

Why Rouge Cleanup May Take Years

By W.W. EDGAR

Fighting the war on pollution in the Rouge Basin, particularly the Middle Rouge, is going to be a long, drawn-out process fraught with governmental red tape.

So don't hold your breath until the work is accomplished and the water that flows through Edward Hines Park way again is declared pure and fit to serve as a swimming pool.

This came to light during the past week after the reorganiza-

tion committee of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners finally selected the Wayne County Drain Commission as the agency that would have jurisdiction over the war on pollution.

SOME OF THE more optimistic figured that the granting of authority to the Drain Commission was the move that would finally get the real work started.

But such is not case. According to Lyle Miller, assistant to Henry Herrick,

chairman of the Drain Commission, this is only the first of many moves that must be made and there is no time schedule set for any of them.

After all, it did require more than two years to establish a single agency with jurisdiction after the Water Resources Department made the original request in its 1967-68 report.

"Now that the Drain Commission has been selected," Miller explained, "the next official step is the approval of the full Board of Commissioners. At the present time, the selection of the Drain Commission as the agency is only the recommendation of the re-organization committee."

"The next move," he said, "will be to get petitions from the various communities to have the work done."

THE DRAIN Commission, according to statute, can not start any of the work officially until the various communities in the basin make a request through petition.

Once these petitions are received, according to Miller, they will be given to the augmented drainage board that consists of Drain Commissioner Henry Herrick, Albert Zak, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and Jacob Summers, chairman of the Board of Auditors.

This group, in turn, contacts the director of the State Department of Agriculture.

"This would be fine," Miller stated, "if the pollution were



SEARCHING FOR FACTS -- In an effort to learn the extent of pollution in the Middle Rouge, Carl Pursell of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, had Mike Andrews (right), a county engineer, take several samples. They are shown here looking over sample taken opposite Riverside Drive in Hines Parkway.

confined to Wayne County. But because three counties are affected, they will have to set up an later-County Drain Commission. This group would consist of the augmented commissions of Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.

"They would have to approve all plans," Miller emphasized, "and it could take a long time before any actual work is done."

Asked if there were plans now on the drawings boards, Miller explained that studies are being made all the time and various remedies planned for existing conditions.

"But they are plans on paper," he continued, "and virtually are meaningless until the other officials step are taken, the petitions approved and the financing obtained."

MILLER POINTED out that there was no way of forecasting a time schedule.

"When you get these various communities together, each has its own ideas, and it

may take a long time to get them to agree."

According to Miller each community looks at its own problem and fights for that improvement above all else. Sometimes these tactics tend to hold up procedures and lengthy delays result.

"We've been working on a branch of the Ecorse River for five years," Miller said, "and there's no telling how much longer it will be. After all, there are nine communities involved and it will be a job getting them to agree."

There are 10 communities effected by the Middle Rouge. The list includes the Townships of Northville, Plymouth and Canton along with the cities of Novi, Northville, Plymouth, Westland and Dearborn Heights.

The State Water Resources Commission has just completed another study of the entire drainage district, indicating the most troublesome spots in both industrial and commercial pollution.

While the officials recognize the vast amount of work that is to be done, they are of one accord:

"All we need is time, manpower and money, and there's no telling when we'll get it."

Cambodia Attacks Distress Rep. Esch

U.S. Rep. Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) broke from his usual support for President Nixon's policies and issued a statement questioning the escalation of the war in Indo-China Monday.

His Republican Observerland colleague, Jack McDonald of Farmington, couldn't be reached for comment, despite several efforts by this newspaper to call him.

"While there may be a purely military rationale for the president's action, I am deeply distressed at the widening of the war and the apparent regression to the escalating decision-making of the past," said Esch.

The GOP moderate, whose 2nd District includes Plymouth, added, "It is especially difficult for me to justify the resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam, in direct contradiction to our avowed efforts to de-escalate the war."

ESCH SAID he could not indicate what steps he will take as a result of the president's announcement last Thursday. Nixon committed U.S. troops to strikes against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese sanctuaries on the Cambodian border.

"Our only avenue is to amend the military procurement bill on the House floor. Some amendments and amendments to amendments have been offered. Whether that's a clear cut issue, we don't know. It depends on parliamentary procedures allowed."

He said that as a Republican in a Democratic-controlled Congress he will not have the initiative to sponsor amendments.

"I really can't say what I'll do on the amendments that come up. We don't know whether they'll be qualified or unqualified," said Esch.

Vagnozzi Raps McDonald On War

Aldo Vagnozzi, chairman of the 19th Congressional District Democratic Party, is trying to goad Republican Congressman Jack McDonald into making a position statement on U.S. military involvement in Cambodia.

Vagnozzi chose a meeting of Democratic Party 19th District precinct delegates to criticize McDonald's "silence when it comes to the great issues which face the nation."

Instead, said Vagnozzi, McDonald's recent newsletter offered a booklet on making cottage cheese, how to use fertilizer, planning bathrooms, how to buy instant non-fat dry milk, how to buy beef steaks and growing the Bradford ornamental pear.

"THE ONLY TIME he came out fighting in recent months was to clober school children and the sick of voting to support President Richard Nixon's veto of the health, education and welfare appropriations in the name of stopping inflation," said Vagnozzi.

"The residents of the 19th District are entitled to know whether their congressman supports the decision of President Nixon to expand the war in Vietnam into Cambodia," declared Vagnozzi.

At the time of Vagnozzi's statement McDonald, who represents Farmington, Livonia and Redford Township, had not had time to announce his reaction to the Cambodian question unless questioned by radio or television.

Observer Newspapers attempted repeatedly to reach McDonald for a statement on the issue in time for publication with this edition.

VAGNOZZI CRITICIZED McDonald's position statements on McDonald on issues of education, the economy, foreign affairs, civil strife, anti-pollution controls, unemployment, the arms race, the antiballistics missile system (ABM), or the problems of the poor.

As the leading Democrat in Republican Farmington's district, Vagnozzi said most of the home and garden information published by McDonald is of little use to the unemployed.

"I'm not against a congressman communicating with his constituents when he has something to say, but McDonald's latest piece of mail certainly doesn't have anything to say," rapped Vagnozzi.

Ford Is Angered At 'Invasion'

Congressman William Ford (D-15th District) is angered by President Richard Nixon's decision to commit American forces to attacks against selected targets inside Cambodia.

"It has all the potential of putting us into a massive Indo-China war," Ford told Observer Newspapers the day after Nixon announced he had ordered U.S. troops to join South Vietnamese to destroy North Vietnamese and Viet Cong staging bases in Cambodia.

"I don't want it. I'm not at all convinced that it will stop the fighting in Vietnam," said Ford.

THE TAYLOR congressman, whose district includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township, vowed to fight the president's action. He said he will join a Republican-sponsored attempt to prevent use of military funds for the attacks.

New York Congressman Ogden Reid, a liberal, has drafted such an amendment to the annual military procurement bill now being debated in the House.

Area GOP Leaders In Conference

Observerland interests will be well reflected in national Republican Party activities in the near future, thanks to the participation of four locally active partisans who took part in a Republican national leadership conference in April.

State Chairman William F. McLaughlin of Northville led the 40-member delegation.

PROMINENT LOCAL delegates were:

Mrs. Cecilia Phelan of Plymouth, vice chairman of the Wayne 2nd Congressional District.

Dwight H. Vincent of Dearborn Heights, chairman of the 15th Congressional District.

Robert B. Webster of Birmingham, chairman of the Oakland County GOP.

Mrs. Isabel Havnes, of Farmington, president of the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan.

The delegates heard President Richard M. Nixon and breakfasted with regional U.S. senators and congressmen.

Revises Pickups

New truck pickup service by Goodwill Industries for Western Wayne County and Farmington is now in effect.

The new schedule will affect the communities of Livonia, Westland, Garden City as well as Wayne and Inkster. Purpose of the change is to aid house-holders wishing to donate bulky or income tax deduction items.

The schedule for Observerland communities calls for light items to be picked up on Mondays and Thursdays. Heavy items will be picked up on Thursdays by separate truck.

It is anticipated that this new system will speed house calls and help assure that the driver will arrive on the day scheduled. The number to call for pickup of heavy items is 873-3600.

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