

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Federal budget can be balanced

To the editor:

Like you, I'm tired of hearing excuses why Congress or the President can't balance the federal budget. They've overspent American taxpayers into increasingly huge deficits in 19 out of the last 20 years.

Our only hope for bringing federal government spending even with the federal taxes collected is a federal balanced budget amendment.

There's nothing mysterious about taxpayers calling for a National Constitutional Convention to formulate a federal balanced budget amendment. We've guaranteed that right in the U.S. Constitution.

The late Dr. Milton Eisenhower put it best when he said, "Convention calls are a necessary and fundamental part of our system of checks and balances. No thinking citizen should wish to see them become a dead letter."

Those who have stirred fears of a Convention, playing on emotion rather than logic, are not only attacking the legitimacy of a part of our Constitution, they are also taking direct aim at its basic premise: that ours is a government for and by the people."

Exactly 34 states must "call for a Constitutional Convention" on the federal balanced budget amendment, 32 already have. Michigan is the most likely state to be the 33rd. A half-dozen states need to be the historical 34th.

ONCE A Constitutional Convention is called and convened, or a proposal is drafted by Congress, 38 states will then have to ratify the language written in the form of a federal balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A coalition of grass-root citizens has formed in Michigan to push the federal balanced budget amendment. Over 9,000 Michigan Jaycees with 200 community chapters are the latest concerned citizens urging their fellow citizens to contact their state representative and state senator.

Passage in the Michigan House of Representatives by November of the simple legislative bill already passed by the Michigan Senate is all that stands in the way of Michigan becoming the 33rd state to call for a federal balanced budget amendment.

Michigan is the key state. Michigan's resolution will cause Congress to either submit its own federal balanced budget amendment to the states for ratification or call a constitutional convention to draft one.

I have little patience anymore for supposed sup-

porters of a federal balanced budget who argue against grassroots support for a Constitutional Convention on the federal balanced budget amendment. They make scholarly arguments for a "gold standard" or express fear of a "runaway convention." They're unrealistic.

Thomas Jefferson said, "To preserve our independence we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must take our choice between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude."

JUST AS you would not allow your children to run up a large debt on your credit card, why should we be allowed to run large debts on theirs.

For the moment, that's a good deal for us because today for every 77 cents we pay in taxes we get \$1 worth of government services. But it's a very bad deal for our children because in the future they'll be paying \$1 of taxes for 77 cents worth of government services. And with all the talk about fairness, there is no segment of the population being more fiscally abused than the young people of this nation.

Those \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see may not represent a threat to this country even next year. But for the long run they add up to colossal mismanagement of the federal government and of the economy. We borrow from the future to try to sustain the moment.

It is not just foolish, it is morally wrong. The 1985 deficit of \$200 billion will cost each 1985 high school graduate an additional \$10,000 in taxes, for interest only, over their working lifetime.

THE ONLY device our nation has to protect itself against the misuse of power in public office is the Constitution. The ultimate power in a democracy rests with people themselves. We elect representatives and give them power to act on our behalf. We outline their use of this power in the Constitution and now we must limit their ability to spend.

We must constitutionally restrain the flow of red ink.

Statesman Edmund Burke said, "Patriotism is not much protecting the land of our forefathers; patriotism is building a future for our children and our grandchildren."

The Michigan Legislature must pass a resolution by November calling for a Constitutional Convention and the federal balanced budget amendment.

Isn't it worth it to you and to your children to get involved now to make it happen?
Let's get on with it!

Richard Headlee
Farmington Hills

Your coverage was very good

To the editor:

I'm sure I speak for my colleagues on the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees in expressing appreciation for the recent coverage given the library and the editorial supporting our attempts to get more public involvement in our activities.

As the newest member, I am impressed at the efforts and dedication of the other trustees in working to make an excellent library system even greater. It was the board's personnel committee which brought in the recommendation that we appoint Beverly Papal as director that has set off a number of positive events.

The most gratifying has been the decision to offer Sunday hours during the months of the school year. While the public relations committee was credited with putting through the proposal, its origin was Trustee Charlotte Yaveraki and its approval resulted from the recommendation of the library staff and the support of the full Board of Trustees.

Now that we have a policy for public input at trustee meetings, we would hope that interested citizens would begin attending our monthly sessions and offer their suggestions for improvements. We meet the second Thursday of the month, starting at 5 p.m., at the 12 Mile branch.

Aldo Vagnoni,
library trustee

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Thursday, November 14, 1985 O&E

Book program unveiled

Tales of Tom Sawyer, Charlotte's Web and many others will come to life in Baskin-Robbins' "31-derful Book Program," through Dec. 7.

Developed in conjunction with the Detroit Public Library, the Wayne/Oakland Library Federation and the Macomb County Library, the children's reading program is designed to introduce youngsters to the wonderful world of the literary classics.

Children are an important element in the communities we serve, said Gerald Lemanski, district manager with Baskin-Robbins. "For that reason, we must develop a program to help expand their horizons."

Children participating in the "31-derful Book Program" are asked to stop by their nearest Baskin-Robbins Store and pick up a book list.

After reading one, or all, of these classics, youngsters can visit their neighborhood library to take the 31-question quiz on the back of the list

(one question for each book). After reviewing the quizzes, libraries will award children certificates of appreciation for the number of books read — indicated by the number of questions answered correctly. Certificates will be available to all participating libraries.

The program launches a collaborative effort between Baskin-Robbins and Detroit's many libraries. "We're very excited to be working with libraries all over the tri-county area," said Dorothy Baker, coordinator of Children's Services at the Detroit Public Library. "Baskin-Robbins has put together an excellent program, and we're happy to be involved."

Carole McCollough, coordinator Children and Young Adult Services for the Wayne/Oakland Library Federation, said "Reading is a vital concern for everyone."

"Children especially need to know that there is a whole new world open to them through books."

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