 36 of 42 bouts while Wayne State University this past season.

Livonian Rolls 300 At Northville Lanes

Joe Rozek, of Livonia, rolled the first 300 game in history at the Northville Lanes while bowling with the Gniek's Trophy House team in the Senior House League.

Rozek, 27, who carries a 180 average, opened his big night with 175, came back with 12 perfect strikes for the 300 and then ended with 212 for a 687 series.

'Center' Committee To Seek \$50,000

Hopes for converting a five-acre portion of a Farmington Rd. estate into a community center for organizational activities hinge upon the success of a \$50,000 fund raising campaign mapped for next October.

This became clear Wednesday night when 80 interested persons met in Middle Belt School and formally organized Farmington Community Center, Inc., adopting by-laws, articles of incorporation and electing a nine-member board of directors.

The property, which includes the 20-room residence of late Mr. and Mrs. Luman Goodenough, at 24705 Farmington Rd., has been offered as a gift to the community by the Goodenough heirs, contingent upon three achievements:

1. Acceptance of the offer by a properly constituted authority by next July 1.
2. The raising of \$25,000 in cash or pledges by Dec. 15.
3. The hiring of a full-time director by the same date.

FRED E. HARRISON, chairman of a committee studying building and ground aspects, estimated initially needed capital improvements would cost \$17,300.

Richard Justice, finance committee chairman, pegged the operating costs for the first year of 1969 at approximately \$29,000, bringing the total need to \$47,000. This led to establishment of \$50,000 as the actual campaign goal.

Justice said the solicitation of funds will be conducted during the first 10 days of October.

Meanwhile, preliminary financing is being sought through the sale of charter memberships and advance donations. The membership fee has been set at \$1 per year per person although use of the proposed facilities will not be limited strictly to members.

Those elected to the board of directors included: David H. Mills, 24300 Lockwood Dr., F.J. Orland, 34398 Quaker Valley Rd.; Fred E. Harrison, 22268 Whittington; Richard L. Justice, 32355 Dunford; Norma H. Peters, 23691 Longacre; Kay Farmer, 31130

THE HOME and grounds, under terms of the by-laws, would be dedicated to use by youth and adult groups throughout Oakland County, plus Livonia. The entire project would be self-supporting.

The first officers elected will serve until September, when all offices and directorships will be filled by a new vote by those attending the annual meeting. Those elected at that time will serve two-year terms.

Further committee studies of program possibilities and details of the financial drive will be conducted through the spring and summer months.

World Roundup

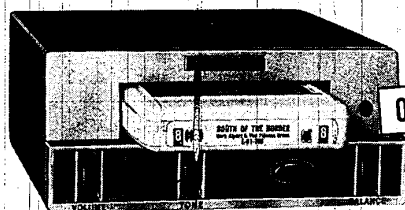
LONDON — An exhibition opened in London Monday with the kind of props any Hollywood director would envy in dealing with a futuristic film involving a mad scientist. The display, in fact, was calculated only to raise a thirst, and D.P. Crossman, chairman of the Brewers Society, kicked off the 1968 International Brewers Exhibition in the huge Earl's Court Pavilion.

LONDON — Enoch Powell, member of the shadow cabinet for defense, was fired by opposition party leader Edward Heath, for giving a speech Saturday which Heath called racist in tone and liable to exacerbate racial tensions. "Political writers considered Powell's speech a challenge to the more moderate Heath's leadership, forcing the party chief to take strong action or abdicate to the Tory right wing. The Times said Heath acted "to demonstrate beyond doubt that he dissociates himself and the Tory party from racialism."

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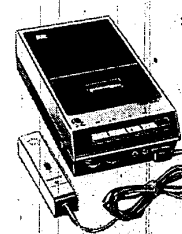
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