Schoolboy Says Half-Days Unfair To Kids, Parents

EDITOR:

I am a boy who has been affected by the half days in Livonia public schools.

I would like to express what I think about the half days.

You would probably think that I would be for half days.

But I'm not. It's not fair to the parents or the kids.

People in Livonia pay very high taxes, so there should be enough money for the schools to put children back on full days.

And another thing, with all the industry in Livonia, why isn't there enough money for the schools?

The Board of Education is failing if they can't get enough money to get us kids on full days.

To make matters worse, the custodians and other such workers are on strike. If the strike isn't settled, the schools will be shut down.

KEVIN NIMS
Livonia

Stempien Replies To Republicans

EDITOR:

I read with much disappointment the thoroughly misleading letter to the editor signed by Bob Swanson, membership chairman of the Livonia Republican Party and recently defeated candidate for Schoolcraft College Board; by Gloria Sladek, chairman of the Livonia Republican Women's Federation and wife of Henry Sladek, Wayne County Republican chairman; by Lester Ostrander, Republican fund raiser and by Joyce LeMaster.

Recognizing the right of these very loyal and active Republicans to do all in their power to get candidates of their liking elected to the Legislature, it is nevertheless misleading to the public to lead a campaign directed at the only elected Democratic official in Livonia under an assumed name.

As Republican party officials and activists, there is a special duty owed to the public to be honest and to disclose all the facts as they exist. Otherwise they are taking unfair advantage of the sincere feelings of many good citizens, Republican, Democrat and independent, on truly non-partisan issue for their selfish party interests.

One of the reasons I have consistently been able to secure the support of so many good Livonia Republicans over the years is their confidence that I will face issues squarely, without regard to political consequence and that I will always be truthful.

Since the time that my doctor allowed me to return to public affairs on Sept. 2, I have made approximately 12 public appearances before PTAs, civic associations, church and synagogue groups, education associations and business groups regarding all education issues.

As I have done over the years, at those meetings I have spoken out on the issues that affect education for all children and costs to all taxpayers. It is generally known by Livonia school officials and taxpayers alike that I have been in the forefront over the years in the battles for state fiscal reform to increase state aid to our public schools, to improve the stature and status of our teachers, to relieve the problems of the Nankin Mills annexation, to save our public school bond loan program for construction of new public schools and to keep local property taxes down.

My record even shows my vote against my own party and with the Republican caucus on the vital issue of fiscal reform.

Although State Sen. George Kuhn appeared last Friday at the request of the Republican membership chairman at my private meeting, he did not appear at a single public meeting in Livonia on these vital education matters, although our public schools were on half days.

In fact, he was on a Senate junket to California "studying rapid transit" in September when I was being criticized by a Democratic editor of a local newspaper for having the courage to publicly appear before the Livonia PTA federation and tell the hard truth about education and taxes."

I again compliment each citizen who expresses his position to me on any state issue, and encourage all to do so on all state issues. I pledge to continue to represent the collective thinking of all Livonia citizens as I can best determine from all available factors, with the specific objective to provide maximum government service to all citizens at the lowest cost to our taxpayers.

MARVIN R. STEMPIEN
State Representative

EDITOR'S NOTE: The four persons mentioned by Rep. Stempien signed their letter as officers of "Citizens Against Parochiaid," and claim bi-partisan backing.

Stempien's Actions Irk Petitioners

EDITOR:

Last week, Rep. Marvin Stempien appeared at the Livonia Y for the purpose of what he assumed to be a private meeting with Citizens Against Parochiaid, headed by Chairman Robert Swanson.

Swanson attempted to present him with petitions bearing over 10,000 signatures which were circulated throughout much of Livonia. It was Stempien's contention that he was misled by Swanson and he therefore refused to receive the petitions while the press was present. The petitions were presented to Sen. Kuhn. He in turn presented them to Stempien, who later told the press that this was a political maneuver on the part of Swanson, an active Republican.

On the contrary, it appeared to us that perhaps it was a political maneuver on Stempien's part to evade and discredit the efforts of over 300 petitioners and thousands of signers. We can see no reason why the press should have been excluded. Parochiaid is a very important public matter and the voice of those for and against this issue must be heard. It seems doubtful that Stempien would expect such a vast effort to result in a private meeting between a few people.

Regarding Swanson's political maneuvering, we would like to state that, as petitioners, at no time did Swanson (or anyone else) inquire into our political affiliations or mention theirs. As a matter of fact, we have always voted for Stempien. On the contrary, our efforts were non-partisan, based on a sincere belief that parochiaid is not in the best interests of the children or citizens of the State of Michigan.

It appears that Stempien attempted to shift the focus of the issue by indulging in a political fist fight. Certainly Stempien, although a known supporter of parochiaid, cannot continue to ignore the opinions of so many of his constituents.

D. AND J. SUAREZ
9266 Florida
Livonia

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.

No Soul Can Profit From War

EDITOR:

I am writing this in answer to the letter, or satire, on the moratorium, in your column last week.

The woman who wrote it sounds like the type of person who wouldn't help her neighbor who is being robbed because she doesn't want to get involved. Ignore it and maybe it will go away.

Sure, if everyone feels "war is all we've got," (which is a pitiable philosophy), it will go on forever. Fortunately, some of us feel our spirits are more important than the more physical gains of war. Even she should know no soul can profit from war.

People who elect to drive a car, know they could be in an accident and die, in spite of their expert handling and wearing of seat belts. But it is still their personal choice to drive. No one is forcing them. I fail to see her analogy there.

No, I am not a hippie, nor am I over 30. I'm a young mother very much concerned about the world my children must grow up in. I love my country mainly because it gives us the right to voice our opinions. I do not believe young people are blaming everyone over 30 for the world's troubles.

Sen. Eugene McCarthy, George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey, Ed Muskie, Mayor Cavanagh, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, and millions of others who took part in the moratorium are living proof of this. Many older people are quickly changing their ideas and ideals.

I know I probably won't live long enough to see the BIG change, but I sincerely hope my children are here to live in the world today's young people (not drug-ridden hippies or SDS'ers) are trying to create—one of peace and love and freedom from prejudice and hate. I believe these can exist in a working world.

P.S. Not everyone who supported the moratorium favors immediate withdrawal.

ANDREA HAWKER
Westland

Replace Kissinger And Win The War

EDITOR:

If for any reason our troops are to be withdrawn from Vietnam they should be withdrawn because of the "no-win" policy drafted by the president's top adviser on foreign policy, Henry A. Kissinger.

It is traitorous, grievous and calamitous that our boys are sent into battle without the hope of victory. Such policy on the part of Kissinger commits them to be systematically murdered in prearranged defeat. Kissinger should be immediately replaced by a true American and a "win-the-war" policy instituted.

To retreat as suggested last Oct. 15, would be to capitulate to the blandishments of minority mob rule. To retreat means international defeat for the United States of America. To retreat would abandon millions of Christians and defenseless peoples in Southeast Asia to certain death.

To retreat would mean the loss of self determination for all Asiatic nations. To retreat whets the Communists appetite for greater adventure against the free world.

In continuing further concessions we escalate insatiable demands, thereby weakening rather than encouraging the will of the people in those that govern our Country. In final retreat we bring the war home.

The diabolical scheme of intoning without permission the names of our Heroic War Dead to further and encourage the cause of the enemy, is unparalled in American history. The memories of these soldiers, members of our families who gave their lives fighting an ideology that professes to bury us, must be treated with reverent respect and not defiled by traitors.

The violation of and the intrusion into the privacy of the defenseless dead and of their families by Communist subversives and their naive dupes must be investigated and those held responsible be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law.

The hard core revolutionaries who publicly profess to bring this country to ruin and who are the real sponsors of the moratorium day have no interest in peace, as they confess, but side only with the Marxist enemy who has long wished our country's demise. The real motto of these revolutionaries is bring the war home, which they will if we permit ourselves to be influenced by granting concessions, mob rule, deceit and other moratorium days.

PETER CHRISTOPHER

Stevenson's Assembly

EDITOR:

Wednesday, Oct. 15, more than 300 students (not 40 as you stated) from the Livonia high schools marched from Stevenson to Schoolcraft College to attend a rally there. The same day, the Livonia Observer contained an article about moratorium activities for high schools. We would like to clarify parts of that article.

The proposal submitted to the Stevenson Senate called for an assembly to be held during school, with voluntary attendance. Speakers were planning to present both sides of the issue; men from the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the NVC (new Veterans Coalition) were to speak. Classes would continue, and we had teachers who volunteered their time to supervise the assembly, and student volunteers who would clean up afterwards.

This proposal was approved by the Senate. However, that same day, Mr. Upton issued the letter which appeared in your paper to all high school principals. Before viewing the proposal, the administration stated that no assembly could be held during school. The Senate knew this when they approved the detailed plan for the two-hour lecture. It was then necessary for senators, planners of the assembly, and the administration to meet together.

The problems your paper stated were not the causes of the cancellation of the program. Speakers were all lined up to come second and third hours, on Wednesday.

It was, however, impossible for them to come after school. Had the proposal gone through the administration as written, there would have been no problem. The problem, then, was that although Senate approved a plan for a during school assembly, the administration rejected it.

Difficulties arose around the question of "interrupting the instructional program." Although it was estimated that 50 per cent of the students would want to attend, the administration felt it would interfere with, not further, education.

Later, a social studies teacher asked permission to have two of the speakers, planning to come to the assembly, speak before his class. Mr. Upton's letter did state that social studies classes could discuss the war. However, this request was also denied.

Because of these blockades, students decided to march to Schoolcraft. The march was peaceful, except at one point, where a passing car threw eggs at some marching students, who continued walking, while trying to brush the egg off their clothes. Even the police were impressed with the orderliness and conduct of students.

Later in the evening, students came back to Schoolcraft for a workshop to discuss further high school activities in addition to listening to more speeches.

Peace.

Carol L. Lunk
Rand E. Rosen
Cyn Muir
Mort Abramowitz
Sue Strachan
Jim Dougans
Inga Hillman
Madelon van der Meulen
John Quinn
Carl J. DeBaldo
Suzze Myers
Marilyn Valeri
Donna Quinn
Alice McCaffrey
Mark Cohen
(Pres. of Senate)
Daniel G. Hautman
Daivd Dasher
John Myers
Keith Klasser
Dale Orrin
Claire Shapiro
Carol Collins
Cathy Martynow
Carol A. Snabb
Roz Fenton
Paul Basha
Beth Kushigian
Josette Nosel
Judy Blackwell
Janice Peterson.

We Won It. Attorneys Say

EDITOR:

The undersigned are attorneys representing the plaintiffs in the suit backed by the Livonia Parents for Education. Our suit was commenced a couple of days prior to Mr. Welling's suit. Our action was for injunctive relief; Mr. Welling's suit was for a writ of mandamus. The judgment entered by the Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman was a judgment granting injunctive relief.

Welling's attorneys made oral argument to the court requesting the writ of mandamus, and the court denied their writ, stating that the court believed the injunction was the proper relief.

It is true that Welling's attorneys have filed pleadings in the Supreme Court on behalf of the plaintiffs in our action. It is the opinion of the undersigned that it is inappropriate at this time for any of the litigants to start a fued by writing letters to the editor which smack of "sour grapes."

The undersigned intend no further replies to any further letters by Welling or his supporters for that reason.

The undersigned do not wish to jeopardize the pending action before the Supreme Court nor do they wish to encourage hostilities between the parties who have similar interests and goals.

MAURICE N. BLAKE
JEROME HARRIS

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WOMEN'S NEWS

'GOT Y'R FINGER -- Clancy, the agreeable dummy manipulated by ventriloquist John Osborne (right) nibbles a finger put forth by one of three youths at the Plymouth State Home during a performance sponsored last week by the Wonderland Merchants' Council.

(Photo by Craig Gaffield)

The keeper.

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