

editorial opinion

Grooming for the Pearl Harbor mentality

Michigan State University Professor Charles Press recently told us that the government through referendum craze has yet to reach its peak.

The political science expert says these trends are cyclical, following a 10-year time frame. He marks the advent of the present cycle with California's Jarvis-Gann tax referendum.

If the good professor is correct, that means we have at least another eight years to suffer through this painfully inefficient and irrational form of government through coercion.

Distrust of government and politicians' reluctance to act on issues which could hurt their popularity are reasons given by Press for the popularity of referendums.

Last year Michigan, alone, had about one dozen petitions and referendums. Throw in the locally generated referendums and even an accountant

would lose track.

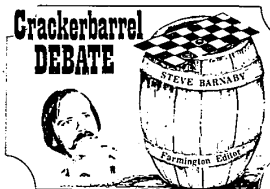
A few seemingly easy steps could be taken to erase the fear which generates the referendum craze. Unfortunately, the simple often is unattainable.

Whatever anyone may say, the responsibility of how a government works rests in the hands of the voters. If government leaders seem to be constantly off the track in meeting the needs of a community, then it is the voters who are to blame.

Take the case of our two communities — Farmington and Farmington Hills. Voter turnout for local elections is pitiful. Every year it gets worse.

Average it out over the years and maybe, just maybe, 10 percent of the registered voters turn out for local elections, the ones where they have the most say and the least to say about them.

Frankly, most folks don't give a hang about local



politics. But it's easy to see why. Voting is based on tradition and education. Parents provide a poor example to their children, and schools do virtually

nothing to educate students on the importance of local government.

What we end up with is the Pearl Harbor mentality — do nothing until it is too late.

Time after time, city legislative bodies make decisions on an issue only to be attacked by angry residents weeks, months and even years after the decision has been made.

A case in point is the senior citizen housing issue in Farmington Hills. It took two years before residents came out en masse to protest the community development program which the council had contracted with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

All actions by the council had been reported. The meetings were public. But few paid any attention. Government by referendum — phooey. Government by participation — hooray.

Eccentricities

by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.



The revolt against tipping

Webster's Dictionary defines tip as "a small gift of money; esp., a gratuity, as to a waiter."

Gratuity is defined as a "voluntary return for a favor or for service."

This is another example that the times are far ahead of the dictionary revisors. Have you noticed that a tip is no longer a reward for services well performed but is now a cost of eating or doing in respect of the quality of the work performed?

IN A RECENT radio interview with the head of a local waiters union, the interviewer asked him what was a proper tip. The answer was that, in a good restaurant, 15 to 20 percent was considered proper.

He was then asked what one should tip if service were bad. He hemmed and hawed and said society should still tip the waiter something to show its displeasure.

The reasoning apparently is to reward the waiter only slightly, so he knows that he has not done a good job.

It seems to me that other merchants are lucky to be paid the value of the goods if they do a bad job, much less be rewarded with only a little something extra.

TIPPING TODAY has not only outstripped its purpose, but it has led to several revolutions.

Why has the motel business boomed? Some say because motels represent newer facilities than the older hotels. Yet look at the number of new hotels that have been constructed in the past few years.

Many experts have come forward to say people prefer motels because there are no doormen, bellhops or cleaning girls to tip.

The airlines won many people away from the railroads not only because they are faster but also because there are no porters waiters or redcaps to tip.

All of these things must be considered in the cost of travel.

Maybe Webster's will define tip in the years to come as "a bribe" or "social blackmail." Have you noticed in nightclubs in New York that a place is filled to capacity until you cross the headwaiter's palm with paper? Then he can squeeze you into a practically empty room.

Once inside, if you want a table "up front," you must deal with the "captain."

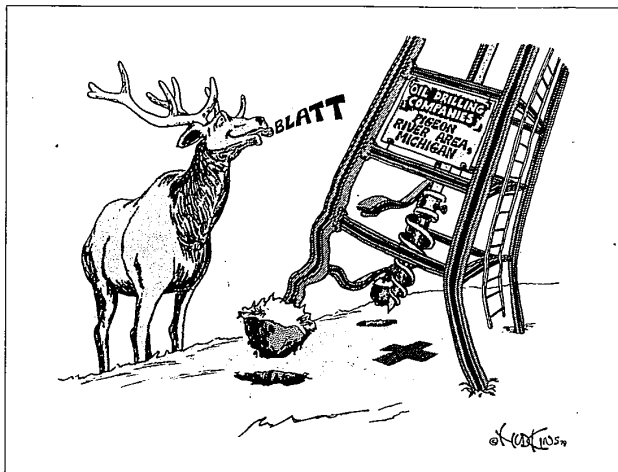
AND DON'T FORGET, while you're there, the doorman, hat check girl, cigarette girl, the photographers, the waiter and anyone else who has his or her hand extended with the palm flat and facing upwards.

It would be very embarrassing if you tried to shake the hand, but try it sometime and see what happens.

The tip itself in better establishments sometimes does not really go to the person you intend. If it does go to that person, chances are the management is paying him or her a proportionately lower wage.

In most cases, it goes to a pool and is divided among all the staff, or, in some cases (like that hat check girl), it goes completely to the concessionaire.

Wouldn't it be nicer just to raise prices a little and forget about the farce?



Impressive, but...

Anderson for president?

Is John B. Anderson presidential timber?

A lot of Oakland County Republicans were impressed by the 19-year-congressional veteran from northern Illinois who was main speaker at their 90th anniversary dinner of the Lincoln Republican Club — but presidential timber?

"Who isn't?" answered Paul Kasper, a county commissioner from Bloomfield Hills. "He's well educated, a bright guy. He speaks well."

"He's not after applause," said a non-committal Joseph Knollenberg, new Oakland GOP chairman.

Arthur Saltzman, 10th Congressional District Republican chairman, thinks Anderson is indeed presidential timber — the kind of moderate Oakland Republicans usually like.

"He thinks he is," said Sheldon Smith, former Oakland and 19th District party chairman. "There was a guy from Georgia two years ago who felt the same way. He (Anderson) is not a stem-winder."

"I DON'T think so," said Eleanor Blum, a 1976 national convention alternate from West Bloomfield. "We need someone with more —" She raised a fist in an upper-cut motion.

"It was too hot for anyone to get excited about a speech," said John McDonald, a county commissioner from Farmington. He referred to the near-80 degree heat in the Raleigh House that was stifling to gentlemen in three-piece suits.

"First time I knew he was a fiscal conservative," said Denzil Hammond, former chairman of the 17th Congressional District Republican organization.

As chairman of the House Republican Conference and third-ranking GOP member, Anderson admittedly is testing the waters for a run for the presidency. He's a big enough name that former Sen. Robert Griffin invited him, along with John Connally, Robert Dole and Howard Baker, to a fund-raiser a week earlier.

ANDERSON HAS a reputation as a highly skilled floor debater in Congress.

But as Shel Smith pointed out, Anderson is no "stem-winder." Yes, he commanded the attention of the 560 Republicans in the Raleigh House, but he never was interrupted by applause, he hardly ever got a laugh, and he didn't "turn a phrase."

He's liberal, as Republicans go. He has championed federal open housing legislation and federal funding of congressional campaigns.

Anderson has degrees in political science and law from the University of Illinois and a master of law from Harvard, won four battle stars in the artillery



during World War II, was a Foreign Service officer in Berlin from 1952-55, put in four years as a county prosecutor and was elected to the U.S. House in 1960. He's married and has five children.

HIS LIBERALISM showed when he praised Michigan's Gov. William G. Milliken for winning "in an urbanized state with the support of those groups you need to win in an urbanized state." Anderson didn't use the word b-l-a-c-k.

He said the Carter Administration "is still groping for a theme. The president or a speech writer came up with 'new foundation.' He used it a dozen times (in the State of the Union address)."

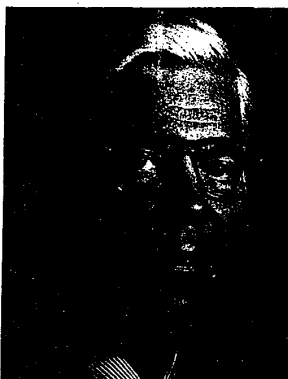
"We don't need a new foundation. The roof is leaking and the walls are caving in. Republicans have the sturdiest foundation of any party in the history of the world — individual freedom."

"We are at sea and rudderless. Americans have a sense of wanting to be the masters of our own destiny — it's not just nostalgia."

He discussed problems rather than solutions. Economic growth — 2.25 percent here, four percent in West Germany, seven percent in Japan. Inflation — nearly double digit here, three percent in West Germany, about six in Japan. And a big one: Investment — hampered by a Democratic tax bill but essential to growth.

The big-bang conclusion was that "the American people, sooner than they realize, will have to sacrifice (to solve the energy problem). We're going to have to refrain from instant gratification of every desire."

Is John B. Anderson presidential timber?



JOHN ANDERSON



Why the voters want recalls and referenda

Representative government is a challenging, if not outright frustrating, proposition. People who have held elective offices at the grass roots levels over the years know this. They've had to deal directly with their constituents.

This has been less true, as I see it, at the state and federal levels. Pressure there comes more from lobbyists for vested interests than it does from Joe Smith and his neighbors on the street.

In recent years, however, the street people have become more restive. No longer trusting elected officials, they are pressing increasingly for referendum ballots and recalls that give the electorate the final say.

ACCORDING TO Prof. Charles Press, a political scientist at Michigan State University, this trend toward referendums will continue.

He contends "there has been growing distrust of government... Some of it is a spinoff from the emotional political attitudes about Vietnam and Watergate."

He adds, "Some legislators are hesitant to act in areas which could diminish their personal popularity with important voting segments of the voting public, and the voters grow impatient with them. There is, too, a general misunderstanding by some voters."

But the street people themselves and the news media that are supposed to inform them are more to credit — or blame — than the politicians. Many political candidates will espouse almost anything if they think it will get them elected.

That doesn't imply they are committed to act according to what they say. Just look at Jimmy Carter. There's no way he could ever deliver on that hogwash he sprinkled around the country during his presidential campaign. Now there is a real question in many people's minds as to whether he ever intended to deliver.

That wasn't Jimmy's fault.

You gotta put the blame on the media and good of Joe Smith and his street people. They wanted a dream world and the "good ole boy" blew pot in their faces.

OUR EDUCATORS have tried, but they just don't seem to have prepared people very well to take part in government.

And of late, the media folks have been too preoccupied in tearing down institutions or building heroes to concentrate on asking hard, objective questions.

It seems to me that this dogged questioning of political candidates is what Joe Smith and the media ought to be doing when these public servants ask for their support in elections.

To rely on a battery of special referendums and recalls after the office holders are elected is to acknowledge that the electorate didn't know where candidates stood on issues when they went to the polls.

I can't place the blame so much on Joe Smith and his street people as on the media. The politicians? They'll get away with whatever the public permits. But I think the street people ought to have their consciences pricked.

The time to exercise the civic watchdog function is before the election.

Unfortunately, too many people nowadays view local election in a kind of "ho, hum, must we?" attitude. Meanwhile, they entertain themselves by watching and reading about candidates so far from their field of reality that they are virtually myths.

Lost forever

"Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with 60 diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever."

Horace Mann (1796-1859)

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Editor

22033 Farmington Rd.

Farmington, MI 48320

(313) 477-5450

John Reddy, General Mgr.

Thomas A. Riordan, Executive Editor

George J. Hagan, Advertising Director, Fred J. Wright, Circulation Director