



By Philip H. Power
Publisher

OBSERVATION POINT

Who Pays Postage?
Not The Politicians

Politics — its bad sides and its good:

Sen. J.W. Fulbright is sore at the TV networks for giving Republican Richard Nixon so much prime time to make "reports to the people," and he is fearful that this gives too much power to the executive at the expense of the Congress.

But you don't have to go all the way to Washington to see politicians using their positions to entrench themselves. Look about you.

Rep. Jim Tierney, in Garden City, ran up a postal bill to the state's taxpayers of \$2,051 with a mailing that arrived in people's homes just before his Aug. 4 primary. The wording of his report was so blatant that it was quoted statewide as a flagrant example of campaigning with public money.

The people in his district knew all about it by election time, however, and gave him a 3-1 margin of victory. But the fact that voters still like him doesn't mean he behaved properly.

SEN. BILL FAUST of Westland was also in a rough, tough primary, and he ran \$3,316 worth of material through the Lansing postage meter just prior to the election. He defeated Rep. Vincent Pettipiece.

Sen. George Kuhn of West Bloomfield turned out a four-pager on "major legislative accomplishments" with his own name in big, bold type. Nowhere does it say "Vote for George Kuhn," but it was certainly no coincidence that it arrived shortly before the election. He was beaten.

Rep. Marvin Stempion of Livonia faced no primary competition, but he turned out a "legislative report" dated "July, 1970" that also arrived not long before the primary. Stempion is also getting hold of those excellent maps that are produced free to the public by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, putting his sticker on them and giving them away.

There are others. Forgive me if I omitted your favorite candidate.

I'm not prepared to accuse anyone of doing anything illegal, nor am I going to contend that Republicans are doing something Democrats don't do often.

THE POINT is that there's a difference between what's illegal and what's less than moral. It has been said, with much truth, that we are a nation of law. We need to become a nation of honor.

Clearly, there's a need for some kind of moratorium on the mailing of "legislative reports," some cut-off date in a campaign year.

There is also a need for enforceable limitations on campaign spending to prevent a rich or

well-heeled candidate from simply spending himself into public office.

One idea is to allocate a certain amount from the public treasury to every candidate who wins a nomination. This approach has many pitfalls, but it would be one way to (1) limit campaign spending, (2) give the poor man a chance to run and (3) stop the kind of raid on the state postage meter that we saw in the last month.

AT THE OUTSET I promised you some of the good side of politics.

The University of Michigan is offering students a four-credit

course called "Elections 1970" which requires them to take part in a political campaign.

A student can work for the candidate of his choice for Congress, the governorship, the Legislature or county commission. The classwork involves analysis of campaign issues, voting behavior; public opinion, political organization and elections.

It represents a realization by the University that politics is an honorable line of work. If students in trade or commercial schools can get credit for outside work, why shouldn't the student of government get credit for campaign work?

Our entire system of govern-

ment, of justice, of freedom depends on politics. Why shouldn't politics be considered as honorable an occupation as engineering or selling cars or teaching school or curing people's bodily ailments with medicine?

To carry the honor a bit further, we have to recognize that there are far more volunteers working in politics than paid professionals. Why, then, shouldn't the political volunteer be entitled to the same social honor as the Rotarian, the United Fund collector, the cancer pad maker?

There is good and bad to politics, just as there are good and bad apple pies or good and bad mothers.

R.T. Thompson writes

Salute To Little Leaguers

We doff our hats today to pay tribute to a fine bunch of youngsters from Farmington who are very much in the thick of the battle for the world's Little League championship.

There are still two big games ahead before the S. Farmington team wins a berth in the world series at Williamsport, Pa. in another week.

If the boys continue their excellent work on the diamond and succeed in getting past Hyde Park of Chicago Thursday and Saturday in Kokomo, Ind., then the team will become only the second in Michigan to advance to the colorful championships in Williamsport.

TIME WAS a few years back when it was the dream of all Little Leaguers to get into the big series in the small Pennsylvania city which is the birthplace of the Little League.

The ambitions then are still the hope of those playing today but there is one big difference... Little League teams weren't as plentiful and it was a much easier task to get into the finals.

THE S. FARMINGTON SQUAD, which suddenly has become the darlings of the entire state after winning the Michigan championship and then whipping the Ohio champion in the regional finals at Maumee, O., has yelled during the season into a powerful club for boys between the ages of 11 and 12.

A great deal of the credit for the fine performances has to go to Manager Fritz Wenson who has a way of working with boys that makes them come up with their best when the best is needed.

WENSON has done a masterful job with this group of youngsters. He knows that the obstacles get

bigger and bigger as the club gets closer and closer to Williamsport. Imagine having charge of a group of 11 and 12-year-olds for three days in a strange city where they will be playing in strange surroundings and probably minus the home-town cheering section that has supported them thus far.

That's what the personable manager and coach faces the latter part of the week when he takes his squad to Kokomo. Added to his worries is the fact that he must keep spirits high at all times and still not allow any one of the players to run wild.

OF COURSE, the same story is true of the Chicago outfit. The players may come from a bigger city but they're all equal once

they get on the field where the championships are decided.

S. Farmington has shown on more than one occasion in the recent tournaments that it does have the ability to come from behind. It has shown that it can take an early lead and hold it.

It has demonstrated championship caliber all the way and the well wishes of all Little League players, fans and officials follow them to Kokomo.

WE CAN ADD only one thing and it goes back to our own days as a youthful player, the bigger they are the harder they fall and none is too big to topple.

Good luck to Coach Wenson and his youngsters... we hope they continue on to Williamsport and spread the fame of Observerland to all parts of the globe.

Tim Richard writes

Praise For 'Bing' Price

One could fill an entire column just listing all the civic titles "Bing" Price has held, and then go on for two or three columns just telling what he has done for these suburbs.

But that's not the point. What's important is the philosophy of society of Harrison T. Price, who for four years has been manager of the Chevrolet spring and bumper plant in Livonia, and who now is going to head Chevy's research and development department in Detroit.

He expressed that philosophy late one evening over an appropriate beverage in the Washington D.C. hotel suite where the Livonia delegation to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce convention was gathering. This is important because Bing was president of the Livonia chamber at that

time and had succeeded in recruiting one of Michigan's biggest delegations.

"I always figure," he said, "that the place where I work is just as much my home as the place where my house is located."

And so, while he lived in Brighton, 30 or 40 minutes drive away, he threw an incredible amount of civic energy and personality into the area we call Observerland. He was actively opposed to the prevailing philosophy that a businessman should "get away from it all" when he walks out of the office at night.

We could thank him for the million civic things he did and admire the way he made it all look so easy, but Bing Price's biggest contribution here was his attitude. His attitude was what made him a civic giant.

Did 19th District Goof?

I used to admire the Democratic Party, though I was never a member, for its advocacy of the "one man, one vote" principle — until Aug. 13.

On Aug. 13, Democrats in the Oakland County portion of the 19th Congressional District overwhelmingly adopted a resolution which would allow students at three major universities — Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State — to elect one member of the governing board.

In adopting that resolution, the Democrats abandoned the principle of "one man, one vote" guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

LOOK AT IT this way: Each of those universities has fewer than 40,000 students, and they would get one trustee. The gen-

eral public generally casts about two million votes and gets eight trustees at each school.

Thus, the students, with at most one-fifth of the public's voting power, would get one-ninth of the trustees.

That assumes that all 40,000 students would go to the polls. In actual practice, students are notoriously apathetic about voting, if one believes college newspapers.

Thus, under the Democrats' resolution, a college student would have anywhere from five to 10 times the voting power of any other voter. Nuts to that.

To Tom Jefferson's "All men are created equal," the 19th-Oakland Democrats have appended the words of George Orwell's pigs: "...But some are more equal than others."



MARVIN R. STEMPIEN
Rep., House of Representatives
LIVONIA, MICH.

Michigan
LEGISLATIVE
REPORT



JULY, 1970
SPECIAL REPORT ON NATURAL RESOURCES
ECOLOGISTS APPROVED

On July 27, 1970 the Governor signed into law H.R. 3055, which enables citizens of Michigan to go to court against any public agency or private industry that they think is damaging the environment. Michigan is the first state where citizens would specifically be insured of a right to file suit against anyone to protect the air, water or other natural resources.

Thermal Pollution Action

The Michigan Water Resources Commission has taken action to require that power companies in Michigan prepare contingency plans for controlling thermal discharges from power plants on the Great Lakes. Such plans are to be presented to the Commission within 120 days.

State Senator Senate Majority Whip

George W. Kuhn

Reports from Lansing

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the 75th Michigan legislative session draws to a close, it seems appropriate to look back and review the accomplishments of the past four years. As you may know, never before has the State faced so many complex and difficult problems of such far reaching effect and impact. The record of the past four years is good, and one in which the people of Michigan can be proud. We have started to bring pollution under control and to further develop our recreational facilities. We have taken steps to provide for low-cost housing for those who need it. We have passed numerous bills to combat violent street crimes, riots and mass disorders, as well as can-

DISSENT

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect 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.

School Board Wrong?

By RONALD ZANG

Livonia It is true that Livonia once had one of the best school systems in the nation. But unfortunately, gross mismanagement and needless spending has destroyed the reputation that has been awarded this institution. Over the years, an increase in population has forced additional taxation to Livonia residents to pay for bigger and better schools.

Plenty has been allocated, but too much has been spent for the salaries of an overabundance of school administrators and officials, and too much has been spent on needless materials. Then the taxes no longer covered the frivolous expense account of our school board.

FINALLY, foreseeing financial disaster for the fiscal year 1969-70, the school board voted to make drastic cuts in educational programs, maintenance, transportation, and worst of all student class time.

Children of grades five, six, seven, and eight were limited to half days, rather than full days. Physical education, art and some industrial education courses were excluded from these students' curriculum. Children spent three hours per day in class, the rest of the time inactive at home.

But for some strange and far-reaching reason, the school board and Supt. Upton in November discovered that they had more money than they had anticipated.

Due to the "suspicion" that more funds were available, fifth and sixth graders were put back on full days, but "it was the unavailability of the teachers which prevented returning the seventh and eighth graders to full days."

Oddly enough, there are hundreds of college grads and prospective teachers who were and still are seeking the jobs that Upton said were "unavailable." His excuse seems logical until you read the statistics on teacher unemployment.

None the less, our well-managed city was able to create a \$1.2 million surplus on one year's time. With their frugality, Upton and the school board should be members of the Budget Bureau in Washington.

SO WHAT NOW? Six thousand two hundred children have been deprived of a half year's education; an amount of time that has been foolishly denied them. Will they be able to make

up academically for what was denied them?

Certainly not. Perhaps the gifted child might not have been affected, but what about the many who are par or sub-par in their academic capabilities?

Who is going to help these students regain those precious minutes of lost class time, regain a semblance of academic proficiency or regain those sometimes rewarding and maturing experiences found in full time class participation?

Seventh grade is particularly a time of transition from elementary education to a more advanced and sophisticated form. Yet our administration never thought of this.

If our school system was truly in financial difficulty, and remained so, then the cutbacks which were proposed would have been justified. But a \$1.2 million surplus destroys any merit deserving of this action.

Gross mismanagement, stubbornness, and out-and-out stupidity has managed to destroy the academic freedom mandatory to a group of students deserving of much more than they received.

How can anger be quelled at a time like this? We are playing with the education and the future of students, not a game of politics, not a game of "save the money."

NOW LET'S LOOK at another facet of the situation. The headline of the July 15, Livonia Observer was entitled "School Tax Out Advised (Because of \$1.2 Million Surplus)".

A group calling themselves the Citizens School Budget Committee actually wants to give the surplus money back to the taxpayer instead of using it to re-educate those fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Livonia's taxpayers should be out raising hell over the whole absurd situation, but instead will be appeased because they are getting some money back. The inaffable silent majority does not understand that they are being conned out of protesting a very serious and unexcusable event. The Citizens School Budget Committee wants money, not education.

Where is a group to demand a valid explanation for this monetary and systematic blunder? Where is a group to help remove the school board and Upton from office? Where is a group to demand extra-educational training for those half-time students? We'll see.

Editorial & Opinion

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

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The Livonia Observer • The Redford Observer • The Westland Observer
The Garden City Observer • The Plymouth Mail & Observer
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc.
271 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 200, Plymouth, Mich. 48170

Serving the communities of:
Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington Township, Canton, Township, Farmington,
Farmington Township, Redford Township, Garden City, Westland.