

Politics In Lansing Has New Basis-- Reason

By DON HOENSCHELL

LANSING

ov. Milliken and House

ocrats will go into the climatic fall session and the election campaign beyond with a distance firm up in the wobble of power-play state

the Senate, the third element

the troika of day-to-day state

terminal, remains blighted

a newly-vulnerable leader.

ere's the political story of

1969 legislative session in

ich Milliken and the new

ocratic leadership in the

use underwent transplant

urgery and survived, tickling

ter than ever.

in short Milliken made peace

with Republicans and House

ocrats made peace with

ch other.

MILLIKEN, who in February

succeeded former Gov. George

Romey, now secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Nixon, miraculously kept his nice-guy image in public while clobbering critics in private.

Democrats, regaining a 57-53 majority after two years of GOP rule in the House, came closer than is publicly known to overthrowing their leadership, then -- like Democrats -- settled down to work.

Milliken changed the style from the haranguing and arm-twisting Romney and the shock was great. Republicans rapped Milliken for not using pressure. They found Milliken fights best in the trenches.

"The trouble with Romney was that we had too many meetings," said Senate Majority Leader Emil Lockwood. "One time (Senator Frank D.) Beadie walked out and then every time after that somebody would blow up."

The personality change in the front office was traumatic for lawmakers. First they criticized Milliken for being distant with Republicans, then for ducking inter-sectional warfare in the Legislature.

It all changed on one issue. Milliken decided to let legislators fight it out themselves on

analysis

parochialism, abortion, sex education, campus unrest and other political piffans.

WHEN IT came to carving the \$100 million bond issue on re-creation, Milliken moved. He wanted the lion's share for the cities where he felt it was needed instead of for projects in outstate areas where Republicans represent Repub-

licans and grow restive when neglected.

He was in Kansas at the Midwest Governor's Conference the first week in July. He flew home to sit in the gallery of the House when a \$25 million chunk for urban areas was chopped out of the allocation.

As they voted in the House,

analysis

Milliken kept a log. Then, he called in lawmakers one by one to discuss their votes. Milliken got his way later that night, 85-42. It was a show of power on a leash.

Later in the Senate, conservatives in the GOP attacked his appointment of Detroit Attorney Myron Whitis to a labor-relations commission because of his past associations with

groups termed "un-American."

Milliken refused to withdraw Whitis, a Negro, and the vote went down to the wire. Milliken won with 15 Republicans voting against him.

LATER Lockwood was groomed for dumping as majority leader by a faction headed by Sen. Robert Vander Laan (R-Grand Rapids). Milliken hurried back to the capitol late at night.

"I told him (Vander Laan) I fundamentally disagreed with his position," Milliken said. It was like Peter Lorre in a late-late movie saying: "Please do what I say or I shall be forced to cut off your head, sir, and neither of us would like that, would we?"

Lockwood is alive and healthy and is still majority leader in the Senate.

Milliken opposed granting the

Liquor Control Commission autonomy and establishing an independent osteopathic college.

When the osteopathic college vote or sign it. He sent it back to the Legislature for rewriting and it came back in Milliken's language -- joining the school with an existing medical college.

Milliken's behind-the-scenes head-cracking, so artistic that it left legislators wondering why they were bleeding, was matched only by the discovery by Democrats that they loved each other.

DEMOCRATS engineered a marriage made in politics under the pacifying blessing of Speaker William A. Ryan, whose tactics should make the world forget Neville Chamberlain.

Ryan detests noise and bombast, often squandering logic on members who earlier understand better a rap behind the ear and a dressing down with drum rolls. The road was rocky.

"It was only through some real loud causes where everyone really said what he had to say that this was possible," said Ryan, marveling at it all.

"We have made tremendous strides in the past few months in our attitudes toward each other. We were hopelessly polarized at the beginning of the session but we are really working together now."

"I think we have greater respect for each other now than we had in the past six or seven years."

Ryan speaks softly as though he's unwilling to wake the baby and the best foot forward is better than two in the mouth. So, remembering other more explosive leaders, everyone became a leader.

THE CLIMAX came when a Negro lady legislator reported to the Detroit-Warren Mills district and a second lady threatened to rearrange his hairdo with an ash tray.

Ryan took his majority to the woods, not for switching but for a new approach -- reason. They responded, and, as the shouts drifted off into the night, a cohesive programmatic majority was born.

"After all, we do carry the name of the Democratic party and essentially we all have the same goals," Ryan said. For a time there had been a move to unseat Majority Floor Leader George F. Montgomery (D-Detroit) for abusing the phil-

osophy of the majority -- and even to Ryan, himself, for reasons never made very clear.

House Democrats are now working with each other as they go into the educational reform session in October.

Over the Senate, which faces election in 1970 with every-body else, the majority is in charge of Sen. Charles O. Zoller (R-Berlin Harbor), chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Lockwood holds the title of Majority Leader.

Zoller lost to a coalition twice affecting Livonia Public Schools -- on the \$1 million reimbursement to Livonia and Wayne for taking students from the Detroit-Warren Mills district and on a guaranteed loan plan enabling Livonia and others to build needed buildings without leaving additional property taxes.

Milliken has gained strength behind the scenes, the House Democrats are happy with each other again-- phenomena most easily compared to the moon walk.

The losers have been majority Republicans in the Senate, facing an election year like crickets without a field and Chief Sitting Bull without a General Custer.

Suburbia Changes

... But Enough?

By TIM RICHARD

Suburbia's first reaction to the events in Detroit two years ago was to help the "unfortunate victims." The feeling was widespread.

Since then, there has been a realization that suburbanites need to get to know not only the "innocent victims" of that upheaval, but also the feelings of those who either took part or sympathized.

In other words, the notion the riots were simply criminal activity, and nothing else, is being replaced by a more mature understanding of how the black man views the world.

As Kent Mathewson, president of Metropolitan Fund, put it: "We have definitely lengthened the fuse."

BUT WHILE THERE have been areas where suburbanites have helped with social progress, other areas are being ignored.

Kids of all religious denominations and political views pitched in to help and get to know the inner city.

Churches have been outstanding in this field. Indeed, one wonders whether the recent resignations of some liberal pastors in this area might have been the result of congregational disapproval of their humane views.

Big business has seen the need to provide inner city people with jobs. The industrial establishment hasn't always been able to

produce what it says it would like, but the effort has been undeniable and laudable.

Schools have shown an interest in getting students to understand that not everyone in this metropolis is white, economically optimistic and reasonably jolly.

A LOT MORE could be done, however, by the middle class, the adults and the quiet "good people" of suburbia.

Granted that open housing ordinances have been passed in two Observerland cities, Plymouth and Livonia. How many black families have actually moved in? How have the attitudes of home sellers and real estate men changed?

Granted that the churches have begun opening a few eyes. What have the Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange and Jaycee clubs done in this field?

How many suburbanites still contend: "Our town doesn't have any problem." We don't have any Negroes?"

How many township boards and city councils still sanctimoniously practice snob zoning--attracting industries into town, but writing zoning and building codes so that only the management can afford to live there?

White society's major institutions have changed their attitudes considerably in the last two years. But the attitude of the ordinary citizen--good of solid Joe Taxpayer, the family man--seems to be lagging behind.

Name Thomas Page Ford Parts Manager

Thomas C. Page has been appointed general manager of the Autolite-Ford Parts Division, Ford Motor Company, succeeding John J. Nevin who was elected vice president-Marketing. It was announced today by Henry Ford II, chairman of the board.

Nevin had served as general manager and Page as product and marketing manager of the Autolite-Ford Parts Division since it was formed in August, 1966.

Page is a native of Wilmington, O. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Miami University in Oxford, O., and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

He joined Ford in 1952 in the car merchandising department at Ford Division. He later was car planning manager for the division with product planning responsibilities for the Thunderbird, Falcon and Mustang cars.

He was named parts and service marketing manager for Lincoln-Mercury Division in 1964 and the following year was appointed parts marketing as-

stant to the vice president-Car and Truck Group. He held that position prior to joining the Autolite-Ford Parts Division.



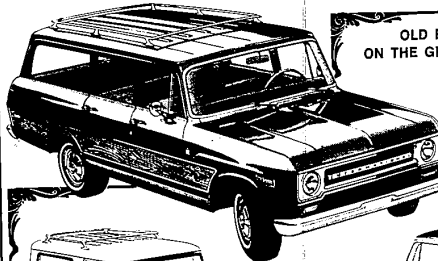
THOMAS C. PAGE

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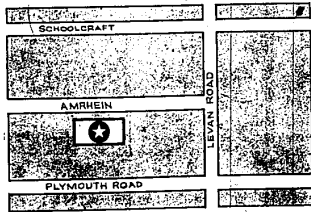


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