

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Twenty Five Cents

## Riegle vows job gap fight in bid for U.S. Senate seat

By STEVE BARNABY

U.S. Rep. Donald Riegle (D-Mich.) stormed into town this week to garner support in his bid for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Philip Hart.

Speaking before the Farmington Area Democratic Club brunch at the community center, Riegle told the audience that new and creative thinking needed to be injected into congressional leadership ranks before the country would see an upswing in the economy.

"The job gap isn't a temporary problem. We must face the situation that something more has to be done to find people jobs," he said.

Riegle said he was alarmed that Michigan wasn't far behind the City of New York in financial woes. He upheld his argument by pointing to \$350 million the state has borrowed to reinforce its unemployment payments.

"If this continues through next year, the state will owe \$1 billion in unemployment and all of this money has to be paid back," he said.

**STAGNANT LEADERSHIP** in congressional ranks has been responsible for slow moving legislation, he said. Riegle believes the way to hasten action is by abandoning the seniority system in granting chairmanships to committees. He pointed to the fact Hart has been denied the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"This is a blind system that would deny a chairmanship to one of the most capable men in the Senate," he said.

The recession, said Riegle, is deliberate. "Whenever there is a recession it is a planned and deliberate national policy. One of the ways this is done is by splitting the coalition of working people."

Workers, he says, don't ask the hard questions when they are desperate for jobs. In this way employers can avoid paying higher wages and benefits.

Riegle has outlined an 11 point program to cut costs and, at the same time, increase benefits for those in need.

He would like to see a federal budget, or tool called "zero-base" budgeting used. It would require existing government agencies to periodically demonstrate they are worth the federal money they seek.

"It's time to cut the fat out of the bloated federal government and this is the way to find it," he said.

Riegle said the \$10 million can be cut from the defense budget and sunk

into other areas such as health care and senior citizen benefits.

A top priority will be an income maintenance program for senior citizens that will insure an adequate living standard for every elderly person in America," he said.

This would be outside Social Security, funded by general revenues and would provide needed basic income on a case-by-case basis. I believe the greatest tragedy in America today is the economic hardship and deprivation facing elderly people."

To relieve states of the unemployment compensation load, Riegle wants the federalization of the unemployment compensation program. Under this plan a national insurance pool would be designed to help states with unemployment problems that exceed individual state resources.

"This is essential to Michigan's economic future. Otherwise we may face a permanent job shortage here in Michigan."

**RIEGLER BELIEVES** that a special effort should be made to create jobs through the private sector with greater emphasis on self liquidating public works construction projects carried out at the local and state level.

To combat the energy crunch, Riegle wants to see a new national surplus pool would be designed to help states with unemployment problems that exceed individual state resources.

"These ever-increasing prices will not only threaten the economic recovery



Stumping DON RIEGLE

we urgently need but it will price gasoline and fuel out of reach of many people who can't afford to pay the price.

"This is wrong and exactly the kind of hard-nosed heartless commercial policy that is convincing people by the millions that the system really doesn't care about them."

Riegle admitted to his Farmington audience he is an hydropin in the Senate contest, saying his biggest problem

was raising funds against big name candidates like Michigan's Secretary of State Richard Austin.

"What I would like you to do is to stack up our records. I think you will find me at least as equal as the rest of the candidates," he said.

Riegle, who has served for five terms in the U.S. Congress, was a Republican who defected to the Democratic Party in 1973 after his opposition to the Vietnam War.



Meredith Riegle listens intently as her husband, U.S. Rep. Don Riegle, explains his political philosophy to those attending the Farmington Area Democratic Club brunch on Sunday. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## For Farmington schools

### Sports league shift weighed

By RON GARIBANSKI

Farmington high schools have taken a defensive, holding position, and are waiting to see what four other high schools will do about forming a new sports league.

Ever since Livonia Bentley and Stevenson, Plymouth Salem, and Redford Union high schools expressed interest in forming a new athletic conference, Farmington high schools have been rumored to be interested in joining the proposed league.

Recently, principals from the high schools met. Even though the Farmington high schools were not looking for a change, their principals attended out of courtesy to the other schools. Since then, rumors have circulated that Farmington wants to be in the new league.

"What we don't need at this time are rumors, and that's what all this talk about our changing leagues is," says Jack Cotton, Farmington School district athletic director. "The position of the athletic department is that we are not actively seeking to change leagues."

"The leagues we are in now have served our needs nicely. But we must stay in a holding position to see what the other four high schools decide and how their decision will affect us."

"THE UPSETTING thing about this situation is that there are all kinds of people—like parents and other groups—who should not be involved, who are speaking out. Only the principals, coaches and athletic directors should be involved because they know what is best for their schools and teams."

One factor adding conflict to the situation is that North Farmington High School and the Northwest sports league are currently searching for another team to join their league. Two years ago Oak Park High School gave notice that it was changing leagues.

### Exchange club sets programs

The Farmington Exchange Club will hold three programs of special interest in December.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, Judge Michael J. Hand of the 47th District Court will speak on "Plea Bargaining."

Oakland County Prosecutor Brooks Patterson is the speaker for Wednesday, Dec. 18. His subject is "Community Concerns and the Pornographic Merchant."

For the final program of the year, Wednesday, Dec. 17, Oakland County Sheriff Johannes P. Spreen will speak on "Economic Impact of Crime."

*"To somewhat avoid the domino effect that would occur if we began changing around leagues, I would like to see the schools sit down and try to work something out together, possibly forming a congress of schools."*

—Jack Cotton

Since then, the league has been looking for another team to join the league and bring the number to six again.

Other than that, Farmington high schools are satisfied with their respective leagues, says Cotton. Harrison High School is in the Western Six league and is happy with that conference. Farmington High is in the Inter-Lakes league, one of the oldest leagues in the state, and doing well, says Cotton.

Discontent recently grew because of a Livonia School Board practice that disallows two schools from the same district to compete in the same league. That is where the problem began. The schools began talking about forming the new league, and rumors of Farmington high school's interest began circulating, says Cotton.

But when the schools began talking about forming a new league, the rumors started to affect many other teams from other leagues.

"What I don't want to see is this splintering. I don't think it is good for the splintering," said Cotton. "To avoid the domino effect that would occur if we began changing leagues, I would like to see the schools sit down and try to work something out together, possibly forming a congress of schools."

"We could take the 20 high schools from this area and form a congress of schools. I would like to see all the ath-

letic directors sit down and line up the schools, taking into consideration their geographical problems and schedule games according to the setup of this 20-team conference."

"We could make two conferences of 10 teams each, with four divisions of five teams. This would be a lot more flexible and could eliminate some of the problems of financing, too."

"With 20 teams we could overcome a lot of the problems the schools have during the separate seasons. Teams in the congress of schools could pitch in and help out when others are in trouble."

One example would be in the area of girls sports, says Cotton. Some schools have sports for girls, but others do not. Schedules could be adjusted within this framework and have all-girl teams competing within the congress of schools.

The schools got together several years ago and talked about forming such a congress of schools. But the number of schools involved soon reached about 72 high schools.

IF THE ATHLETIC directors could arrange such a super conference, the 20 teams in the area would be the most feasible number in relation to scheduling, financing and the specific needs of the schools, said Cotton.

The plan for this congress of schools would bring together the Inter-Lakes, Western Six and Northwest Suburban leagues, and Livonia Bentley and Stevenson, Plymouth Salem and Redford Union high schools from the Suburban Eight league (the four schools now attempting to form the new league).

"I talked to the other athletic directors about the congress of schools, but nothing concrete has been decided. The big response has been just wait and see."

"In the end, I would like to see something good come out of all of this. What I don't want to see is some team or school get hurt," said Cotton. "I must work within the framework of the total concept of the three Farmington high schools."

"We want to act in the best interest of all the schools involved and not just for the good of some schools. So we will just have to maintain our holding pattern and see what happens."

## Fences approved to battle snows

By STEVE BARNABY

After a three-year crusade to have snow fencing installed along portions of Eight and 13 Mile, Councilwoman Joan Dudley has finally won her battle.

In a 3-2 vote the council has agreed to let the city purchase 4,300 feet of fencing, costing \$5,313, to be installed on Eight Mile, east of Halstead, along the frontage of the Glen Eden Cemetery. Fencing also will be installed on 13 Mile, east of Orchard Lake, along the frontage of the Glen Oaks Golf Course.

**VOTING FOR** the fencing were Dudley, Jan Dolan and Keith Deacon. Opposed were Fred Lichtman and William Ortmann. Councilmen Earl Oppenhausser and Robert McConnell were absent.

Dudley fought for the fencing installation, saying that snow drifts along those open areas caused dangers to drivers and pedestrians alike.

"Traffic is increasing due to the development. I think it is worth it to spend the money even if it saves just one life," said Dudley.

She endorsed the fencing installation even though the city administration advised against such installation.

"It is the department's recommendation that snow fencing not be installed," said Public Services Director Ralph Magid in a report to council.

"Not only because of the substantial dollars involved but also since Wayne County has assured the city that response time to Eight Mile will be first

priority, and since the snow and ice control maintenance to 13 Mile will be on the city's priority-one basis," he said.

The city presently has 11 vehicles to use for clearing roads of snow. Wayne County has beefed up its snow fleet with 37 vehicles, according to officials there.

**LICHTMAN TOOK** exception to Dudley's arguments for snow fencing, saying a dangerous precedent would be set if fencing was installed in those areas.

"This is only one request. Every street in the city is open to this kind of snowdrift condition. Next year we could be spending \$30,000, \$40,000 or \$100,000 until our whole budget would be blown," he said.

Dudley said that further installation of fencing would be unnecessary if good planning were used in the future. She maintains that poor planning left those areas open to the winds.

Ortmann urged the council take the recommendation of the city administration, saying it had the facts on hand allowing it to best deal with the situation.

It appeared as though Dudley might lose her bid for the fencing until Keith Deacon fell in her column of support.

"I too am concerned that if we start with installation here it might be letting ourselves open in the future. But I will vote in favor of having fencing installed in these two areas," he said.

"I can't let another winter go by and depend on Wayne County to get the job done. I would like to see that area taken care of."

inside

**Christmas**

Section A

News

Editorials

Columns

Suburban Life

Community calendar

Club Circuit

Sports

Business

Classifieds

Section B

Section C

Sections C,D

Look into our annual Christmas gift guide to find holiday values waiting for you of local shops.