

Attorney Explains Reasons For School Board Suit

EDITOR:

Open Letter to:
Mr. and Mrs.
Bernard Konakiewicz
9184 Harle
Livonia

I must commend you for the courageous stand you have taken in your past action in supporting your school system. I must inform you that many members of the "class action" did support the millage and that all members are truly interested in a better school system.

I would agree with you that the immediate problem in the school district is to press the State of Michigan for an effective funding method for all schools. It is unfortunate that we do have a communication gap, as was pointed out in Mr. Power's editorial of September 3.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to personally tell you that our particular lawsuit was a constructive step in pressing the point to establish the State's obligation in this matter.

We simply asked what a school day is? And, what is the constitutional mandate concerning the funding for a free school system?

Judge Charles Kaufman answered these questions by stating that a school day has a minimum of four hours of instruction and that the State legislature has the duty to provide the means to support the school system.

It is my firm belief that the people of Livonia and the School Board and the Administration should unite and force the State to adequately fund the schools and to provide immediate funds to the Livonia school district.

I trust that you will readily see that our aim was not to fire the School Administration or to recall the School Board. My Associate, Kenneth J. Morris, and myself have worked many long hours without compensation in this lawsuit in the interest of a good school system. We believe that it was vital to a free school system that

these questions be answered. Until this lawsuit was filed and a judgment rendered, a free public school system was in jeopardy of being left in limbo to live. Livonia and the Western portion of the school district parents should be proud that they have taken sufficient interest to pursue their children's right to a free public education.

JAMES E. MCCARTHY
ATTORNEY FOR CITIZENS
"CLASS ACTION"

Disagrees With Observer Stand

EDITOR:

I read your editorial "James O'Neill Should Resign State School Post." You must be kidding. I thought newspaper people got the story before committing themselves. It is obvious you do not know the facts.

It is not a political issue. Mr. Polley disobeyed Public Act 44 of 1968. The Legislature has censured him in Committee. Resolution 169 and Senate Resolution 106. Mr. O'Neill has requested his resignation as I have because he sent out (information on official state papers) sex education instruction before it was lawful for him to do so by law. It is simple. Polley broke the law...he should be fired.

All the glibbie group in your editorial about Jim O'Neill creating a situation is irresponsible journalism.

Wake up and drop dead with your nonsense.

VIRGINIA CRAWFORD,
Praises O'Neill,
Blasts Observer

EDITOR:

The call for Mr. O'Neill's resignation is clear evidence that the editorial writers at The Livonia Observer have lost their cool. However, this politically motivated action is hardly surprising considering the consistent championing of ultra-liberal causes and politicians by this newspaper.

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Here is Dr. Ira Polley, the superintendent of public instruction, who bears the stamp of approval of the state's professional liberals and whose main claim to fame is that he bungled every major task that confronted him since his controversial appointment to the present job.

Along comes Mr. O'Neill who puts the spotlight on Mr. Polley's gross ineptitude and calls public attention to the sorry role the superintendent played in the matter of sex education. That somebody dared to question a professional liberal is enough for the editorial writers of The Observer to blow their stack, hence their vindictiveness towards Mr. O'Neill.

Despite The Observer's efforts to whitewash Mr. Polley, the present financial mess in which Michigan's education finds itself, is proof enough that we need new and competent leadership in the superintendent's office.

The appointment of a political hack to such an important position spending millions of the taxpayers money just will not do anymore. I am sure that Mr. O'Neill will find that he has the support of the people of Michigan in his valiant efforts to remedy a bad situation.

As an afterthought it is quite ironic for The Observer to talk about Mr. O'Neill's "obsession". It seems to me that the people at The Observer are the victims of a real obsession. During the past few months there has hardly been an issue of this newspaper with-

out an horror story about an alleged right-wing radical conspiracy against sex education. Oh, yes, they hasten to point out that, of course, not all opponents of sex education are Birchers (thanks a million!). However, the implication is there, guilt by association in the best tradition of the late Joe McCarthy.

JOHN W. SCHLUEP

Approves Observer Stand On O'Neill

EDITOR:

Your editorial condemning the actions of James O'Neill is very good.

I think that James O'Neill has very surely decided that politics is more important than good government.

His stand on sex education for our schools also is for his political ladder only.

I think that Dr. Ira Polley

is doing a fine job and I also think that as a father of seven I can say that we certainly do need sex education in our schools.

JOHN W. GAGE, SR.
Bad Axe

Saginaw Reader Supports O'Neill

EDITOR:

Regarding your recent editorial concerning State Board of Education member, James O'Neill.

To say that he has created crisis where none existed is unfair. I, for one, and there are many parents who feel this way, feel that James O'Neill has rendered a valuable service in alerting the people of Michigan to the kinds of education being taught in our schools.

Our citizens must take a more active role in their schools and Mr. O'Neill has helped to awaken them to start thinking and acting.

People asleep aren't any trouble and they aren't any good either.

As for Dr. Polley, he has acted in a rash way and his appointment does not necessarily mean he is qualified to hold the office.

Because he may be in a minority among the State Board of Education members, on the sex guidelines issue, does not mean he is

a troublemaker. I am for his guidelines 100 per cent.
MRS. WALTER KALMBACH
SAGINAW

Is Parochial Fight Based On Falsehoods

EDITOR:

In regard to the article in the Observer concerning Dr. Kenneth Carman and his Fight Against Parochialism, I contend that Dr. Carman bases his "fight" on falsehoods.

In his speech Dr. Carman said the reason for declining parochial school enrollments is not essentially a shortage of money. Having lived in several states I have seen first-hand the problems of the parochial schools and the problem is a shortage of money.

Another falsehood of Dr. Carman is his statement that the public schools have already shown they have the capacity to absorb parochial students as parochial schools close down.

If this were so then it would not be necessary for the public schools of Livonia and several other districts to put thousands of children on half days in order to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio and to cut spending.

MRS. DOLORES KORONEK
Livonia

Were Dr. Carman's Remarks Erroneous?

EDITOR:

It is unfortunate that you chose to give such broad coverage to the erroneous remarks of Dr. Kenneth Carman on the Parochial issue. He talks about the inefficiency of parochial schools, but fails to mention the per pupil cost.

The average per pupil cost in public schools in Michigan exceeds \$600 annually. The average per pupil cost in parochial schools is less than half that amount. Who's inefficient?

My son, who attends parochial high school, took Driver's Education at Plymouth High School this summer. One day while they were driving on Schoolcraft near the Detroit Race Course, they had to come to a halt because of traffic entering the race track parking lot.

The Driver Education teacher (who also teaches fourth grade during the regular school term) suggested that if my son would slip the traffic officer a couple of dollars he would let them by.

My son told him that he didn't think this would be the right thing to do. The teacher's reply was to the effect that my son may not think that money is everything, but when he grows up he will realize that it is 99 per cent of everything.

Because I want more than a

materialistic outlook on life for my son, I have chosen to send him to a parochial school. I am being penalized for this. The state taxes me and all my neighbors on an equal basis, but redistributes that tax on an unequal basis.

Those who believe in Parochial are not seeking state support for their religion, only state support equal to what every other child is receiving. We are not second class citizens and we will not give up our freedom of choice.

WILLIAM R. PENNICE,
Plymouth



U.S. AIR FORCE Sergeant Terry G.G. Salomonson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Salomonson of 1925 Farmington Road, Livonia, has been recognized for helping his unit earn the Aerospace Defense Command "A" Award.

Sergeant Salomonson is a navigation equipment repairman in a detachment of the 1st Fighter Wing at Osan AB, Republic of Korea. The sergeant is a graduate of Bentley High School. His wife, Sharon, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Wolfe of 1521 Hidden Lane, Livonia.

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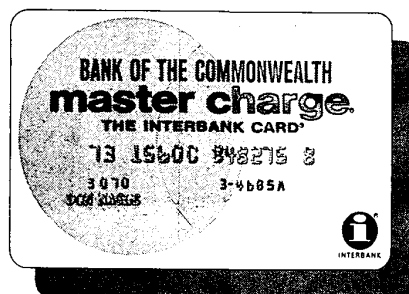
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