

OBSERVATION POINT

DISSENT

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Lest We Forget The Quiet Ones

By Philip H. Power

Young people have found their voice in dissent and in a seeming directionless pitch for society to be different, to better serve their needs in a time of change. Some of the more violent signs indicate that a kind of nihilism is sweeping the land.

At another level, blacks continue striking out at the way America is growing, or regressing. There is indication they know better their direction and have studied - and applied - a tactic.

But a solid theme runs through these areas of disenchantment: The system is out-moded, it is not working for us, something is wrong and change is the hope, even if its nature is unknown.

THE JARGON of social rebellion is by now familiar. There is an implication that America is being operated exclusively for the Establishment, for the in-

dustrial-military complex, for the status quo. These, it follows, are the only happy ones.

Actually, I think, the system is not making anyone very happy. We hear from the vocal and the sensational. Burning down a city or holding a campus by force is more attention-getting. There are signs that discord is more general, though lower in decibels.

When society can measure the full depth of the feelings and goals of its people, there will emerge a starting point for the future. Let's look at some specifics:

Students are rebelling everywhere on issues ranging from the length of haircuts to the selection of a college president. But parents in Livonia, for example, are also alarmed at the kind of education their children will get on half-day schedules.

• Taxpayers are rebelling at

inequities that have become traditional. But senior citizens are still waiting for promises to be kept on low cost housing - again in Livonia - during their post-career life. They've worked and paid taxes during their adult careers.

• Even the Establishment is tired of waiting for modern roads in the northwest Detroit suburbs. There have been promises and blueprints - and more promises, but the pot holes remain.

• This may be one of the truly major issues of our time - the lag between growth and adjustment. It is apparent that the institutions of society have gotten too big and, husbanding their bigness has become a preoccupation damaging to their original purpose.

• INSTITUTIONS are built by people to serve people. The institutions lose touch and spin off into their own entities, relating to

the people who found them necessary only for financial sustenance.

Very often a schoolman will ask me: What can we do to make the people understand our goals and to support us in millage elections at the polls? The desperation in the question points to the answer, that the school is already out of touch with the people it serves.

One more specific: In Plymouth, teachers went on strike - or withheld their services - as the school year started. In a polite way they were angry and dissatisfied. So were the students who were missing education and behind them stood the parents, just as angry and just as dissatisfied.

From these and other examples it is apparent that the college students and the blacks are not the only elements tending to disenchantment with the way things are.

In many ways, this anger and disenchantment is a healthy sign of a new awareness. People are no longer satisfied with an edict without an explanation - and that goes for teachers, students, parents, senior citizens, the poor and everybody else.

WHAT IT MEANS, taken together, is that we are being challenged to develop a new agenda for politics, a system that is flexible as the needs of a modern society become apparent, more quickly responsive, and more completely adequate.

It means, too, that those outside the barricades of dissent have a voice. It is true that the system is under strain and that it has in many areas failed, but the changes it portends by its existence must meet the needs of the peaceful and overtaxed family man as well as those of the flag-burner and the bearded rebel.

Schools: Sic 'Em, Lawmakers

By PAUL Y. KADISH

My congratulations to the Observer Newspapers on the enlightened editorial "Lansing Gets Another Chance." It is interesting to see the various coalitions of "concerned" citizens forming throughout the City of Livonia in order to force full days in the Livonia school system.

While I agree that it is necessary that our children be able to attend school a full day, and while I agree with the decision of Judge Charles Kaufman requiring full days, I also strongly believe that the Livonia school board has taken the only path left open to it by the people of Livonia, Governor Romney, Governor Milliken, and the Legislature of the State of Michigan.

Let us take things in proper chronological order.

• The Constitution of the State of Michigan requires 180 days of school and a free public education for our children.

• The State Legislature has passed legislation making it an offense punishable by fine and possible imprisonment to deficit spend.

• GOVERNOR ROMNEY a few years ago promised complete fiscal reform for the State of Michigan. He promised that if a State income tax were passed, the proper financing for our public school systems would be assured. What did we get? We got no fiscal reform. We did not get the financing needed for our school systems, but we did get an income tax.

• Governor Milliken has not provided the leadership necessary to solve the problems of the schools. Only now after the horse is out of the barn, is he presenting a school reform bill to the Legislature. I say that this should have been done during the last session, in order to provide the proper funds for the schools for the 1969-70 school year.

• The State Legislature has lacked the guts to pass legislation and appropriations to live up to their responsibility, required by law, to provide for a free public education for our children.

• Lastly, and after all else had failed, the School Board asked for increased millage. Approximately 20-25% of the registered voters in Livonia voted two to one against the millage. This occurred even after the School Board warned that defeat of the millage would mean half-day sessions.

SO WHO DO WE HAVE to blame for our children being on half-days? Should we blame the School Board? I say no. I say that, under the circumstances, the School Board had no choice but to order half-day sessions and that they had no choice but to appeal the decision of Judge Kaufman to the highest court of the State, the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan. I commend the members of the School Board who lived up to their responsibility and voted for their present action.

I strongly suggest that those parents who are truly concerned about full days and a quality education reject those who, for political reasons, are calling for the recall of the School Board, and instead, take positive action, namely, "Go where the action is." Write, send telegrams, and call on your legislators personally. They are:

Senator George Kuhn (R) West Bloomfield
Rep. Marvin Stempien (D) Livonia

Tim Richard writes

Farmington Needs A Vision

The folks over in Ferndale and Oak Park must not have been reading John Allen.

John, you'll recall, is the very capable and usually forward-looking Farmington city councilman who is, unhappily, writing negative articles about the proposed consolidation of Farmington city and township.

"Can a small city, without the ability to become geographically larger prosper?" he asked rhetorically.

"Many of our neighbors are small cities incapable of geographical expansion. Oak Park, Centerline, Lathrup, Huntington Woods, Birmingham . . ." he answers.

NO SOONER HAD John written that, however, than the Oak Park and its little neighbor, Ferndale, got into a terrible squabble that showed up two important weaknesses in a mini-city.

One town barricaded three streets along its border with the second town because of heavy traffic. The citizenry of the second town was greatly inconvenienced in its driving to local shopping areas. The lessons are clear:

• If Oak Park and Ferndale had been bigger towns at the beginning, they could have been better planned. Three streets wouldn't have to carry so much shopper traffic.

• When you have tiny little towns splitting up a compact area, one town can take a "neighbor-be-damned" attitude toward the other and get away with it. Oak Park and Ferndale be-

came the laughing stock of southeastern Michigan. The daily newspaper reporters and the broadcasters were clearly laughing up their sleeves all the while they covered the ridiculous affair.

THERE'S NOTHING wrong with a small city that's set out in the middle of farm region.

But in a solidly built-up urban area, the mini-city doesn't make sense. It can still solve little problems like cleaning your street, but it can't solve the big problems of traffic, planning, and redevelopment of its older areas.

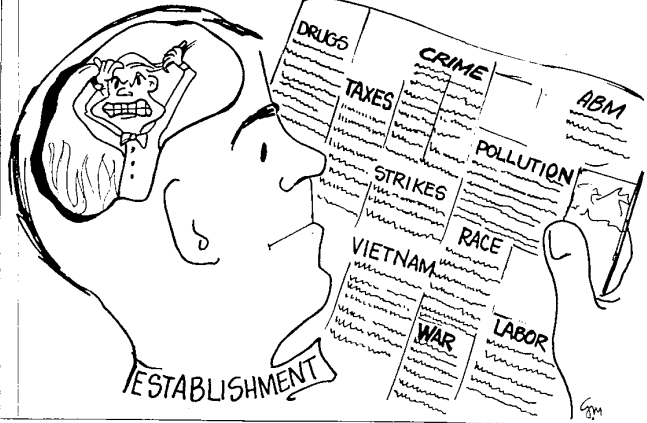
One can sympathize with some of the older residents of the City of Farmington who can recall when it was a picturesque, New England-style village on the pike from Detroit to Lansing. One must also admire the professionalism and managerial talent of that city's administration. The people have a right to be proud of the little city's past and present.

But what of the future? Farmington's on the edge of the urban built-up. In a space age metropolis, a city of 2.6 square miles and a township of 33.4 square miles split further by a couple of little villages - well, it's absurd.

The proposed single city would be 36 square miles. That's big, by some standards, but hardly excessive. You can drive from the center to any spot on the edge in a very few minutes.

A city that size can avoid a lot of Oak Park-Ferndale mistakes.

IT REGISTERS . . .



This Is The Week That . . .

Jim Hare Calls It A Day

By Don Hoenshell

LANSING Secretary of State James M. Hare will abdicate a political empire Dec. 31, 1970 after 15 years of benevolent despotism which was sometimes rollicking, sometimes grim.

He is the last of the crowd swept into state office in 1954 by former Gov. G. Mennen Williams.

Now after two heart attacks and other personal travail that would embitter a lesser man, Hare will gather up his pipes and walk away to better times.

May he be granted the serenity he needs and the honors he deserves. The office he holds and the party he serves have put lumps on Hare's psyche and have weakened his body.

HIS DEPARTURE gives Republicans their first real shot at the only major office - short of governor - with meaningful dollars and cents patronage. This could be the hottest state campaign of 1970, folks.

With 600 good jobs to hand out, with your name on every driver's license, and a branch office in every area of the state with your name in the window - it's a real plum.

Since 1960, when the party went for Swainson in the primary, Hare has been a different man. He grew inward and did what he thought was right, sometimes embarrassing the movers and shakers.

of choices. William Hettiger, deputy to Hare, might run though his first reactions have been disdainful. There is talk that Democratic State Chairman James McNeely is making eyes at the office.

Hare did not annoint anyone upon his decision to leave, but philosophized that a black candidate would be in order. The man he apparently had in mind was his Detroit deputy, Walter Elliott.

The office used to be a jumping off place for the run for governor. The late Frank D. Fitzgerald and now Supreme Court Justice Harry F. Kelly made it to the front office that way.

BUT THE LAST two didn't. Fred M. Alger was beaten in a recount in 1952 by Williams. Hare, himself, ran in the primary in 1960 and was defeated by Lt. Gov. John B. Swainson, later governor for one term and now a Wayne County Circuit Judge.

For six years, Hare lived through such things as a prison inmate relieving himself in the license plate paint and a lady branch manager spitting to Mexico with \$70,000 in license plate money. All the while he raised party money and consistently led the ticket in votes.

In any event, Hare is leaving. It will be a big hole to fill in the Democratic ticket, a new chance for Republicans and, perhaps, the start of a new and calmer life for Hare.

There was the controversy when Hare held back a big chunk of campaign funds from the party. He once suggested that branch managers be placed under civil service, thus placing the custodians of millions of dollars in highway money under tighter control but wrecking patronage.

A couple of years ago, there was the feeling among his friends that Hare was losing interest. He had been deprived of his one shot at governor and inspiration was draining out of him like Niagara Falls.

Two months ago near his birthday, Hare appeared at his annual picnic at the John F. Ivory Farm in Oakland County. He appeared to be weaker than before, he rode in a golf cart, smiled and talked politics.

McNEELY was at the picnic apparently unaware that Hare was thinking of leaving. When asked what the prospects for Hare running in 1970 were, McNeely said:

"At this point it looks like 'go' all the way."

McNeely was wrong, or perhaps he was remembering Hare as he was.

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