

# Residency rules no longer feasible

By PHILIP H. POWER  
Co-Publisher

Lt. Eugene Caviston is one fine police officer. A longtime veteran of the Detroit force, he is a good example of how important a good man is in doing the toughest job in our society.

Recently, Lt. Caviston and his wife decided on a divorce.

Mental cruelty? No. Incompatibility? Certainly not. Failure to agree on how to raise the kids? Meddling in-laws? No. No.

They decided to split because they live in Farmington Hills, and the City of Detroit has a residency rule that requires police officers to live in the city if they are to keep their jobs.

The divorce would let Lt. Caviston "move" to Detroit to meet the letter of the residency rule, but continue to "associate" with his ex-wife and family out here in the suburbs to meet the spirit of their decision to live in Farmington.

Obviously, it's strategy of the absurd, designed to call to public attention a silly rule which is only hurting the City of Detroit while discriminating against people who want to live here in the suburbs.

The thrust behind any residency requirement, I suppose, begins with the old and reasonable notion that people working for a city, particularly in sensitive positions such as the police, ought to know something about the city, and that probably the best way to know the city is to live there.

## Observation point of Philip H. Power



Back in the days when there was only a Detroit and no surrounding suburban areas, this kind of logic probably made sense, since living in Brighton, for example, hardly prepared one for coping with the problems of being a Detroit policeman.

What then happened is that cities started passing their own local taxes, particularly the City of Detroit income tax. The notion was that it was unfair and insincere for someone to be working for a city but not paying the full shot of city taxes like everybody else. Again, that seemed fairly reasonable.

But two major developments changed markedly the reasonableness of a strict Detroit residency rule:

First, the suburbs grew up around Detroit, offering solid, sensible folks like Lt. Caviston another nice place to live, educate their kids and raise a family.

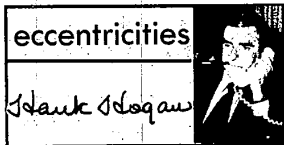
Second, and simultaneously, life in the City of Detroit began to get pretty grim. Schools went to pieces; once secure neighborhoods became unsafe; municipal services deteriorated. Not everywhere, but in some areas.

The reasonableness of the residency rule used to rest on the notion that it was appropriate to require each Detroit city employee to share the good parts and bad parts of living in the city, since living within the city wasn't much worse or much better than living elsewhere. But with what has taken place over the past 10 years or so in Detroit, the residency rule requires some city employees to make what for them is a real sacrifice to work for the city by living in it.

Lt. Caviston wants to keep his job with the Detroit force, but he doesn't want to sacrifice his life here in the suburbs to do so. There are a whole lot of people like him, and should the Detroit Board of Education adopt the same residency rule as it is now being pressured to, we will discover countless thousands more suburbanites in the same pickle.

I think that the real solution to both the ills of the city and the suburbs will not be cured by forcing people to live where they do not choose to, but rather in making both city and suburb pleasant, satisfying places to live and bring up a family.

Residency rules, no matter how well intentioned, do not help do that, and in the meantime they unfairly penalize many well-meaning professionals who would like to live in the suburbs and work for Detroit but who are artificially prevented from doing so.



## Our method of choosing a president is all wrong

By HENRY HOGAN  
Co-Publisher

Imagine, if you can, a country that calls itself a democracy, selecting its chief executive officer in the following manner:

"Each State shall appoint in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress..."

"The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves..."

The vote should then be sent to the seat of government and shall be opened and counted by the president of the Senate in the presence of the two houses of Congress.

IF NO PERSON receives a majority of the votes, the House of Representatives shall elect the President from the three candidates receiving the highest votes. The House shall vote by states and each state shall receive one vote.

If you are at all familiar with the U.S. Constitution you will recognize that this is the manner in which our country selects its president.

The great principle of one man-one vote is somehow absent. So absent that our president is elected on the one man - no vote principle.

In our state, the Legislature has decided that the political parties that appear on the state ballot may select a slate of electors at their state convention.

WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL election comes along, the people in Michigan pull a lever that has the name of the candidate on it, but they are in fact voting for a slate of electors picked at a convention.

The state that receives the highest number of votes are elected as Constitutional electors and may cast all of Michigan's votes and according to the Constitution may cast their votes for anyone they please as long as that person is qualified to be president.

Under our system, the votes cast for the losing slate of electors is completely lost and even those voting for the winning slate are in no way electing a president.

Aren't the people now sophisticated enough to be trusted to elect their own president?

It's pretty hard for the Supreme Court to call the Constitution unconstitutional, so this mess can only be cured by an amendment to the Constitution.

How long must the American people wait for such an amendment?

## S'craft president serves state in 3 educational ways

C. Nelson Grote, president of Schoolcraft College, is perhaps Michigan's only educator whose appointments to state advisory committees range in scope from elementary through higher education.

Dr. Grote's appointments, all by the State Board of Education, include the Michigan Advisory Council for Vocational Education, of which he is chairman, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Council on Post-secondary Education.

The council for vocational education formally advises the state board and informally advises the State Department of Education on matters relating to statewide programs.



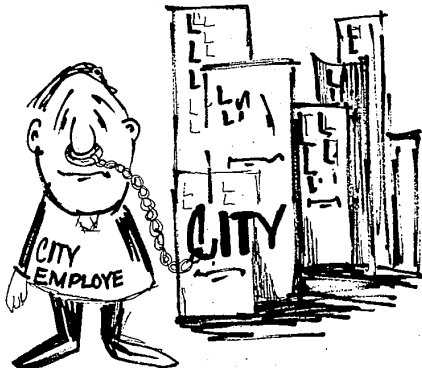
DR. C. NELSON GROTE

Its membership includes representatives of management, labor, secondary and post-secondary institutions, private and public institutions, vocational educators and nonvocational educators, special interest groups, professional educators and the general public.

A second-year member of the vocation advisory group, the Schoolcraft president serves it and the others as a public service without compensation.

While it is unusual for one person to be appointed to three major advisory groups, Dr. Grote's participation is consistent with his broad background in teaching and administration.

## WHEN YOU MOVE, IT HURTS



## Tim Richard writes

### Yes, there is 'crisis,' but is this the answer?

"Things aren't always black or white. They're usually grey - light or dark, but grey."

That point came home to representatives of environmental groups and myself as we listened to Observerland legislators discuss the energy powers bill that is now state law.

We were predisposed to favor the bill. As chairman, I took a poll of all non-elected persons present and found agreement by a 4-1 margin, that there is indeed an "energy crisis," as broadly defined in the long term.

Speaking fervently against the energy bill was State Sen. Dan Cooper (D-Oak Park), whose 15th district includes Southfield and Farmington. Cooper's argument was not in terms of the environment but governmental powers.

He thought the bill's grant of power to the state Public Service Commission was far too broad. He noted it is composed of three men (two Republicans, one Democrat) who are part-timers and admittedly inexperienced in some of these matters.

Cooper enunciated phrases like "checks and balances" and "separation of powers" - the kind you usually hear in political science or law classrooms. He felt the issue was real. He was still upset about a Free Press editorial that made him look like an anti-environmentalist ogre and obstructionist.

The point, quite valid, is that when you label something "environmental" legislation, keep in mind that it may be a constitutional issue, too.

Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), whose district includes Livonia and Redford, pointed out a couple of things, however, that Cooper hadn't mentioned.

One was the new law's time limit: six months. If the law is defective, Pursell said, there is a chance to repair it. The other is that passing a law is one thing, but financing its administration quite another. Pursell noted that the bill had been amended to reduce its appropriation; thus, the danger of setting up another bureaucratic empire was reduced.

The moral: In this election year, you will hear a number of candidates thunder out, "I'm for anything that will help..." labor or the schools or old folks or the environment. Almost all issues are far more complex than that.

When Cooper's voted record is evaluated by conservationists and environmentalists next fall, let's keep in mind that the energy bill was only one issue.

If he votes "right" on other environmental bills, we can conclude he was sincere in raising constitutional objections to the energy bill. If he turns out to have a pattern of opposition to environmental bills, we can conclude his legal talk was window dressing. We'll see.

There was something ironic in hearing Cooper, a Democrat, object to granting the executive too much power. When I studied these matters in school, back in the days of liberal political scientists worshipped at the shrine of the chief administrator. "He is the representative of no constituency, but of the whole people" - so they quoted Woodrow Wilson.

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## Edward Power writes

### Westland's new intern program aids students

Robert F. Kennedy said once that politics is a noble profession.

In the post-Watergate period, people are finding it difficult to believe that anything or anyone involved in politics is honorable about anything.

But there may be a change for the better in the near future.

One way to make a change is to encourage people of integrity to take public positions and lead the way.

Some suburbs have taken a few small steps - notably in the police cadet programs such as those in Livonia and Westland - to try and get qualified persons into the important public service jobs in city government.

Another key step was taken this month with the announcement of a new "city government intern program" by Westland's mayor Eugene McKinney.

Under the program to involve the Livonia and Wayne Westland school districts, high school seniors will be offered Westland city administrative internships.

Purpose is to give the seniors a "first hand insight into city administration and hopefully encourage them to pursue public administration in college," McKinney said.

He stressed the program will be far different than similar ones, which sometimes turn into something resembling a school co-op program to give city hall some cheap labor.

The interns in Westland city hall will receive various assignments in the planning, police, fire, personnel, recreation and public services departments.

Being more than just observers, the seniors will get directly involved in various administrative chores.

The program is hoped to spur high school youngsters to at least consider a career in city administration, which is usually overlooked by competent, hard working students.

If successful, the program may not cure all the problems in government.

But at least, the public won't get more of the lawyer types who led the federal government into the quagmire of Watergate.

## Edward Wendover writes

### The right way to start

With a state-ordered consolidation election for Plymouth and Plymouth Township set for April 2, the officials of both communities have agreed to co-sponsor a consolidation study.

This step is clearly an indication that the governmental officials of both communities are approaching the issue with the proper attitude.

Hopefully, the study (which would be conducted by Michigan State University's Institute for Community Development that conducted a similar study in Farmington) will be impartial investigation of the effects consolidation would have on area residents, businesses and industries.

In the past, emotions have often clouded the unification issue in the Plymouth community. Maybe this time, by getting off on the right foot with the study, this will be avoided.

By showing the will to work together, city and township officials have assured the people of their communities that all the facts of consolidation will be brought out.

Propponents of consolidation

have previously been critical of township officials, saying they tried to block even any discussion of the issue.

The township board's unanimous action to co-sponsor the study should more than demonstrate its willingness to provide the people with the information necessary for a rational decision on April 2.

Unfortunately, there will not be much time between the study's publication date - tentatively set for March 7 - and the election.

This means that local service groups like the League of Women Voters and the two governments should start planning now to coordinate public forums on the study's contents.

With less than a month between the study's publication and the election, there will be much work needed to get the information to the people and then to allow the people to debate the issues.

One possibility would be to get the MSU study team to conduct a forum (or forums) on the issue once its report is published.

This would add an objective control of the public debates which would be similar

to the desirability of having the outside group conduct the study. Both the proponents and opponents of consolidation should support the idea of having a neutral party see the consolidation issue through the election.

Although things have started in the right direction towards a fair campaign on the issue, a great deal of planning is still needed to make the most effective use of the limited time before the vote.

The Plymouth City Commission has finally heard about separation of church and state, it seems.

In the past, an invocation followed the pledge of allegiance as the second item on the city commission agenda.

But at the first meeting chaired by the newly-elected mayor, Beverly McAninch, the invocation was overlooked although on the agenda.

At the next meeting when it again looked as though the prayer would be forgotten, Commissioners Joe Bida broke in with a loud prayer.

Then, on the agenda for the next meeting, there was no invocation called for.

Will the pledge of allegiance be next?

You've heard the one about a giraffe being a horse that was made by a committee?

Well, apparently the Plymouth City Commission sharing that distaste for the committee structure, has decided not to have any more committees.

Not that it isn't using committees - it just isn't going to use that word any more. Now they're studies.

But the commission agenda still calls for "committee reports" which is where the "study group" chairmen give their reports.

Sense And Nonsense

## Editorial & Opinion

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Suburban Communications Corp.

Philip H. Power, Publisher

The Livonia Observer - The Redford Observer  
The Westland Observer - The Garden City Observer  
The Plymouth Mail & Observer - The Southfield News & Observer  
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



Member  
SUBURBAN  
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OF AMERICA



Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc.  
39251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150

Serving the communities of:

Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Redford Township, Garden City, Westland, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Bingham Farms