



By Philip H. Power  
Publisher

As anybody who has driven around this area, recently knows, work on the new expressway system is coming along fairly rapidly. Many miles of service roads have been finished, and they're now starting the excavation for the big ditches, one running north and south along Haggerty Road, and one running east and west along Schoolcraft Road.

Some day, later than the original 1974 deadline but still within the foreseeable future, there will be a huge expressway system running through the heart of Redford Township, Livonia, Westland and Plymouth and Farmington Townships, linking this whole area with Ann Arbor to the west and Brighton to the northeast.

The affect the new expressway will have on this whole area will be profound, and now is the time for local governments to start thinking about it.

**BEST EXAMPLE** of what an expressway can do to a community is in Southfield with the I-96 freeway.

The expressway attracted many corporate giants, who built large offices and even some world headquarters facilities along the borders of the ditch.

In the process, they created some of the nicest architecture in the Detroit area; if you're hostile to modern buildings, try the thrill of driving out the expressway at night and seeing Bendix, Macca-beds, Federal Mogul and Shaary Zadek rising up out of the ground.

These big buildings also contribute a whole bunch of tax base to Southfield, which helps keep the average guy's annual tax bill a little more within reason.

But the expressway also loused up Southfield's local road and traffic flow patterns no end. The city is still trying to work out the problems, but it's still hard to go east and west in the city at rush hour, and the expressway is one of the biggest reasons why.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** through which the two new expressways will pass have already done some preliminary thinking about how to handle the host of zoning, traffic flow, and community development problems the ditch will cause.

Livonia's Mayor Edward McNamara, for example, is thinking that it might be wise to resist giving any more zoning approvals along the expressway until a few years have passed and a more fully thought out scheme for development can be worked out.

The odd problems, however, is that each of the local governments involved -- Redford

Township, Westland, Livonia, and Plymouth and Farmington Townships -- have complete local autonomy over zoning matters, yet the expressway passes through and affects each community.

The danger at this point is that each individual community will work out its own views on proper zoning and development along the expressway with no thought given to the overall development pattern that the expressway will cause. Redford, for example, might decide that light industry is the best use for land along the expressway, while

Farmington Township may conclude that multi-story businesses are preferable.

Given this danger, it might be well for planners and local officials from each of the communities affected by the new expressways to get together, exchange views, and try to work out some overall ideas about just what is the best overall zoning and development scheme for the expressway system.

No community would be forced to give in if it had strong ideas at variance with the others, but some preliminary work now might prevent some pretty big problems later on.

## Archie Bunker Bigotry

### Does Make A Big Point

Sure we can laugh at Archie Bunker. There's a little bit of Archie in the best of us and it's healthy to laugh at yourself.

The more insidious bigot is the guy who claims, "It's not that I have anything against 'coloreds.' Anyone who can afford it can move into my neighborhood, regardless of race, color or creed."

That spurious remark, mouthed with the increasing frequency of suburban neighborhood turnovers, is a smoke screen for the hate and distrust bubbling just beneath the surface.

**THE DEROGATORY WORD** "coloreds" is a dead giveaway as is the patronizing, rationalization and protests offered to hide intolerance. Somehow, it's a bit easier to tolerate intolerance than to swallow hypocrisy. And it's a lot healthier to get prejudices out in the open where they can be dealt with as realities.

Another ludicrous statement often made is, "I don't mind if black people move here -- as long as they are professional men," which negates the "as long as they can afford it" bit.

When was the last time you checked if every white homeowner in your neighborhood was a doctor, lawyer, accountant, scientist or engineer? Do you spurn the businessman who "can afford it?" If you apply the theory that

only professional blacks are entitled to invade your suburban bubble, your prejudices are showing strong.

Using the well-worn argument, "We're against scare tactics by unscrupulous real estate agents," to cover up a basic fear of change, is not only hypocrisy, it's passing the buck. Not every real estate man is a vulture, seeking his prey in human prejudice and picking the bones of suspicion and hysteria to make a fast buck.

**"UNSCRUPULOUS" IS** ANOTHER label for an entire class of business people like "all coloreds are dope pushers and thieves." Both are generalizations steeped in ignorance and covering up basic bias. Anything is easier than admitting you are guilty of making preconceived, unfair judgements.

"We don't want to keep running," is another paradox. It implies, "If the neighborhood continues to change, we will be forced to hit the panic button." That further proves the hypocrisy of insisting you are not concerned with the complexion or ethnic background of your neighbors.

Smoke screens are dangerous. They do not check the flames of prejudice and hate from spreading. Behind these screens, fear festers and threatens to burst. Rumors spark and fan the flames and everyone is suspected of arson, except ourselves.

When you bring an emotion or reaction out into the open, it can be examined rationally, researched and analyzed in the daylight of reason. If a disease like cancer remained something to whisper about behind closed doors, a research would be impossible and so would a cure. It will take many years and a trial and error probing to discover a cure for all types of cancer. Nobody has as yet found a cure for cancerous diseases called "prejudice against minorities," "pseudo-liberalism," and "protecting too much."

The first step is admitting these diseases do exist and bringing them out of the dark cloak of mens minds where they multiply and infect.

Archie Bunker-type bigotry is honest. It makes us laugh at our stupidity and narrow mindedness. That's a step towards doing something about it.



## Nader And His Raiders Ready

### With Revealing Congress Report

The nation's capital is bracing itself for the kind of thing Detroit has been zapped by for some years now -- a study by Ralph Nader, due to be published in several stages in the coming weeks.

I for one will be an eager watcher of the "Ralph Nader Congress Project/Citizens Look At Congress," not only because it's his biggest project to date, but because I had a small role in it. I think. Two volunteer Nader Raiders interviewed me, as news editor of the largest paper in the old 19th Congressional District.

I'm not certain, however that my stuff will be used because the congress man they were studying, Jack McDonald, was defeated in the last Republican primary after redistricting, and his profile may thus be omitted. The Nader group tried to interview every lawmaker for three hours; asked for answers to an extremely long questionnaire; talked to district officer assistants; consulted community leaders from labor, banking, commerce and the like; and even tried to talk to the congressman's last opponent.

**THE CAPITAL**, as I said, is nervous because government and politics are its chief businesses. It should be. Nader is not a Socratic philosopher, the seeker of truth; he is not even a reporter, striving to muzzle his own opinions and be objective.

Rather, Nader is a lawyer. He argues cases for clients; and he's out to win. He is an advocate, not an explorer. The fact that his client in this case is, to his mind, the consumer doesn't make him any less an advocate. There's excellent reason and precedent for believing Ralph Nader had his mind made up before he ever started this case.

Many congressmen declined to cooperate. Some who did declared the interviewers were "naive" and in one case down-

right rude, according to the Washington Post, but most found the interviewers well informed.

Many interviewers were from the American Civil Liberties Union, a rather liberal outfit politically, and the League of Women Voters. The LWV declares itself to be non-partisan, a declaration met with loud guffaws by my Republican friends, in the same way my Democratic friends guffaw at the idea that the Jaycees are non-partisan (the Jaycees weren't recruited for this project). Personally, I find the Jaycees and the LWV overlapping considerably on issues and leave it to the reader to make up his own mind.

**MY LWV-MEMBER** interviewers were concerned with a list of bills Nader considered important and whether Observer Newspapers had reported McDonald's vote on them. Some we had, many we hadn't because we don't have a wire service from Washington; we watch the Lansing State Journal daily (the Detroit papers are nearly useless) for reports on congressional votes, then call Washington to see how McDonald, Marvin Esch, Bill Ford, Bill Broomfield and Martha Griffiths voted and frequently to get quotes.

The ladies seemed impressed, especially by our 1968 and 1970 campaign coverage of the candidates' philosophies and by the way we reported every campaign donation of \$100 or more. Our business office declined to reveal how much McDonald and his opponent, Fred Harris, spent here in advertising, the same as we would protect any businessman or householder placing an ad, but the ladies should have no trouble calculating the expenses by examining back copies of the papers and multiplying ad size times the going rate.

For a paper with no Washington bureau and no wire service, I think we did pretty well. Indeed, I'm sure we gave readers more on

McDonald's record than the News, Free Press and all the broadcasters put together.

One thing we don't print is lawmakers' "columns" and many of their trivial handouts. McDonald thought we should have run some of his merchant marine and immigration pronouncements, but I can't see it.

**MRS. GRIFFITHS**, whose 17th District now covers three Observerland communities, thinks Nader is playing dirty pool by releasing the study just prior to the election. "Why aren't they doing the opponents if they want to be fair?" she told the Post. Good point.

Mrs. Griffiths was also sore at the way someone from the Treasury Dept. who was interviewed erroneously reported her tax views on women workers deducting child care costs. Hopefully, that error won't get into print.

Nader is worried about the way lawmakers "control the flow of information to their constituency. But not much information about the member gets to the people." Another good point.

Myself, I'm vexed that so many votes are by mass voice rather than roll call and that we have often have to call each local congressman's Washington office long-distance to get their votes. The House clerk can't release individual members' votes.

That's silly. Congress should have an electronic vote recording system like the House has in Lansing -- push the "yes" or "no" button and it's all over in a minute, and it's all in the record. The Observer could get you more facts and at a cheaper cost to us with an electronic vote-recording system.

For all the dough they spend on newsletters and press releases, congressmen and state legislators rarely tell you how they voted on the really tough bills. So on that point, I'm rooting for Ralph.

## Editorial & Opinion

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

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