

The 'Smug Minority' Receives A Scolding

by WYLIE GERDES
Farmington City Councilman Fred Siebert scolded some Farmington residents for "smugness and conceit" for trying to retain the city's small town rural image.

Siebert said the "vocal bunch of purists" are about 15 years too late to save the traditional image.

THE COUNCILMAN'S blasts came during Monday night's

discussion of a central business district zoning for the city.

Siebert answered charges from H.S. Bock of 34069 Schulte Dr. that the city council is controlled by business and commercial interests.

"The alarm about violating the charm of the city is about 15 years too late," Siebert said.

When Alta Loma, Belaire and Warner Farms subdivisions began developing, Sie-

bert said, the change in the city's character was inevitable.

"Anybody who feels you're going to maintain status quo in Farmington is naive, to be charitable," the councilman added.

Referring to plans to refurbish downtown Farmington, Siebert said "if you want another Williamsburg, you're going to have to find a Rockefeller to pay for it."

THE 16-YEAR resident said he approves of the changes which have been made in the city.

When old buildings were razed to make way for the downtown shopping center, it "improved this community," he commented.

Siebert cited the need for balanced tax base as the reason for trying to develop the city's commercial and industrial potential.

Following the reception, a program was held in the Bethel room, which was presided over by honored queen, Pamela Hoegland. Several musical selections and readings were given by members of the Bethel and the program was climaxed with a special presentation by Janet Williamson

"You're living in one of the few communities in Oakland County that's reduced its millage rates," Siebert commented.

He added that the city council months ago passed a resolution urging the state legislature to do something about increased assessments. This

was long before other government units took action.

CONCERNING THE development of the central business district, Siebert said he isn't as optimistic as most of those discussing the new zone.

The topography of the city plus competition from nearby shopping centers will limit the appeal of the downtown Farmington area, Siebert commented.

The councilman also tangled with a city homeowners' group. He said John Stenson and the Farmington Civic Association had no facts to back up their recent stand against a new apartment zone on Farmington Rd.

"There are certain red flags

officers who traveled from all parts of the state to participate in the reception. Charles Harwell, Farmington Chapter DeMolay master counselor, and a delegation of officers representing the chapter were also present.

Among the guests were Mrs. Norma Parker, grand guardian; Mrs. Ruth Klus, associate grand guardian; and Mrs. Hazel Carrier, grand marshal. SHAL.

The Grand Bethel of Michigan was represented by Grand Bethel honored queen, Dianna Smith, and nine of her

such a bus after the bus was purchased.

Councilmen's reaction to the proposal was generally favorable when it was presented at Monday night's regular meeting.

Mayor Wilbur Brotherton said the idea has been very successful on special days in other cities.

"I hope he will not withdraw his check if he finds he doesn't get the area he wants," Councilman John Allga said.

"The minibus idea is ridiculous," Councilman Fred Siebert said.

He added a similar idea in downtown Detroit has lost money. People are too uninterested to be attracted to mass transit, Siebert said.

Planners have proposed a restrictive commercial zone for the area near Grand River and Farmington Rd. while Duke wants the zone to stretch along Grand River to Orchard Lake Rd.

In his letter, Duke said a round trip would take about seven minutes. He proposed the trip would be free.

The letter said Duke's attorney will hold the check until more sources of financing the project become available.

CITY MANAGER John Dinan estimated it would cost about \$7,500 a year to operate

Duke Donates For Mini-Bus

FARMINGTON A Farmington land developer has offered \$1,000 towards the cost of operating a shop-

pers' bus in Farmington.

Thomas Duke, Farmington banker and real estate developer, said in a letter to the Farmington City Council that he would pay \$1,000 towards the operation of a "minibus" which would transport shop-

pers along Grand River from Farmington Rd. to Orchard Lake Rd.

DUKE MADE the offer in connection with the discussion of a new zoning ordinance for the central business district of the City of Farmington.

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taxation, stores, multiples - which people get emotional about. It hurts their case," Siebert said.

Siebert concluded he would have more respect for these persons if they stuck to the facts instead of waving flags.

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