

EDITORIAL OPINION

Vote 'Yes' on millage

Farmington voters will go to the polls April 2 to vote on renewing five mills of property taxes for the Farmington school system.

The renewal means approximately \$2 million in revenue to the district, a sum which amounts to approximately 10 percent of the operating budget.

The revenue is necessary for the continuation of the school programs, and is particularly critical in a year when the cost of gasoline, heating, and other fixed costs of the district have jumped dramatically.

While the politics of the school board have been something less than smooth, the ongoing operation of the district necessi-

tates the approval of the millage for another 10 years.

Since overall property assessments have increased in the past year at least 10 percent, the question is often raised why the schools need the 10 percent in revenue.

The answer is the assessment increases do not directly increase the revenue to the local schools. The state aid act deducts enough from the local revenue to limit the benefit to the local schools to about three percent.

A "yes" vote April 2 is recommended to maintain the current level of school financing in Farmington.

Oil shortage will continue

The latest oil import developments lend themselves to the sort of account that begins, "First, the good news." The good news is that Arab oil-producing countries have ended their embargo on exports to the United States.

The bad news is that, at least in the short run, gasoline shortages and high prices will continue to be the order of the day.

The situation was succinctly described by a spokesman for Standard Oil of California: "The lifting of the embargo does not mean a return to business as usual. And even if production levels were restored, the U.S. would still be in short supply." Other industry spokesmen are saying amen to this.

THIS ATTITUDE cannot be written off as sterile nay-saying. Such warnings merely take account of the evident fact that the energy crisis, which has been building up for a long time, is here to stay awhile.

Americans have made some progress in the area of fuel conservation over the past few months.

We are driving slower, opting more and more for small cars, using less gasoline. Resumption of Arab oil imports should not be taken as a signal to reverse that trend.

The watchword should still be: Make the best possible use of whatever supplies we have.

A flaw in the rules

A consumer-oriented Health Research Group has asked a hair spray manufacturer to recall spray still on the market containing vinyl chloride. It maintains that studies show this chemical to be associated with cases of rare liver cancer in industrial workers.

The manufacturer, the Clairol Company, says it has no plans to recall such spray. A spokesman says, "We're pretty confident there isn't any danger to a hair

spray user." This even though use of vinyl chloride in the manufacture of these sprays was abandoned last summer.

There the matter stands. We cannot judge the extent of the danger, if any.

It strikes us, though, that this situation underscores a flaw in the rules covering sale of possible dangerous products. Whether or not a product ought to be recalled should not be solely the manufacturer's decision.

Eccentricities

by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.



When you look around the world you realize how lucky you are to be in this country.

While it may not be perfect, if you don't like something, you can speak out without fear of being punished.

Because of this freedom, violent protests growing out of suppression were few and far between. That is only the dangerous decade of the '60s when the young activists, dissatisfied with government policies, set off a series of protests which got out of hand, burning ROTC headquarters and killing people in campus bomb explosions.

This form of protest came to an abrupt end on the Kent State campus. College students all over the country mourned the fact that so-called innocent bystanders had been killed by the National Guard during the demonstration, but it brought home to them the fact that they, too, could be killed in their activist activities.

THE PROBLEM with violent protest is that two wrongs don't make a right. Protesters claim to break laws to bring attention

Violence results in loss of freedom

to the alleged immorality of actions of those in authority, but they in turn are immoral in breaking the law.

Who has the right to say some laws can be broken but others be followed?

I could never understand how the Catholic priests, the Berrigan brothers, could justify breaking into government offices because they didn't like the Vietnam war. Yet, at the same time they were preaching to their followers that they must abide by certain rules and regulations that their faith had established.

Violent protest has a tendency to repel people and make them back off from progress.

NOW WE ARE falling back into an era of violent protest. The kidnappings and hijackings of late are supposedly done to bring attention to wrongs in society, but the tactics are more injurious to society than the supposed wrongs.

America as a nation cannot afford to let this disregard for law continue. It will lead to anarchy and we will in the backlash lose our freedom to speak out.

Decision on busing likely by summer

The eyes of the nation have been on us here in Michigan a good deal lately, what with the energy crisis whacking away at the auto industry and the voters in Grand Rapids and Saginaw taking their anger at Watergate and inflation out on the GOP.

Just wait.

Some fine day before long, the United States Supreme Court will rule on the Detroit cross district school busing case. And then — depending on what the court says — the fur may really fly.

The lawyers had it out directly in front of the nine justices some weeks ago, and the court is now in the process of reaching a verdict. Although it's never safe to predict what the court will do or when, most knowledgeable lawyers agree that some kind of decision will be handed down before the November election, probably this spring or early summer.

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



urbs. President Nixon, last Saturday, in his radio address to the nation on education made much the same point.

BUT EVEN A decision which remanded the case back for further hearings would have a considerable impact in these suburbs.

There would be lawyers' committees and testimony to prepare. School boards would find themselves in even greater trouble passing millage for education, as long as voters feel a vote for millage is a vote for using suburban tax money to finance busing. There would be uncertainty on the part of everybody, and more families would either move or send their kids to live with relatives in communities beyond the Roth line.

The point of all this is that when the suburbs erupted three years ago over busing in Pontiac and then against Judge Roth's findings that cross district busing seemed the best solution to segregation in the Detroit area, the display was as valid a demonstration of the concerns of people as anything seen in this area in a long time.

THE CONSEQUENCES of the decision will have the deepest possible effect on the nation generally and on these suburbs in particular.

No one really knows what the court will decide, but the consensus is that two approaches are likely.

1) The court will remand the case back to Federal Judge Stephen Roth for more hearings here in Michigan. The suburban school districts affected by a cross district busing plan were not fully in on the early hearings, and the situation in the Detroit school district itself has changed. More information may be required before the Supreme Court makes up its mind.

2) The court will rule that segregation does in fact exist in the Detroit school system and that busing students within the school system is an appropriate remedy; however, the court will add that while the suburban schools are overwhelmingly white, this is not the fault of the suburban school districts and accordingly busing is not an appropriate remedy for them.

I'm not ruling out a decision which would impose Judge Roth's cross district busing remedy in the suburbs, but I do feel the court is very much aware of the intense turmoil and outright violation of the law that such a decision would produce in the sub-

EVERYONE THE politicians are getting this message. I have talked in the past three weeks to a lot of people who are thinking of running in suburban congressional districts: The 2nd District (Plymouth and Livonia) and the 7th District (Redford Township, Southfield and Farmington).

Some of these candidates two and three years ago would have supported busing, on grounds that while undesirable it was the best available solution to the more important problem of segregation. Each of these men and women, with only one exception, are now against cross district busing. They remain as firmly opposed to the evil of segregation as they ever were, thank Heavens, but they feel that a court-imposed busing plan involving suburban districts simply would be more damaging than helpful.

The politicians are forced to consider the views of their constituents; they know, perhaps better than anyone, that while the busing issue is calm today in the suburbs the intense feelings which engendered the matter are as strong as ever.

Muddy road complaint

To the Editor:

I am writing to make a violent complaint against the city or township of Farmington or whoever is responsible for not paving the street that I live on.

I live on Ridgewood Drive off of Eleven Mile Road. Driving down my street is quite an experience and caused me to take my car in for repair, which was a bill that could have been avoided if the city would pave the street.

After driving through four different areas of foot deep mud and gulleys and having the bottom of my car scrape the road, getting stuck, I finally managed to get out onto Farmington Road where I learned from the car's movements and vibrating steering wheel that I needed some repair work done.

This is not the first time, our street remains like this throughout the spring and winter, with deep mud-filled holes.

WON'T SOMEONE please take the time to look into this situation and ask the rest of the subdivision home owners how they feel? Everyone is parking his car on the street away from these mud holes in order to avoid driving through them.

Because they were covered with snow, I was unable to see what I was driving into. Unfortunately, there was no alternative route, or possible way to turn to avoid or go around these areas.

Why can't someone from the city take his car through them and then tell us we don't need to have our street paved? I would be more than happy to give him a guided tour in his car and then he could well appreciate what I am complaining about. This street will get worse in the spring, unless something is done now.

I am not the only one who drives through this and would like something done about it. Please listen.

Sandra Thompson
25340 Ridgewood
Farmington Hills
March 21, 1974

Is honesty obsolete?

To the Editor:

Great going Holko. Firing Lt. William Kelly was the best move you've made since you became public safety director.

Who needs ethical cops anyway? They're always making waves and causing undue embarrassment.

It would be different if it involved a million bucks or a murder

or something important, but a \$1,500 rip off isn't worth the trouble all this is causing at City Hall.

Lt. Kelly and the clerk who spilled the beans got what they deserved. They were living in the Dark Ages and realize that this is "The New Generation" and virtue is no longer a virtue.

Honesty, integrity and morality are obsolete hang-ups that obviously could get in the way of public safety.

Our hats are off to you, Ronald N. Holko. We're lucky to have you looking out for our welfare — almost like a "Big Brother."

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson
26605 Farmington Road
Farmington
March 18, 1974

Opposes school millage

To the Editor:

Why has the Observer traditionally supported passage of proposals for higher school tax millage? Why do you encourage us taxpayers to vote for a millage that does not concern you nor the interests of your newspaper?

Maybe you advocate passage of this millage proposal because you feel it will put your paper in a favorable light of public opinion.

Like me, I am a taxpayer, who can be opposed to "better education"? Nobody, of course, and certainly not this writer. The fact is, however, that more tax money does not necessarily mean better education.

WHERE IS inflation going to stop? All we hear is increased costs — it's driving the average taxpayer out of his tree. It is not about time our public officials (in this case, the school board) said, "We intend to cut costs?"

Instead, they can't give up the tax "hook bait."

I'll make a couple of suggestions on how we can continue to give our children a good education and operate on a smaller budget. There are many more . . . here are only two.

1. Shorten the vacation periods and keep our schools open year around, including the summer months. New construction of additional school buildings would not be necessary. As a matter of fact, our school population is decreasing.

2. Presently, there is a surplus of good, qualified teachers. Why are we bound to a union contract which requires us to pay the highest wage scale and fringe benefits ever in the history of education? It was the easy way out for our school board . . . they could have gone "open shop" and paid teachers only what they are worth, based on merit.

Food for thought. Why is it that the Superintendent of Schools, with the blessing of the school board, was allowed to mail literature to all residences in the Farmington area encouraging passage of renewal of a five mill tax proposal . . . at public expense? We,

the taxpayers, had to pay for our own indoctrination. It was in fact, spending taxpayers' money to influence taxpayers. How is that for "feathering your own nest"?

I say it is time to call a halt. Vote "no" on the millage proposal Tuesday, April 2. "It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness."

Light yours Tuesday by expressing your opposition to continued unnecessary taxation.

Grant Church
33485 Longwood Drive
Farmington Hills
March 27, 1974

(Ed. note: The board of education is not asking for a higher school millage, but only an extension of the present millage. The proposal does not call for the construction of any new school buildings.)

Controversy goes on

To the Editor:

The abortion controversy goes on and on because it deals with the very basic emotion of reverence for life. We've been wrestling with this issue for so long and almost everyone has an opinion. Dr. Sonya Friedman's views in her column last Thursday (The Observer & Eccentric, March 21) had some slick statistics without much thought behind them.

Since the government has opened the doors of the abortion mills, 200,000 women had legal abortions in New York, Dr. Friedman states. That's 200,000 times human life and feelings were disregarded by denial. That's a lot of decisions forced upon people by our society.

Dr. Friedman seems proud of this. She writes "less damage has been done to these women and the

public through abortion than by any encouragement for them to keep an unwanted child or give it up for adoption." As a society, and as a person in a society, every time life has been cheapened by irreverence, whatever the motive may be, we lose.

IF ABORTION is "respect for life," as Dr. Friedman twists, we need to examine our aims, goals and life styles. Respect for whose life? A little less materialism and selfish motives and more genuine sharing and caring is respect for life. Encouragement of the two huge alternatives to abortion — birth control and adoption — is respect for life.

How government will assist the issue is problematic until they hit the real challenge of reverence for life at all levels. And here the equality of all human beings plus the realization of desire for self-respect of all human beings is imperative. When government does nothing to really help the social atmosphere surrounding the person contemplating abortion (or at least really provide a framework for promotion of self-help), it is encouraging no alternative to abortion.

Along the same line, directly below Dr. Friedman's article, (the) Rev. L. Buss made a quick reference to abortion in his column on government unity: "Unless the political overlay maximizes the art of community development and fulfillment, the choking-off of life is only a reality delayed."

Using every vehicle possible, we need to express concern and responsibility toward social problems leading to abortions and instill a true respect for life in all people, removing the need for abortions and their ugly statistics.

Janet Gaden
Rochester

March 22, 1974

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