



Meat Packers Get Blame For Killing Off Restaurants

By W. W. EDGAR

The big time independent restaurant business is dying — and the meat packers are killing it.

This terse opinion comes from Sammy Lieberman, the round little major dome of the famed Raleigh House and the oracle of the food industry for the past few decades.

"I'll bet they're kicking themselves for raising the prices so high," he commented while puffing away on a cigar as he did a bit of figuring at his desk deep in the recesses of the big catering house on Telegraph Road.

"They've made gourmet cooks out of housewives," he went on, "and now the days of going out to dinner and an enjoyable evening are fading."

Sammy was speaking from experience as he recently was forced to close the House of Lords — the palatial dining hall for which he had so much hope when it opened to the public a year ago.

"When those fellows boosted meat to where it is now, they found out that the woman of the house is a smart shopper."

"Instead of paying the high price for meat, they turned to vegetables and prepared all sorts of souffles and casseroles for their men when they came home from work."

Taking time out to answer

his telephone, Sammy settled back in his chair and went on.

"You know," he said, "most men used to be meat and potatoes fellows, but no more. They're learning to get along without meat — and the restaurant business is suffering."

However, he saw one gleam of light in the food business as he peered into the future.

"I don't know yet what we're going to do with the House of Lords — but we are going ahead with plans to build the hotel."

This is to be a 350-room

hostelry on the north side of the present Raleigh House and is expected to be an added attraction as a convention site.

"I've talked with the automobile people who put on their big parties here," Sammy said, "and they are expecting a drop of only six per cent in the next year."

That means the big companies still will hold their new car showings at the Raleigh House and Sammy still will be the king of the caterers.

"We're planning to change our layout to better provide for conventions," he said,

"because they no longer want to be in Detroit where the hotel space has dwindled."

"So, with our new hotel, the big meeting rooms and the fact that new motels in the area will further add to the room accommodations, we'll be right in the heart of things — just as caterers."

Being forced to close the House of Lords was a big blow to Sammy, but as he explained —

"The directors are interested only in the numbers at the bottom of the financial report. And they better be good."

Thus far, according to the

genial host, Raleigh House still is going along on an even keel.

"We lost some and we gained some," he confided, "so we are about even — up to now."

But he still heaves a sigh and yawns for the fashionable dining rooms where folks came to enjoy an evening meal.

"It's too bad," he said, "but the meat packers filled them. And even when prices are reduced these people may sit at home dining on the wife's gourmet cooking."

SAMMY LIEBERMAN: "Men are learning to get along without meat, and the restaurant business is suffering."

New Senior Tax Credits Explained

By JACKIE KLEIN

SOUTHFIELD

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Southfield, with an average annual income of \$17,000 and property tax payments of \$750, will get a \$93 Happy New Year present from the State of Michigan.

If you're a senior citizen 65 or older with an annual income of \$5,000 and \$500 in property taxes, you'll be entitled to a \$400 rebate. The renter gets a break, too. In lieu of property taxes, he can base his claim on 17 per cent of rent paid.

These and more are benefits of a new property tax relief act signed into law by Gov. Milliken last Jan. 1.

The law becomes effective Jan. 1 and repeals the present homestead exemption for senior citizens, veterans, servicemen and the blind.

Southfield City Treasurer Roman Gronkowski, president of the Oakland County Assn. of Township, City and Village Treasurers, recently attended a joint information session for assessors and treasurers to become familiar with the new law.

Senior citizen relief is given to persons 65 or older and includes both husband and wife or the surviving spouse of a person who died after reaching the age of 65, he explains.

"Under the old law, senior citizens with incomes of less than \$5,000 received a \$250 reduction on their assessments, \$125. Now senior citizens qualify under more liberal formulas depending on income level."

All other homeowners or renters are entitled to a credit on their state income tax equal to 60 per cent of

the amount by which their property tax exceeds 25 per cent of income. Renters figure 17 per cent of their rent instead of property tax. Relief allowed a claimant can't exceed \$500.

Most veterans won't qualify for the special formula. Tax relief is generally reserved for pensioned or disabled veterans who are homeowners. Non-disabled veterans are ineligible if their income exceeds \$7,500 a year.

One benefit, says Gronkowski, is that the \$10,000 limit on state equalized valuation for veterans has been dropped.

"I feel the new law is a good one because it gives everyone, including renters, an opportunity to take advantage of tax exemptions."

"The law aids the person in the middle-income bracket who has been neglected through the years. But there's one drawback. The state must be prepared to answer questions on many facets of the law and to guide senior citizens through the preparation of tax returns."

Gronkowski says Southfield officials have helped seniors prepare exemption forms and the assessing department has even sent out men to assist disabled persons.

The old exemption formula will still be in effect for tax bills due in July and December. But seniors will be able to take advantage of the new law next year.

"Even though a senior citizen doesn't normally file income tax returns, he should file this year," Gronkowski suggests. "Seniors will have to pay full property taxes to

the city and wait for the rebate from the state."

Gronkowski advises seniors to save the refund to pay increased property taxes next year. The \$2,500 reduction will no longer be effective and the senior must pay taxes on his entire assessment. But he'll get a bigger rebate in the long run.

Gronkowski cautions seniors if they fail to pay property taxes on time, they'll forfeit the state refund and will have to pay penalties to the city in full.

State Rep. Joseph Forbes, whose 6th District includes Southfield and Lathrup Village, hails the new bill as "the first general tax cut in state history, meaning a total reduction of \$308 million."

"The circuit breaker of 3.5 per cent is provided so a person's property tax can't exceed a certain fixed proportion of his income. Equity is the basic principle of the program."

Here's the way the new formula works: A family with an income of \$10,000 lives in a house taxed at \$500. Multiplied .035 (3.5 per cent) times \$10,000 equals \$350. Subtracting \$350 from the \$500 property tax leaves \$150. The state repays 60 per cent or \$90.

Subtracting \$150 from \$350 gives him a \$180 refund.

The renter substitutes 17 per cent of his rent for property taxes. A senior citizen, for example, pays \$1,200 a year in rent and 17 per cent is \$204. He deducts three per cent of his \$5,400 income or \$162. He subtracts \$162 from \$204 and his refund is \$42.

His response was the accompanying column, syndicated to several hundred newspapers across America. He gave 'em both barrels.

I felt gratified. The Students International Meditation Society has rubbed me the wrong way from the beginning.

SIMS likes to con owners of meeting rooms into giving them free use of a room on the ground SIMS is a non-profit group and the meeting is free. In one case, they even got an Observers' shopping center PR man to send out their press

By LESTER KINSOLVING
Special Writer

After the Maharishi ("Great Seer") Mahesh Yogi was deserted by his cluster of stars — the Beatles, the Beachboys, Jane Fonda and Mia Farrow — it looked as if he had faded as rapidly as most of the other holy won, dlers of religion's "silly 60s."

But American susceptibility to one of India's leading exports (bogus holy men) appears to be inexhaustible. Particularly is this the case when our gross national gullibility is utilized by such an army of pitchmen as those who head the 15 regional headquarters of the "Students' International Meditation Society" — and lately, the "Maharishi International University."

MIU, one of numerous and unaccredited institutions in the religious wilds of Southern California, has a president (who was also one of the institution's in-

corporators) named Robert Keith Wallace.

A former research assistant at Harvard, Wallace has rendered conspicuous services to the Maharishi's transcendental meditation movement (TM). He has deluged various scientific journals with detailed and impressive-looking reports that TM can definitely affect such things as one's blood pressure and rate of sweat.

So, for that matter, can a good nap. But no one is reportedly selling secret instructions in napping for \$75 tuition as are the vigorous hustlers of the Students' International Meditation Society — to a reported hundreds of thousands of people.

President Wallace's scientific reports (reproduced by the thousands under the masthead of the publishing periodical) are dazzling large segments of the public — many of whom worship science.

Many people are also in



REV. KINSOLVING

such awe of Harvard that they forget that this great university also spawned the "Better Living Through Chemistry" movement of Dr. Timothy Leary.

The results of this ingenious scientific press agency are awesome. Science Digest magazine has suggested that TM may be the answer to the high school drug problem. Maj. Gen. Franklin M.

Davis, a TM convert, is promoting TM centers adjacent to U.S. Army bases throughout the nation. The Illinois State House of Representatives has passed a resolution in which they actually describe the Maharishi as "His Holiness" (the same title as Pope Paul) and recommend TM to the state's educational system.

A similar proposal has been made in the California legislature by Berkeley's Assemblyman Kenneth Meade, yet another TM convert who has in turn converted a number of his fellow legislators and even the Assembly's Catholic chaplain.

The lucrative promotion of "packaged meditation" might have gone on indefinitely and unimpeded except for one of the nation's most impressive mixtures of brains and beauty: San Francisco's City and County Supervisor Dianne Feinstein. Agents for Maharishi U. had inundated the super-

visors with testimonial letters in a bid to obtain an "educational" TV license. So Mrs. Feinstein, quoting from a New Delhi dateline, pointed out that in December of 1968 the Great Seer announced to a press conference in India that TM can alleviate both famine and drought.

Six months later, noted Mrs. Feinstein, the Maharishi announced to another press conference that immortality itself can be obtained through TM. But when skeptical Indian reporters asked him if he himself had yet attained said immortality, the great gurgling guru simply smiled.

After Mrs. Feinstein noted the Maharishi's purchase of a \$33,000 Rolls Royce — as well as his statement "I get money from where, it is in plenty, the United States!" — the San Francisco supervisors decisively voted down the TV bid.

Transcendental Meditation

'Great Seer' Lures Gullible...

... It's Really A Sales Pitch

By TIM RICHARD

OPINION

Observers Newspapers has been getting frequent requests for publicity from the transcendental meditation people, and so I asked the Rev. Lester Kinsolving, an ordained Episcopal clergyman, about the "Great Seer."

I have come to respect Lester Kinsolving's middle-of-the-road views. He is neither an old-fashioned fire-and-brimstone conservative nor a faddist, and his forte is exposing the rip-off artists who give all religions a bad name.

His response was the accompanying column, syndicated to several hundred newspapers across America. He gave 'em both barrels.

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releases on shopping center stationary and with shopping center postage.

What the press release doesn't tell you, however, is that the purpose of these "free introductory lectures on the benefits and practice of transcendental meditation" is to sell you a \$75 course (less for students). In terms of cost per hour, it would be cheaper to study nuclear physics at MIT.

The lecture is really a sales pitch. Susan Edmiston, writing in the January Redbook magazine, told of trying to ask questions of the lecturer: "Each time the lecturer declined to answer. 'If you really want to know, take the course.'"

SIMS is eager to have reporters cover the free introductory sales pitch. But then the free flow of information ends. Edmiston quotes a SIMS interviewer as warning her: "Well, you know you wouldn't be allowed to write about what goes on during your personal instruction. You couldn't

reveal anything — in fact, you'd have to sign a document saying you wouldn't. A legal document."

SIMS is a name-dropping outfit. A release on a Westland meeting notes that Maharishi "met with Gov. Milliken in a private meeting." [Sounds impressive, doesn't it?]

What they don't tell you is that the SIMS people requested the meeting; that the governor inquired about whether transcendental meditation could be of use in correctional institutions; but that he pursued the matter no further. I checked with the governor's staff.

Transcendental meditation is a sort of napping technique you practice twice a day for about 20 minutes each time. A number of writers agree that it does in-

deed refresh you mentally and physically but couldn't you get the same result with a 40-minute nap?

Edmiston found the lecturers "irrational" and the instructors in "discomfort" when asked questions. She and others have said all the valuable information in the \$75 course could be condensed into a single magazine article or short lecture.

SIMS may be a non-profit group, but it still handles a lot of money. In the year ended Sept. 30, 1970, its gross take was about \$729,000, nearly all of it from the sale of lessons.

A year later, on Sept. 30, 1971, SIMS reported to the U.S. government its gross revenues had soared to nearly \$2.75 million of which about \$1.24 million came from lessons, sales of publi-

cations and "miscellaneous" and nearly \$1.5 million from "contributions, gifts and grants."

Its biggest single cost was "expenses of educational courses (lodging, meals, travel, etc.)" — \$1,141,567. It spent \$25,812 on books and pamphlets, and sold them for \$34,285.

Keeping in mind those figures and the Maharishi's \$33,000 Rolls Royce, let us take with a grain of salt the statement that the transcendental meditation people run a non-profit outfit.

It reminds me of Al, the boyfriend of "My Friend Irma" on the old radio program. Al deplored ordinary employment, and one of his big deals was said to be "pumping up cherries and selling them as tomatoes."

Cluster Near Freeway Studied By Council

By JACKIE KLEIN

SOUTHFIELD

Southfield City Council is leaving the door open to possible cluster housing along the proposed I-696 corridor in the area south of 11 Mile, west of Greenfield.

A request by George Blair for six units of cluster housing on 1.55 acres on the south side of Coral Gables between Lathrup and 11 Mile was tabled by council last week for a study of the entire area and I-696 expressway plans.

Voting against the tabling motion was Councilman Philip Peterson who maintains the parcel is unsuitable for cluster housing and study of the entire area should be deferred from this particular request.

The matter has been tabled until Jan. 7.

Blair's site plan got a cool response from the Southfield Planning Commission in Au-

gust along with a unanimous recommendation of denial.

"This plan doesn't meet one criteria of the cluster ordinance," Deputy Planner Joseph Sutschek told

Gardner Talk On Watergate Set At Mercy

John W. Gardner, national chairman of Common Cause, will be in Detroit Thursday, Oct. 18, to speak on the lessons of Watergate.

He will speak at a fund-raising luncheon and then address a public meeting scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Mercy College Student Conference Center, 8200 W. Outer Dr. at the Southfield Expressway.

council members last week.

"The plan isn't excessively deep or irregular in shape, a flood plain doesn't go through the property, there isn't any substantial vegetation or poor soil conditions, the topography is flat and the site isn't adjacent to a non-residential use."

According to a corridor study of the proposed I-696 freeway, Sutschek said, consideration should be given to the planned freeway and leaving other single-family lots as they are.

"Blair's lots aren't immediately adjacent to the proposed freeway," Sutschek said. "Council would be on shaky ground if the cluster request were granted."

Blair insisted that cluster housing would forestall future low-rise apartment zoning to the west, and would set a more favorable land use pattern.

Rubber Sales Firm Expands

Plymouth Rubber & Transmission Inc. has expanded its facilities for the second time in 18 months to meet a steady growth in demand for power transmission equipment and industrial rubber products in southeastern Michigan.

Robert Hartman, president, said the company doubled its warehousing facilities and increased its product lines to keep pace with area industrial demand that has tripled company

forecasts during the past year.

Hartman, who resides at 25355 Branchester in Farmington, said the firm expanded into vacated space in the Guenther Building on N. Main in Plymouth for a total occupancy of 8,000 square feet.

The firm serves plants in western Wayne and Oakland counties in Michigan and specializes in products such as sprockets, V-belts, and sheaves for V-belts.



MILDRED WEBB finishes one of the straw-craft ornaments she will exhibit and sell at the Farmington Community Center arts and crafts fair and sale from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Oct. 20. (Evert photo)

Dems To Hold Annual Dinner

FARMINGTON

U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths will be the guest speaker at the 11th annual dinner dance sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club.

The dance was set for Oct. 21, at 6 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, 3175 Grand River.

Tickets are available from Marie Mutschler, 2530 Westmoreland, Farmington Hills.

2 Graduate From U-M

FARMINGTON

Farmington area residents who graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn during August are Dorothy M. Allman and Richard J. Bosler.

Both received degrees of bachelor of science in administration.