

Cut rate book tells how to cut your taxes

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

For the price of a lottery ticket (and less than some), you can find out anything you ever wanted to know about the school voucher system.

Robert J. Lytle of Bingham Farms, one of the voucher plan's most enthusiastic supporters, has written his second book about school vouchers, "Property Tax Cut & School Vouchers" is available almost anywhere for 98 cents plus tax.

The tiny book, more pocket-sized than pocket books, discusses school vouchers as they would apply to education in Michigan if a proposed constitutional amendment is approved by voters in November.

Lytle probably is as qualified as anyone in Michigan to write about vouchers. In 1975 he wrote and published "Liberty Schools, A Parent's Voucher Plan." That book gives a broader view of the voucher system without its specific application in Michigan.

The school voucher amendment "will cut property taxes on homes, farms and other real estate 65 percent," Lytle says in his book.

Initially, 100,000 copies of the book were printed for its Sept. 15 publication date. A second printing of 200,000 is being distributed now.

Lytle has appeared on many broadcasts, at press conferences and other events, promoting the book and the voucher system. He predicts that he will become more in demand as a speaker as election day looms.

Last week he spoke for the proposed amendment at a meeting of the Oakland School Boards Association. Also on the agenda were speakers for the Headlee and Tisch amendments. All three are being promoted as tax-cutting proposals and all three will be on the November ballot.

LYTLE SAID public school educators "naturally" would be opposed to the voucher plan, a situation he predicts in his book will take place, along with a "weeping, a wailing and a gnashing of teeth."

But public school parents "should not look a gift horse in the mouth," he added. "The advantage (of the voucher proposal) is the greatest for just because it came from non-public school people."

Lytle was not directly involved in the formation of the proposed amendment which was drawn up by the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools. Dr. Richard Schlegel, headmaster of

Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, is an active member of that group.

Lytle "came into the action a year ago, about the time the petition drive started" to get the issue on the ballot. He was not active in the petition drive, either.

Petitioners were successful in getting more than 300,000 signatures on petitions, where 256,000 were required. Validity of some of the signatures were questioned, raising doubts as to whether the issue would be placed on the ballot until quite recently.

ASKED WHERE acceptance for the voucher plan appears the strongest, Lytle referred to results of a survey

conducted between Aug. 14-31 by DeVries & Associates.

Results showed support for the proposed amendment highest in the western Upper Peninsula, among people with school-age children, people with a ninth to 11th grade education, people 60 years of age and older, Catholics, skilled workers, retired and disabled persons, those with annual incomes below \$15,000, renters and Blacks.

The same survey indicated that 44.1 percent of the people favored the amendment, 33.8 percent were opposed, 20.3 percent were not sure and 1.8 percent did not vote, Lytle said.

Mother offers forgiveness

By CAROL MAHONEY

Rage, bitterness and hate are simply words in a dictionary to Goldie Bristol. A mother whose only daughter was viciously raped and murdered one night eight years ago, the petite, soft-spoken woman has every reason to feel these emotions.

But she says she does not. When Mrs. Bristol and her husband Robert received the news of their 20-year-old daughter's death in 1970, she said they were numb with shock.

"But when we got to the place where we could think clearly, we did not struggle with bitterness. God, for His reasons, placed in our hearts a spirit of forgiveness. There is no hatred or hostility in our hearts for our daughter's killer."

When she was the guest speaker at a mini-retreat at Covenant Baptist Church in West Bloomfield last Thursday, Mrs. Bristol told her audience, "We can allow the things that come into our lives that are not good to be the very means for providing growth."

In regard to Diane's murder, she admitted that "God has stretched my inner person to the hurting point."

Shortly before Diane's death, she had returned to San Diego from the Bristol's Dearborn home to seek employment. She got a job selling encyclopedias door to door in the late afternoon and evening hours. While on the job one evening, an assailant attacked, raped and killed her.

THREE YEARS LATER, after Michael Keeeyes had been arrested and subsequently convicted of their daughter's murder, the Bristols began corresponding with the convict.

Friends questioned the wisdom of the couple's actions. Some said forgiving him is an impossible thing to do. "God doesn't expect it of you," others told them.

However the Bristols continued to write Keeeyes. Last winter they visited the California prison to meet him face to face for the first time. It was an emotional moment for all of them, she recalled.

"My heart raced like crazy," said Mrs. Bristol. "He entered the room, we stood up, and he opened his arms to us," she said.

At the time, a lot of publicity surrounded the Bristols' prison visit. Mrs. Bristol said many people misunderstood their actions.

"One lady wrote us a letter filled with hate because she thought we were extolling the prisoner." The letter accused the Bristols of having little love for their daughter.

"This is not the way it was," Mrs. Bristol said. "In no way have we ever condoned his actions. We are against violence."

Mrs. Bristol added that some people dismiss the Bristols' reaction as sentimentality. "You assume that we think he should not have been imprisoned."

"Our forgiveness is very personal," she said. "It has nothing to do with the legal system."

Explaining further, she said that both she and her husband recognize that "74 crime had been committed and a crime needs to be paid for."

THE BRISTOLS also believe that their forgiveness of Keeeyes is no betrayal of their daughter.

"The pain is very real; the loss is very real. But if we can be the vehicle where a precious soul can be retrieved, it gives meaning to our daughter's death," she said.

"We have forgiven him and we hope he will answer to God while he can."

Keeyes, who is serving two life sentences which are to run consecutively, has become a tour guide in the prison. He attends Sunday morning chapel services and Monday evening Bible reading.

"We have high hopes that Mike will receive Christ as his Savior," said Mrs. Bristol.



Goldie Bristol was surprised when people misunderstood, but she was undeterred in her decision to meet her daughter's killer. (Photo by Charlie Kidd)

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