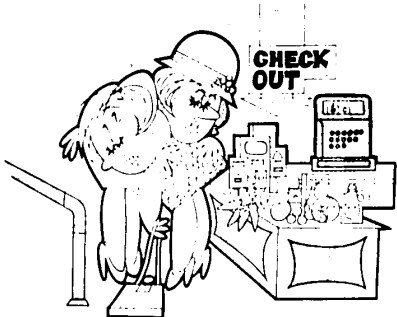


Food bills lower, volunteer survey shows

By JACKIE KLEIN



What is MCL?

SOUTHFIELD—The 20,000-member Michigan Citizens Lobby (MCL) is a taxpayer-oriented group that works with legislators rather than confronting them.

That's the assessment of Barbara Grossman, director of the organization based in the Heritage Office Plaza in Southfield.

"Our self-image goes beyond just a consumers' group," said Mrs. Grossman. "We organize taxpayers to show they have a voice in government and an effect on policies."

MCL members don't pay dues. Mrs. Grossman said. Administrative expenses are paid by contributions from private citizens, labor unions, church groups and MCL fund-raisers, she said.

"Members are committed to work on projects by writing letters, making phone calls and circulating petitions," she explained. "Our ultimate goal is responsive government."

THE MCL organized a drive for generic substitutes, the certification of auto mechanics and registration of repair facilities. The proposals were passed into law by the state legislature.

The group was also instrumental in prohibiting junkies for "lame duck" legislators, said Mrs. Grossman.

The MCL provided the impetus for getting the proposal to wipe out the sales tax on groceries and medicine on the November ballot. Cooperating organizations, said Mrs. Grossman, were the United Auto Workers (UAW), Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), Michigan Education Association (MEA), and religious and neighborhood associations.

The group's literature read: "Here's one tax you can cut. At last there's something you can do to stop inflation. Food prices have gone up nearly 30 per cent over the past two years."

"You can vote YES on Proposal C and wipe out the sales tax on groceries and medicine. Maybe the politicians in Lansing will have to tighten the state budget and eliminate programs that don't work. But it's worth it to let us cut our grocery bills."

The MCL, which was formed in December, 1972, has had as many as 600,000 persons working on petition drives and other projects Mrs. Grossman said.

SOUTHFIELD—Grocery bills are lower for Detroit area shoppers because they're getting the full benefit of the four per cent sales tax repeal on food.

That's the conclusion of the Southfield-based Michigan Citizens Lobby (MCL) from a volunteer survey of 344 supermarkets and grocery stores throughout Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties.

"Beginning Dec. 19, price checkers visited their assigned markets each Thursday to record the cost of the same 10 selected grocery items," said Barbara Grossman, director of the MCL.

"We're delighted to report that the average price of these items didn't increase even one penny when the sales tax came off. That means food bills dropped a full four per cent over the past week because shoppers paid no sales tax on food."

The MCL was instrumental in the referendum drive to remove the sales tax and the proposal passed in the November election.

"THE CONCERN was voiced that markets would simply raise the price of non-food items after Jan. 1 and rob shoppers of the benefit of repeal," said Mrs. Grossman.

"In response to this very real fear among consumers, we organized a volunteer team to monitor changes in food prices. Thursday, Jan. 2, marked the first check of grocery prices since the sales tax was removed."

"We wanted to determine whether or not grocers raised food prices to compensate for loss of the sales tax by comparing Jan. 2 prices with those of the last two Thursdays in December when the sales tax was still being collected."

Grossman said the Citizens Lobby will continue to monitor food prices to guard against any informal price-fixing to boost costs beyond the inflation rate as a result of sales tax repeal.

The dire predictions of confusion at check-out counters hasn't come true," Mrs. Grossman contended. "Store employees and shoppers are cooperating."

Mrs. Grossman said the survey

will continue at least two or three more weeks. The food industry tends to be more competitive than cooperative, she maintained, and it was feared that the removal of the sales tax would be a cue for price-fixing.

"We didn't believe there was any motive for stores to raise prices, but we wanted to allay people's fears and make sure they got a cut in their grocery bills," Mrs. Grossman said.

"Our other battle is to ensure that the estimated \$200 million lost with the sales tax repeal will be replaced in a way that the middle-income working man will get a real tax cut."

Mrs. Grossman said the MCL is waiting for Gov. William Milliken to come up with a funding plan and the group will present alternatives to a possible raise in income tax.

"We feel responsible for the tax cut for middle-income working people and we intend to follow through," she said.

"A REFERENDUM may have to be presented to the voters to roll back any tax increases the legislature might pass."

The position of the MCL, Mrs. Grossman said, is that the state must cut the fat from its budget to replace revenues lost by the sales tax repeal. In the meantime she said it's up to consumers to be vigilant.

Kay Campbell, MCL field coordinator, said the group attempted to introduce legislation to repeal the food and drug sales tax in 1973, but the bill died in committee.

"In February, we decided to work for a referendum to repeal the sales tax which was unfair because it was based on inflated costs of necessities," she said. "This is a first step."

Mrs. Campbell said drug stores are posting prices but most consumers were unaware of the hidden taxes in drug items.

Mrs. Grossman said the group chose to grocery items to survey after consulting economic advisers and determining the items represent the large variety of groceries people buy.

"WE INCLUDED non-food items like a jumbo roll of Scott paper towels and a family size box of Tide, and the average prices didn't vary."

Also included in the check were a half-gallon of milk, a one-pound one ounce can of Del Monte fruit cocktail, a 16-ounce package of Green Giant frozen corn, a pound package of Ball Park Hot Dogs, a one-pound, 12 ounce box of Minute Rice, a five-pound bag of Big Chief or Pioneer sugar, one head of iceberg lettuce and a six and one-half ounce can of StarKist tuna.

The average price of all 10 items checked totaled \$12.42 on Dec. 19 and \$12.40 on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Series features Anna Chennault



ANNA CHENNAULT

SOUTHFIELD—Anna Chennault, the widow of General Claire Lee Chennault, will be guest lecturer at the Southfield Series luncheon Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Raleigh House.

Mrs. Chennault is a long-time foe of communism and an authority on Asia. She has made numerous trips to the Far East in the last two years and has interviewed top military, political and religious leaders of Vietnam and Asian countries.

Her voice has been heard over the Voice of America in China and throughout Southeast Asia.

She is often called by the Senate and Congress to testify for her knowledge of Asian affairs. She was recently appointed as special adviser to the Chairman for the Asian-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce.

Mrs. Chennault's appearance as a Southfield Series lecturer is sponsored by National Bank of Southfield. Lectures are given at luncheon meetings at the Raleigh House six times a year.

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Stow Aways

SLIM & TRIM	1.75
Supper Series Party served with Cottage Cheese, French Salad, Bread, Butter Eggs and Tomatoes	
CHIEF'S SALAD	1.45
1/2 lb. Sirloin Steak topped with a Mashed Potato and Gravy	
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TOSSED SALAD	35
COLE SLAW	45

Port and Starboard

Ocean Range	75	85	95
Country Sandwich	35	45	55
Smoked Ham	35	45	55

From Our Ship's Galley

NO. 1 COUNTRY FRESH EGG	1.75
Scrambled with Toast and Hash Browns	
with Sausage, Ham and Bacon	1.75
NO. 2 COUNTRY FRESH EGG	1.85
Scrambled with Toast and Hash Browns	
with Sausage, Ham or Bacon	1.85
NO. 3 FRESH AND CHEESE OMELETTE	1.85
Scrambled with Toast and Hash Browns	
with Cheese Only	1.85
NO. 4 STEAK AND EGGS	1.85
Scrambled with Toast and Hash Browns	

Orders From the Bridge

French Dip	1.85
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Smoked Ham and Cheese	1.80
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Reuben	1.85
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Chicken Burger	1.75
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Hot Ham Beef Sandwich	1.85
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Surf & Turf Deluxe	1.75
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Steak Burger	1.80
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Chili Burger	1.80
THE RIVERBOAT, a favorite of our French Dip, is served with French Bread, a side of French Fries and French Onion Soup.	

Hot Dog	35
With Chili	45
Travis Beef Sandwich	1.15
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From the Captain's Table

Return by Tender U.S.A. Choice Dinners

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New York Strip Steak Charbroiled to your order, Creamed Potatoes, Capers or Caviar	
STEAK RAGOON	3.75
Marinated in our own Special Sauce and our Smoked Beef, Cream Potatoes, Capers and Caviar	

HUCKLEBERRY FISH	3.85
Baked in Lemon and Tender Cut, served with a Butter Potatoes	
TOM SAWYER	3.85
Colorful Meatloaf	
HONEY FRITCHER	3.15
Potato Steak, perfect for a meat appetizer	

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