By PHILIP H. POWER

He said it in 1919; "There is no right to strike against the pub-lic safety by anybody, anywhere, anytime." That was President Calvin Coolidge. He may have been right in 1919. But in 1970, recent events between the proper

have proven him incorrect.

In 1958 across the nation, there were only 15 strikes by 1,720 public employes. This year, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, "every three days during the first two and a half problem (1979) as American its.

months of 1970, an American city found itself struck by its em-ployes."

borne out in this area.

Last year, school teachers in Plymouth went to a strike. Schools were shut down, and set-tlement was obtained only after a judge virtually forced both sides

to bargain in his courtroom

to bargain in his courtroom. Earlier this spring, all city employes except fire and policemen in Westland struck. The shutdown drauged on, with neither side willing to negotiate, until a crisis involving pickets trying to prevent a private contractor from repairing a broken water main broke the stalemate. In Livonia, police and firemen demanded more money. This spring the police staged a slow-down, charging then Mayor Harvey Moelke with refusal to negotiate. The issue became a bot

naryey Morito with retusal negotiate. The issue became a hot one, and some observers think it was involved in Moelke's defeat last month. Currently, the policemen and city are in arbitration, using for the first time the state law passible.

sed last year providing for bind-

ing arbitration in such disputes if negotiations break down.

FOR MANY YEARS, Michigan state law clearly forbade public employes to strike. But as time went on, and as public employes saw their salaries being

ploves saw their salaries being outpaced by settlements in private industry, it became clear that they had no effective means of gesting local governments to consider their demands seriously. Accordingly, public employes started calling in sick, or staging slowdowns, or even walking out. Injunctions were obtained through various courts, but it shortly became clear that if a entire police department decided

shortly became clear that if an entire police department decided to walk out, even an injunction would not be effective.

Coupled with this development came increasingly successful efforts to organize public employes into unions such as the American Federation of State.

County and Municipal Employes.

tourity and Municipal Employes, the National Education Associa-tion and the American Federation of Teachers. Seeking to represent effectively the degrands of their membership. such organizations

have increased the pressure on local government administra-

THE NATION-WIDE trend is

have proven him incorrect.

What Is Solution To Strikes Called By Public Employes?

OBSERVATION POINT

MY GUESS IS that the issue of public employes' strikes is going to be one of the big ones of this decade.

this decade.

Inflation and settlements in private industry. Increased organizing activity by unions in the field. A taxpayer revolt limiting the money available to local governments.

All these are elements in

All these are elements in what looks like a serious and continuing problem.

It's a problem that bears particularly hard on suburban communities, for two reasons.

First, they simply aren't big enough to find room in their budgets to hire a fulltime labor relations man, such as Detroit has in Albert Leggat. Second, they are faced with the overwhelming needs for money to develop new cities, so that there simply isn't much money in the budget for salary increases for their employes.

WHAT SOLUTIONS are

Any to be developed will have to meet two criteria: The right of public employes to organize and bargain collectively, and the right of the public not to have certain crucial services (fire and

certain crucial services (fire and police protection being the two most often mentioned) suspended. Much hope has been placed in the new state law, calling for binding arbitration in disputes involving police and firemen.

Livonia Mayor Ed McNamara, whose city is using the new law, doesn't think much of it. Settlements worked out in one city, with one set of employment and financial conditions, are not and financial conditions, are not and financial conditions, are not directly applicable to another city with a different set of conditions. Yet arbitrators, McNamara says, are prone to regard one settlement as precedent for determining another.

The other problem, according to Livonia's mayor, is that an arbitrator may come up with a settlement that a city simply can't afford.

IF ARBITRATION poses problems, what other system is available which allows continued

public safety but insures a settle-ment?

A number of people have been talking about an arbitrationlike arrangement, but with a more lasting relationship between the arbitrator and the parties involved. Perhaps a jury of citi-zens acceptable to both sides could be selected to carefully fol-

low the facts in depth and then be involved in the arbitration proc-

Perhaps a kind of umpire, Perhaps a kind of umpire, with an arbitrator's skills, who would spend time learning the inner workings of both sides before becoming involved, would help. Perhaps Senator Robert Griffin's old suggestion about a eparate system of labor courts sthe long run solution.

Whatever the solution to be worked out, it is clear that one is needed -- badly.

Otherwise, we in the suburbs are going to see our communities rocked by labor-management disputes for a long time to come.

Dan McCosh writes

Educational Technology... Bah!

The audio-visual convention in Cobo Hall is over, and school budgets have just begun to be passed around in the local school districts, so it seems like an appropriate time to comment on the technological revolution in education.

". . . You're sitting on tiny fingers of foam rubber in an inflated room while 21 projectors
flash 1,500 slides across seven
screens . . ." The scene is created

by something called 'multimedia environment', and is calculated to get the kids' attention. A full closet of movie projec-tors, slide projectors, and mecha-

nized thingamabobs is like a wel-fare Cadillac to most school dis-

I ONCE SPENT a full after

film, they had a thing called "controlled reading" that exposed a strip of type at a uniform speed.

The effect was like trying to

t was like tryme een credits for the in "Ben read the screen credits foliast 1,700 bit-players in Hur".

About now you probably get the idea I'm prejudiced "... hack writer, probably has too many pimples to get a job with a TV station ..."

TV station . ."

Actually, some of my best friends make motion pictures. I've nothing against them, I just don't want too many in the same classroom with my daughter.

ANYONE WHO HAS ever seen the script for a movie could

On paper, the script for a 30-On paper, the script for a 30-minute film is about the same length as a short magazine arti-cle. Try a race with someone -you read normally and he reads out loud -- and you'll see why this

Writing and mathematics are Writing and mathematics are the only way real ideas are communicated. They are the best intellectual shorthand we have, and the only kind of communica-tion that can be subjected to systematic analysis.

tematic analysis.

"But how about the pictures?", you say.

Well, how about them -- how do you argue, debate or question a picture? Pictures convey a terrific emotional impact, but not much weight information. In the much useful information. In the classroom, they stir the kids up, on rare occasions give them some motivation, but not much

THE REST OF the so-called THE REST OF the so-called "educational technology" is seven worse than films. Every new teaching technique seems to have a corresponding gadget, usually to the detriment of both the technique and the school budget.

Programmed learning is a case in point.

The idea behind "programming" is a good one – putting small "capsules" of information in front of a student, letting him assimilate them, and then testing him on the information immediation.

him on the information immediately

ately.

Good teaching programs look
something like old-fashioned spelling workbooks -- the innovation is
how they present the material.
When they work well, they work

very well.

But the good idea got into the hands of the "hardware" people, who found that the books could be cut up, put on strips of paper and put "into "teaching machines" that were about the most expensive page-turners ever developed.

oped.
The only rationale for those
"teaching machines" was that it
was a lot easier to sell "derblinkenlights" to a school board than
something that looked like a highpriced textbook.

No. I'm not against teaching No, I'm not against teaching technology in general. Some machines know their place. The tape-recorders in the "language labs" made learning a foreign language a lot easier. Computer terminals for students to practice terrinnals for students to practice learning "machine language" are great too.

But not mechanical thrill-seeking just because a school board likes hardware in its closet.

Tiny fingers of foam rubber.

View points expressed in DISSENI do not necessarily reliect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

MRS. MERLINE Dickinson Junior High Livonia

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used again.
What exactly does this have to do with you? With pollution so much in the fore-front today and with all the discussion of what should be done about it. I would like to let you know what the students decided to do about it.

NOW GETTING back to the story, the NOW GETTING back to the story, the class agreed calmost unanimously to take up Reynolds' proposition. It is noteworthy that these students were not interested in pocketing the money they would make, but were concerned with the great quantities of used cans littering the interest of the control of the cont

would want to become involved.
They planned to start April 20. As well as collecting cans themselves, some volunteered to visit elementary and high schools in order to enlist their aid. They planned to gather cans from their neighbors and make posters to post in schools and possibly in store windows, indirming the public as to where to deposit the cans.

cans.

Ten students from afternoon classes volunteered to come mornings to stand post at the deposit boxes to maintain a count on the incoming cans. The class requested that I call some local and city papers to secure the communities' cooperation.

eration.

Now why am I writing this story in the past tense? Because all of these beautiful ideas from all of these beautiful ideas from all of these beautiful students will never be a reality. I made a call to Reynolds Aluminum before any cans were collected. I wanted to know just what kind of cans would be accepted. I was informed than NO SUCH PROGRAM EXISTED IN THIS STATE - THAT IT ONLY EXISTED IN 19 STATES IN THE U.S.

U.S.

The Reynolds' representative said no to a question I asked in regard to the initiation of a program in this state because it was not feasible for their company, bes said that it was not feasible because only about 4% of the cans in this area are admirmium. "Must of cans that are made entirety of aluminum" "I asked.
"Even if you collected only aluminum cans," she said, "we could not take them because we have no way of processing the cans in the state."

AT THE END of the conversation. I was informed of an alternative—write a letter to Virginia at the main plant. She further cautioned. "Don't have your students send letters to us because we dan't want that."

Now I ask you, how do I tell my class Now I ask you, now do I tell my clothed that all those fine ideas and all the planning wasn't worth the old cans they were going to gather? How do I say, "Well, maybe, "Scope" neglected to state all the facts tike many newspapers do or that maybe Reynolds withheld the fact that this program was limited to a minority of States in the U.S.?"

of States in the U.S.

I am sick when I think of that free advertising that this company received by professing to be concerned with litter and the waste of natural resources. Are they really retily concerned or are they under the impression that it's OK to fight pollution when it is feasible imeaning profitable? Who said that the war on the contaminated environment was supposed to be feasible?

Somehow I don't think my students will buy this. They are going to be disappointed because they believed in an article which turned out to be a farce. Will they ever trust the written word again. Will they ever the written word again or another project along this line. My sin is that I was too naive. Too naive because I believed that what was written in a seventh grade weekly was true.

I was told to write a letter but not to involve my students. Should I tell my students that a company that has just misled us, has also asked us not to write any letters expressing our feelings?

Sense And Nonsense

It's too bad the Michigan Re-publican Party invited U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew to speak when he comes to our state June

Judging from some of the state-ments being made these days by Mr. Agnew, he could stand to lis-ten to someone else for a change.



Dennis L. Pajot writes

Parties Are For People, Too

WASHINGTON, D.C. A delegate to the U. S. Cham-ber of Commerce National Con-vention in Washington. D. C. sought and obtained only two au-tographs while mingling with more than 120 of the country's most distinguished business, education and government leaders.

His tribute went to persons all-too-often condemned in the

eyes of Americans. They were somewhat surprised to be asked. None but this one delegate pressed forward through the crowd of thousands to plead for the momento.

EACH COMPLIED, scribbling in the desired spot: the space on either side of the U. S. Capitol Dome pictured on a bro-

Below the picture appeared the words: "Action Aids for More Effective Public Affairs . . . " The delegate thought them appro-

His prizes were the script of Rogers C. B. Morton, Chairman of the Republican National Party, and Lawrence F. O'Brien, Chair-man of the Democratic National

MORE THAN ALL the politi-cal office holders, more than all the nation's top public advisors, more than all the wielders of the mation's capital wealth, these two men and their roles impressed the delegate as being most rele-vant to the needs of society.

Their jobs serve as the key-stone in the arch of democracy of a Republic on one side and the free enterprise system on the other, through which all the peo-ple must march.

After flogging away at each other's partisan viewpoints in a

prepared debate, both had departed from form and issued solemn observations.

"THE ONE THING most "THE UNE THING most challenged in this political year 1970 is the two-party system itself," said O'Brien. "We are at a point in America when everyone of us must prove the worth of this process."

process."

Morton agreed. "This country will be bettered only when we can close the gap caused by the wedge of the so-called independ-

To delegates and guests of the Chamber of Commerce Mor-ton said, "Politics never hurt my business and I don't think it'll

hurt yours." Morton is a Congressman Morton is a Congressman from Maryland. O'Brien is a pri-vate businessman and teacher now and was formerly Secretary of the Post Office Department and political-legislative aide to President John F. Kennedy.

EACH NOW HAS the task of mobilizing effective expressions of the national will; through coordinating of candidates, issues and the people's voices.

This last is the most unappre-

This last is the most unappreciated.
Candidates and issues there will always be, with or without partisan political parties.
Who would rally significant numbers to sufficiently influentiations of candidates and viewpoints if not these?

Editorial & Opinion

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