

Farnum Falls To Austin In A Winner, Out A Loser

GRAND RAPIDS
"I came here nominated
but the forces of the convention
worked their will."
Billie S. Farnum wasn't bitter
about being defeated for the
Democratic nomination for

secretary of state. An old
political pro, he figured that "in
politics someone has to win and
someone has to lose."
Farnum, of Drayton Plains in
northern Oakland County, said
he had endorsements from 50 or

more counties. Many months
ago, he recalled, "I started
getting requests to run."
"So I started talking to party
leadership — all the way to
precinct delegates — all over
the state and was very en-
couraged. I was going to an-
nounce earlier than I did, but I
held off because I had heard of
many other possible candi-
dates."

THEN ONE week ago,
Richard Austin, Wayne County
auditor who was fresh from a
near-win in the Detroit mayoral
race, hopped in One caucus
group after another decided
a black face was needed on the
ticket, and Austin was nomi-
nated.

"I still was in good shape until
the New Democratic Coalition
held their caucus last evening,"
Farnum said late Sunday.

"I had labor — but they held
three different caucuses." So
labor went to Austin.

Farnum knew he didn't have
the votes Sunday morning, so
why did he take his fight to the
convention floor? Farnum said
he did it to satisfy his sup-
porters who had committed
themselves.

By the time the roll call was
half over at the convention, it
was apparent that Austin had
a commanding lead that couldn't
be overcome, so Farnum made
a gracious concession
statement and asked that the
convention back Austin
unanimously. It did.



BILLIE S. FARNUM

FARNUM HAD the en-
dorsement of his home 19th
Congressional District a week
ago, but on the roll call the 19th
went to Austin, 66 2/3 to 62 2/3. The
2nd District backed Austin 91.8
to 16.2. Neither the 15th nor 18th
districts had voted when
Farnum conceded.

In a party that is seeking a
youth look, it was interesting
that Farnum, at 54, is five years
younger than Austin.

Farnum has had a long career
in politics — deputy secretary of
state, auditor general,
congressman from the 19th
District from 1965-66, deputy
Democratic national chairman
from 1967-68.

What will he do now?
Nothing for himself politically
at this point, though he's highly
interested in Farmington at-
torney Fred Harris' fight for

Congress in the 19th District.

"I HAVE MY own business —
Billie Farnum Associates, you
know," he said. "I'm a con-
sultant for local governments
and help them with accounting,
management information
systems, water and sewer
projects, housing, bond issues. I
helped sell a \$2.7 million bond
issue when the market index
was 6.59 (per cent interest
rate), and I sold it for 5.50," he
said.

He has done work for Bay and
Macomb counties, the cities of
Taylor and Sterling Heights and
Wixom, and the villages of Holly
and Clarkston, to name a few
clients.

Farnum estimates he spent
between \$8,000 and \$10,000 on
the campaign, considerably less
than the \$19,000 Charles Gray
reportedly contracted for.
Gray, supported by the Branch
Managers Association, the men
who sell motor vehicle license
plates, saw his support melt and
didn't carry his fight to the
convention floor.

"Politics is a game you give
your best to. I wanted to
broaden and strengthen the
base of the party. I think good,
healthy, high-level competition
is good for the party. I offered
my qualifications."

Billie S. Farnum may have
been disappointed. But he was
too big to be bitter.

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Dateline: Outdoors

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors Writer



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Student Dissent Seen To Grow

WASHINGTON, D.C. The alarm bell of student dissent is ringing loud and clear across the land, and it's not



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about to be stilled any time soon. All indications are that dissent and rebellion in our nation's schools — dipping even into the intermediate grades — will grow rather than fade in the coming school year.

The Office of Students and Youth of the U.S. Office of Education, in a recent survey of violence in the classroom, predicted more disturbances to come. Dissent and demonstrations that rose to the surface, OSY says, represent only the tip of the iceberg, while "the greater number of disruptions remain under the surface," ready to erupt at any time.

But it doesn't take a report by OSY or any other group to tell us that more student dissent is coming. A glance at newspaper headlines — or a brief look at what's happening in schools — is all it takes.

HOW DOES one deal with this situation? Educators generally agree that students have a right to be heard — provided their voices are not too shrill and are not accompanied by acts of violence.

When a lake's bass population has dwindled and its bluegill population is puny, about the only corrective measure is to poison the lake and restock it, according to a Michigan State University professor of fisheries and wildlife.

Dr. Eugene Roelofs suggests that over-harvesting of bass and under-harvesting of the prolific bluegill causes such a calamity.

THE PROFESSOR SAYS. "In warm water ponds stocked with bass and bluegill, fishermen should take out 10 pounds of bluegill for each pound of bass."

"This is a good rule to keep a favorable balance between the two types of fish. As a general rule, the bass will eat many of the bluegill. But when bass are over-fished, there are not enough left to control the bluegill population.
"As a result, the more numerous bluegill eat most of the food supply in the pond. This causes stunting of the bluegill and a decrease in the bass population."

Quite obviously the bass cannot eat a bluegill once it has passed the infant stage. A developed bluegill is thick and as menacing as a porcupine with its stiff upper and lower fins.
Despite this observation of conditions that explain the puny size, Oakland County agents of the Dept. of Natural Resources say "bluegill fishing is good in all inland lakes. Bass fishing is fair to good on Pontiac and Tippecanoe Lake."

TRUE, THIS WRITER can confirm: there are bass and bluegill being taken from most southeastern Michigan waters.
A taxidermist friend tells me a five pound bass isn't much to brag about, but that a

sixpounder rates the board, paint and shellac treatment for the den. A fisherman friend considers the bluegill he gets from an Oakland County lake whose bodies are in the size of his palm the biggest around.

By way of comparison, bass in the southern states are commonly 10 and 12 pounds. Addicted bluegill fishermen who travel the country aren't excited until these reach one-pound or more, which is quite a bit larger than palm size.

True, other conditions besides those mentioned by the professor account for the size of fish. It's interesting to note the gap. Bass quit feeding when the water temperature

drops below 50, so northern bass get fewer feeding days per year than their cousins in Dixie.

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