



By Philip H. Power

OBSERVATION POINT

The League's Healthy Influence

The room was hot; the chairs were hard; the hour was late. But the people stayed.

They stayed to listen and ask questions.

And the candidates stayed, too. They didn't dare leave, even though the questions were tough and the listeners pinned some down to bare facts.

A reporter sat in the back of the room, making notes on the candidates' speeches and answers. Later a story would be written so that the entire community might know what was said at the meeting.

It was a Know Your Candidates Meeting, held earlier this fall.

It was sponsored by one of the League of Women Voters chapters in these suburbs.

YEAR IN, YEAR OUT the

league has furnished these communities with more accurate, detailed and useful information on political issues than any other organization I can think of.

On a national level, the league will be working for two years on the linked issues of the environment and population. One of their past projects, on housing, produced recently a well-written, nicely-printed booklet that had more information and analysis of our national housing problem in it than anything else I've seen.

On the state level, the League started last year a two year analysis of the problem of equal opportunity in education, and its study of educational financing helped people throughout the state sort out the issues of prop-

erty tax versus income tax, local support and state funding.

But it's on the local levels where the various League of Women Voters chapters do some of their most important work, in sponsoring Meet Your Candidates Meetings at election time, publishing voters guides containing biographical detail and position statements of the candidates, and engaging in studies on various local problems.

The League doesn't endorse any particular candidates, but it believes that an informed voter is a better voter than an ignorant one — and they do something about it.

IN THIS AREA, for example, the league chapters in Southfield, Plymouth-Northville, Farmington and Livonia all have planned or

have held Meet Your Candidates Meetings. Some chapters will publish voters guides.

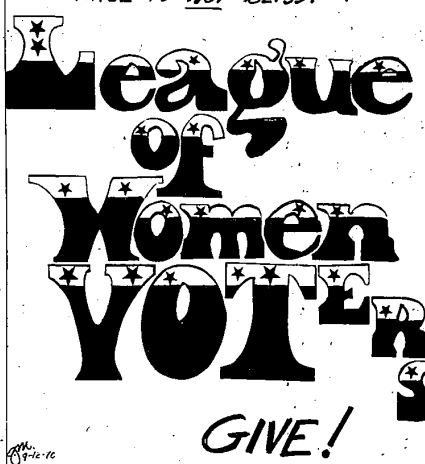
All this activity costs money, and local league chapters are dependent on local contributions to help them continue their good work.

Next week will be League of Women Voters Week in Michigan. And next week the local League chapters in Southfield, Farmington, and Plymouth will start their fund raising drives. The Livonia chapter has already held its drive.

The point of all this is that the League needs the dough. It uses it well. It helps your community. So when a League member asks you for a contribution, why not chip in?

You'll be helping yourself — and your community.

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS!



Jackie Klein

Oakland Vote-Trading Hurts Important Human Programs

Ever since the one-man, one-vote concept of county government was adopted and the 87-member, appointed Oakland County Board of Commissioners became a 27-member elected body, party politics have been playing the role of the villain.

First evidence of the change was during the reorganization process, when Democrats were accused of gerrymandering for party interests. Traditional partisan fissures between Democrats and Republicans was evident, as the new Board prepared for its organizational meeting back in January 1969.

Organizational structure formed along party lines, with Democrats the key people, based on the 15-12 Democrat edge the Board carries.

Commissioners have been split on issues since the bipartisan board was created and political footballs are being kicked

around with extra vigor before the coming election, with each commissioner making a grandstand play.

MEMBERS ARE STILL playing footsie with two controversial issues, and time is running out on one of them:

Members of the Republican caucus refuse to support a \$210,000 clothing allowance for school children of mothers on Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), unless the Democratic caucus agrees to support expansion of the Oakland-Orion Airport.

While party deals are being made, the big deal is that some 9,000 kids in the county won't have school clothes unless the warring factions can work out an arrangement to secure enough votes for the board's Human Resources Committee to bring the issue before the full Board.

Holding up the works is the

fact that Democrats are loath to support the \$4.46 million airport expansion before election and Republicans don't want to be the bad guys, either. The already overburdened taxpayers can think of more important projects, and the airport is on the bottom of their list of priorities.

COMMISSIONERS are running so scared of pre-election public opinion that they're not even setting their own salaries.

Low Politics On The Picket Line

Paul Kadish has hurt himself as a candidate for the State Senate with his latest action: support of striking Schoolcraft College faculty and public criticism of their opponents.

In the first place, under current state law interpretation the strike is an illegal activity. Unless and until that interpretation is overturned, a man seeking to make laws should be more discreet.

SECOND, UNLESS Kadish has some access to actual viewpoint of the administration which others lack, he is obviously taking a public stand without full knowledge of the facts.

A State Senate candidate should be willing to be a representative of all the people of his district. He cannot be if he is not willing to observe the same laws they are supposed to. He cannot if he is willing to make decisions without full facts.

Kadish's stature is tarnished already in the eyes of the liberals

until way after the last vote is tallied.

Last September, Oakland County, the only county in Michigan which supplements funds for recipients of ADC, distributed \$90,000 in cash on a need basis and allotted another \$25,000 in November.

The need is greater this year, but there's one big difference. It's an election year and kids will just have to wait for a few more party caucuses.

who backed his primary campaign, only to learn that he is ambivalent about his own liberalism.

IT'S INTERESTING, too, that Kadish was hosted on the picket line by Larry VanderMolen, a man who shared the same NDC slate with him in the Aug. 4 primary election. VanderMolen sought the Democratic nomination for Wayne County commissioner and lost. Kadish was unopposed.

The Kadish-VanderMolen juxtaposition at Schoolcraft smacks of VanderMolen's touting Kadish to the public from the platform of a supposedly non-partisan labor struggle.

Also interesting is the fact that VanderMolen announced that the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in the 19th District, Fred L. Harris, would appear with Kadish. Harris did not, probably because he recognized the pitfalls.

BY DENNIS FAJOT

Obsolescence Obsolete

Last week's edition of this newspaper carried several stories in the women's section concerning local attitudes toward the new midi skirt look that the fashion designers are trying to promote these days.

The near-unanimous view is that midis are fine for the mid-1930s, but out for the 1970s.

Even women's wear and department store personnel in this area reported little demand for the new midi.

Some of the more cynical members of this newspaper's staff, both male and female, see the midi as just another attempt by the fashion industry to intro-

duce planned obsolescence into design. If the midi takes over, they reason, then women will have to buy a whole new wardrobe — with the fashion industry only profiting.

These cynics are now beginning to have some hope that with the unpopularity of the midi, we may be heading into a time when any skirt length is fashionable.

If that's so, the fashion industry won't be able to change hemlines from year to year, as it used to do, and will have made planned obsolescence obsolete itself.

— The Masked Avenger

Bob McClellan

'The Catcher' Asks Wordly Questions

Country Joe McDonald, a popular singer with the younger set, cries out: "Gimme an F." 400,000 kids roar back: "F."

Yells Joe: "Gimme a U."

The kids shout: "U."

Says Joe: "Gimme a C."

The kids holler: "C."

Then Country Joe asks the kids to give him a you-know-what, and they do, and then he asks them what this four-letter word means, and the kids tell him — loud and clear.

THIS IS WHAT you'll hear today if you listen to a best-selling record of the songs, music and entertainment taped at the highly publicized Woodstock Rock Festival. I've heard the record several times because my 18-year-old son bought a copy of it and regularly plays it around the house.

I let my 12-year-old boy listen to it, too, feeling that if he hasn't already heard the good old English colloquialism for sexual intercourse several times, then he must either be hard of hearing or retarded. Since he is neither, I know the Woodstock record cannot corrupt him.

All of this is prolog to a situation in Garden City where a group of concerned mothers is trying to force the Board of Education to ban from school shelves J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye," a novel that carries a contemporary theme even though it was first published about 19 years ago.

The mothers want the board to take the book off preferred reading lists for ninth-graders in Garden City Schools.

It deals with a 16-year-old boy's search for truth, faith and values in an adult world that seems false and hypocritical to him. In the story, the boy uses base language, mocks the church and encounters a naked prostitute. These three things the mothers object to, believing they offer an unneeded coarseness, an unwanted belief and an unnecessary stimulation to their youngsters.

This despite the book's sensitivity and high regard in international literary circles.

IT WOULD BE SIMPLE for the school board to dismiss these mothers as crackpots — as latter-day Carrie Nations armed with

petitions instead of an ax — and deny their plea out of hand. It would be simple to do this, but it would not lessen the mothers' concern, nor would it persuade them the school board was right.

It would be far wiser if the school board explained to the mothers that it is precisely this sort of reading — "The Catcher in the Rye" — that will make their boys and girls question the world around them and possibly influence them to find the answers and solutions that will make our turbulent earth a safe and humane place to live in.

It would be far wiser if the board pointed out that it is the people with the old ideas, the conventional beliefs the puritanical tenets who let their political leaders lie them into a war in Vietnam, who let their industrialists help largely to defile our water and air, who let one-fifth of our nation go to bed underfed every night.

It would be far wiser if the board told the mothers that their youth will need all the intellectual ammunition they can get to decide if they'll take up dope or stimulate their minds productively, if they'll work in the system or drop out, if they'll strive to reform the establishment or resort to anarchy.

It would be far wiser, too, if the board told the mothers that the mass media and today's practice of telling it like it is have most likely exposed every ninth-grader in the Garden City schools to much more seamy, unconventional facts of life than were ever espoused in Salinger's book. A naked prostitute? Maybe not. A naked boy? Yes.

THE CONCERNED Garden City mothers may not like "The Catcher in the Rye" because it flaunts their cherished beliefs, because it depicts a kid spitting in his elder's eye. But that is what youth must do to keep this world spinning around, what they will do whether the Garden City mothers like it or not.

If you don't believe it, just tune in on the Woodstock record and listen to the kids' response when Country Joe asks for an "F," a "U," a "C," and a you-know-what.

And all of those 400,000 kids can't be bad.

Sense And Nonsense

We're getting far away from the Puritan ethic in the realm of sex, and this may complicate another big moral problem handed down to us by the Puritans. This is what to do with our leisure time. It's immoral, un-Christian and unAmerican to have any time unoccupied.

If you don't believe this, lis-

ten to suburbanites comparing notes on the activities of their husbands and children. Or better still, try reading a book or working a crossword puzzle.

After they start teaching sex in the schools, and it becomes as boring as algebra, we'll have even more leisure time to dispose of.

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