

Readers Speak Out On What Bothers Them

Answer For Mrs. C.H.

EDTOR:

I would like to address my letter to Mrs. C. H. and the other Westland Citizens who seem to think it is a very simple thing to tell a bunch of trees and bushes to quit growing and disappearing because we no longer want them around.

I was born and raised on the corner of Marquette and Wayne Roads. I wandered through these fields and woods as a child and learned much about the birds and animals who lived here.

I still live on this same land and now my children are kept busy observing a new kind of bird today and a new oak tree beginning to grow in the same spot where they watched a seedling plant a score last Fall. My husband and I have taught them to plant seeds in the garden, tend the plants as they grow, and eventually pick the vegetables as they ripen in the summer.

We have a sandbox in our back yard where I can keep an eye on my younger girls as they make their sand castles and mud pies. Our older two children help keep our lawn mowed (we have plenty of it) and even though they are only ten and twelve years old (one of them a boy), they can both cook, knit and sew, as well as help with the housework. My boy can repair his bike successfully and is already telling his father all about the bird house he wants to build this winter.

Now let me ask you a few questions, Mr. and Mrs. Westland Citizen.

Do you have a sandbox or sand pits in your backyard where your children can play? Or do you send your children out on the streets or into someone's yard to play, so they won't mess up that beautiful lawn.

Maybe it was your children I chased out of that six foot long sand tunnel they dug in this field because they weren't allowed to dig in their own yards where you parents could watch them. Just suppose that tunnel had caved in on one of them.

Have your children become familiar with the many different birds around here? Or was that your boy who came in my back yard with that B-B gun or bow and arrows and shot at these birds and my dog too, just for the lack of something better to do?

And when I ask them to leave, they swore at me with a vocabulary unfitting an adult, let alone a young boy.

But it is not only the children, Mr. and Mrs. Westland Citizen. It is you adults also. I am referring to you citizens who enjoy driving your motorcycles all around our children's play area if in our back yard. Would you like it if I came and rode a motorcycle all around your yard?

Or how would you like it, Mr. Citizen, if I let my hunting dogs race all through your flowers and plants, breaking them down as they went?

You citizens insist we cut all the weeds and everything down. But tell me, how do you expect us to even try to cut it when you citizens keep throwing all your unwanted junk in

the field? It is so simple to pick up your telephone and call for a special garbage pickup. As for the tragic incident last year, we were very unopposed to changes by saying, ".....continue to speak against change and to scold at or ignore and financially starve programs designed to resolve constructively our basic economic and social problems."

This statement is political hogwash! First, Congressman Marvin Esch has been a very aggressive freshman congressman and has eagerly represented the best interests of the congressional district. He has supported many programs that were soundly based and did actually do some good for the people.

Your writer's comments make me believe that Congressman Esch is being challenged because he was not blindly down the trail of the Johnson administration's foolhardy spending. Maybe your writer doesn't realize that he--from his income tax dollar--is the one who is paying for all of this so-called social welfare and problems that "resolve" our basic economic and social problems.

Maybe there are many of you who believe that many of the social and economic problems promoted by LBJ and the present administration are money-wasters and will do little to improve our country--at a great expense to the taxpayer.

Your writer states, "...is engaged by the party leadership." The citizens of this district -- who've had contact with Mr. Esch -- and who have had problems that needed solving -- have found that Mr. Esch

is not a "yes man" to either the party or the administration. Mr. Esch has done an admirable job in representing the best interests of the people of his district.

Your writer gives the impression that if he were elected he would follow the administration's leadership blindly down the path to fiscal bankruptcy. His article gives the impression that it is he -- not Congressman Esch -- who is "married" to the party leadership and who will blindly follow every fool-hardy spending program that the Democrats present. Mr. Esch's district record in the 90th Congress shows that he is a thinker and a doer -- not merely a "coastal rider" as your writer would have us believe.

Congressman Marvin Esch has done an admirable job representing the district and deserves to be returned to Congress this November.

LAUREN R. JANUZ

has participated in "violations of the very law that it is his sworn duty to enforce."

According to a front page story in your paper on July 21, Plymouth Township officials claimed that certain of the signs of the incumbent Municipal Judge in Plymouth Township were in violation of the Township Ordinance, and ordered them taken down. Your story further stated that the Judge took those signs down.

That story also had a picture of the incumbent Judge and his campaign manager with one of the Judge's signs on an ancient Ford Truck. That truck appears to be the 1929 Ford truck registered to Robert DeWitt, attorney, who is the Judge's campaign manager. That truck has been seen in the downtown area of Plymouth for the past several weeks, frequenting parking lots, parking meters, in violation of the parking ordinance.

More seriously, that 1929 Ford carries a Historic Vehicle Registration sign on its front. Historic motor vehicles are licensed under Sec. 803a of the Michigan Vehicle Code (Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, as amended with optional permanent license plate -- that does not have to be renewed each year -- for which the owner pays only \$5. The owner, however, is required to file an affidavit that the vehicle is owned solely as a collector's item and for participation in "limited" activities, exhibitions, tours, parades and similar events, and not for general transportation.

In his letter, published in the Plymouth Mail and Observer on July 26, the incumbent Municipal Judge stated that a question that he, a Municipal Judge, had violated the very law it was his sworn duty to enforce. Was a serious thing that far beyond the expected half truths and exaggerations of a local campaign.

I agree that such an accusation is a very serious matter. But on the basis of stories appearing in your paper, as well as my own personal observations, it does appear that the

portation. It is clear that the use being made of this vehicle is in violation of the Michigan Vehicle Code, "the very law that it is his sworn duty to enforce."

PATRICK J. FOLEY
TOWNLEY

Who Is Confused?

Answering Donald A. Sellers (Urdu against Jim Tierney, it is my opinion that we need more "third old men" like Tierney in public office to defend the Constitution of the United States and protect the people from power-grabbing politicians, instead of men who pay lip service to the authority of the Constitution, but do not have the honesty, integrity and determination to stand by the principles it proclaims.

Apparently Jim Tierney believes that the U.S. Constitution recognizes that the people have the right to own property, including guns, and the freedom to determine the use or disposition of that property, without dictation from public officials or interference by any one else.

In exercising any "right" every person has to accept responsibility for his actions and if another person can prove that such action was illegal because it was criminal or in violation of the equal rights of others, that "responsibility" can be enforced.

Neither the officials in federal government or state government can give a right to the people, nor are they authorized to infringe any right retained by the people. They are authorized only to act, in

right adherence to the limited sovereignty which the people have transferred to government, under written constitutions. If, under any circumstance, it requires the people to expand the powers granted to government officials, that is a matter to be referred to the people, for decision by adoption of constitutional amendment.

Is it Tierney who is "confused" or Donald A. Sellers? E. ARTHUR RICE

Oppose Gun Law

EDTOR:

If you think that the Netherlands, Japan, England, Wales, Germany, Belgium and Canada have strict gun laws, why don't you go and live there. I am sure we won't miss it. If someone wants to kill, they will find a way.

If you want to do some good, why don't you try and stop all of these Americans from getting killed by automobiles.

I am a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and I believe they are doing a wonderful job. I myself and a lot of other people believe that these so-called gun laws are backed by the Communists. This will just mean another tax on people who want to keep their guns. I think we are taxed enough.

I haven't found one person yet who is in favor of this gun law. I believe that if it was put to a vote by the people that it wouldn't pass.

KENNETH GAMMON
Redford Township

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Spock Trial Proves Need For Review Of Unjust Laws

ANN ARBOR -- The recent trial of Dr. Benjamin Spock is a dramatic reminder that citizens should be allowed to take an allegedly unjust law "back to the public over the heads of public officials."

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It thus becomes necessary at times to violate an allegedly unjust law and to put the question to the juries who represent the larger public, according to Prof. Sax.

A government, deeply implicated in a "wretched" policy, may have to be "restrained" by popular reaction in a forum of advocacy of passive resistance -- to the draft, for example -- as an appropriate means for testing public feeling about the administration of that law.

CONTRARY TO WHAT many think, he added, it is questionable whether "one has all the protection one might need in petitioning the legislature to repeal a law, or asking a judge to make a ruling of invalidity."

Neither the officials in federal government or state government can give a right to the people, nor are they authorized to infringe any right retained by the people. They are authorized only to act, in

In 1755 was largely based on the argument that the public, speaking through a jury, is not bound by the law as laid down by the judges, but should make an independent conscientious decision.

Some of the founders of this nation--John Adams and Alexander Hamilton--also advocated the right of jury nullification, Prof. Sax explained.

Their belief, he recalled, "nevertheless adopts the view that 'every man shall be the ultimate judge of his own conduct, nor does it hold that a conviction is required in every prosecution where the defendant has violated a law that judges say is valid.'

"Rather it indicates the ability of a viable legal system to accommodate itself to those situations in which nullification of the law should be viewed as justifiable. Upon reflection, it should be clear that such a notion meets some very important needs in a legal system."

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JURY NULLIFICATION, Prof. Sax pointed out, is nothing new to Americans. The virtues of obeying obedience to the law were not so clear in 1850, for example, when the Fugitive Slave Law was enacted.

For another example, the successful defense of John Peter Zenger for seditious libel

FOR ONE THING, "There is a class of cases in which the government cannot be required to exercise ordinary restraint; cases in which the men in power at a particular time are themselves the 'victims' of crime."

For another, a court may in ordinary cases stretch its legal interpretations for a defendant's benefit, but it is unlikely to do so in prosecutions for political offenses.

"Would the right of jury nullification lead to an increase of acquittals?"

"History is certainly against the notion," Prof. Sax noted. "There is no evidence of any such result when the right of jury nullification was recognized either in England or the U.S."

He concluded: "It is time for us to reevaluate, as our forebears did, that will sometimes be necessary to protest an unjust law by violating it and putting the question of justification to one's fellow citizens."

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