

CAMPAIGN '70: How Tall Are Grassroots?

After the last school board election, a reader suggested that it might be helpful to voters to analyze a political campaign before the election instead of waiting until the votes are counted to analyze the returns.

An attempt will be made but the analysis will be offered within the "boundaries of this column because space elsewhere in today's paper is at a premium because of the need to include voter information.

THIS CAMPAIGN has all the elements of grass roots politics, and a book on this campaign would make interesting reading.

The key elements are: a normally bitter partisan ex-

change between trustee candidates; a write-in candidate seeking a position in the general election he was not seeking in the primary; a "renewal" of the Republican elected overwhelmingly in the primary but hardly embraced by the party regulars; and the normal pre-election charges of slander, etc.

Like most campaigns, the issues have not been clearly debated and have been lost in charges, counter-charges, and personality clashes. Voters who are idealistic enough to hope candidates will offer solutions to problems instead of only exposing problems must be disappointed.

That part of the campaign where issues have been most

clearly debated is in the trustee races. The Democrats and two Republicans seeking the two trustee seats have at least addressed themselves to problems involving roads, drainage, parks, police, and the granddaddy of them all — "priorities."

Primarily, however, the trustee debates devoted more time to slander and charges and defenses and generalities. But sandwiched between the rhetoric, the trustee candidates did manage to find time to discuss a few possible solutions to problems besetting the township.

THE TRUSTEES speeches were confused, however, by attempts by the Democrats to discredit Supervisor Curtis

Hall and similar attempts by the Republicans to discredit Earl Teeples.

Instead of debating each other at all times, efforts were made to attack and defend the outgoing supervisor and supervisor-elect.

Likewise, the issues did not clearly surface in the race for township treasurer. Harris Berger, Democratic challenger, courageously tried to address himself only to the issues facing the treasurer but had difficulty trying to get his opponent to respond.

Thomas Nolan, Republican treasurer candidate, has apparently forgotten which race he is in. After defending Berger's attack on the fulltime question, Nolan jumped into

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

the debate among trustee candidates.

Nolan's campaign, to a great extent, has involved defending Hall and answering criticisms from Democratic challengers on how a trustee ought to legislate. Nolan has been very outspoken on the trustee issues but has spoken little about the treasurer's job.

THE VOTE RESULTS in the supervisor's race will be interesting, but the outcome is entirely predictable. Rebeck has been suffering from delusions of grandeur if he is entertaining any hope of winning.

Regardless of capabilities of the write-in or his opponent, politically it is just too difficult to promote a successful write-in candidate. Just being a write-in places unsurmountable odds against Rebeck.

But Rebeck has more difficulties which cannot entirely be overcome by the endorsement of the township party regulars. First of all, Rebeck is a political neophyte who is completely unknown. There is nothing particularly wrong with being a neophyte, but Rebeck thus far has not established that his "newness" or "youth" can result in a fresh approach to government.

Even so, promoting a write-in candidate is a most difficult task. It is not enough to write a platform but to communicate with all residents regardless of party affiliation or political persuasion.

He has stood on his past record as a police officer which many residents feel is a fine one. Teeples also has stressed he is a 17-year resident of the township with 14 years experience as a township employee working with zoning enforcement, youth, and the drug problem.

ONE SILLY PART of the supervisor's campaign has been the charge by party regulars that Teeples is not a Republican. By definition of the state election laws, Teeples is a Republican because that's what Tuesday's ballot will say. Teeples has declared he is a Republican and has often contributed financially to the GOP. But because he has lent support to Democratic candidates, the GOP regulars say he is actually a Democrat who

only claims to be a Republican.

The truth is that Teeples refuses to be counted among the select party regulars in the township who meet occasionally and dictate which candidates will seek which governmental jobs.

Let's be realistic. If Teeples asked the party regulars for support of his candidacy against Hall in August, he wouldn't have even got inside the door.

The party regulars wanted Hall as supervisor and were annoyed that another Republican, Teeples, would ignore the wishes of the regulars by running against Hall.

Teeples' challenge of Hall rubbed the regulars the wrong way because Hall was the leader, and a good Republican. But the party organization missed the boat in August and discovered there were many Republicans in the township who did not agree with the dictates of the regulars.

TEEPLES was elected Aug. 4 by a 2-1 margin.

The vote included a Democratic cross-over but that cross-over was not the determining factor, and the regulars know it. Republicans elected Teeples in August and are likely to do so Tuesday.

But because Teeples has refused to hold hands with the 18 elected precinct delegates who call the shots for the party organization, he is labeled a Democrat, which is supposed to automatically place his sincerity in question.

After Tuesday, the party regulars may painfully discover how much they have been out of touch with the good Republicans of Farmington Township and may have to take steps to make their organization more representative of the wishes of the people.

Or, after Tuesday, it might be established that this communist does not comprehend the ramifications of the completely unexpected 2-1 victory. Teeples obtained two months ago.

Rebeck cannot be expected to win, but let's hope the division caused by his candidacy will not have any effect on decisions made by township residents voting on annexation.

TEEPLES HAS NOT discussed any real solutions to the campaign.

Much of his campaign effort has been devoted to attacking the present administration. Other efforts have been devoted to defending himself against attacks made by that administration.

Teeples has been honest enough not to attempt to fool voters by writing a platform which didn't say anything. He has been clear in defining some of the problems besetting the township and has publicly stated what he believes his qualifications are to serve as supervisor.

If Teeples had not been attacked so many times during the campaign, he may have had time to respond to issues. Instead, he has been kept busy responding to attacks.

Teeples also has promised to make an honest attempt to meet problems head on and to communicate with all residents regardless of party affiliation or political persuasion.

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Annexation Pros & Cons Summarized At JC Forum

By LIZ WISSMAN

FARMINGTON There were chairs set out for 175 persons, but only 33 were filled at Tuesday night's annexation forum sponsored by the Farmington Jaycees.

It could have been that residents from the south end were down in William Grace School listening to City Manager John Dinan and Mayor Wilbur Brotherton.

Or it could be that most of the residents from the affected annexation area have already made up their minds on how they will vote Tuesday.

SPEAKING IN FAVOR of annexation were City Councilman John Richardson and Walter McCoy, a resident from the south end and co-chairman of Township Area Residents for Annexation.

Speaking against annexation were Fred Fairfield, vice president of the Future Farmington Association (FFA), and Robert McConnell, president of FFA.

The debate was moderated by Farmington District Judge Michael S. Hand.

Because the four debaters packed so many facts into their allotted 10 minutes, no subject was dealt with in depth.

IN HIS STATEMENT, Richardson referred to a pro-

posed annexation budget projection for 1970-71 prepared by City Manager Dinan. It showed the existing general fund at \$294,000 and the proposed fund at \$2,155,000.

In expenditures, public safety was bumped from \$227,140 to \$550,000, public works from \$224,955 to \$550,000 and five debt service capital improvements, ranging from a master drainage plan to park expansion, showing allotments from nothing at present to \$385,000 in the future.

Richardson said, "I still believe a single municipal government can best serve this city. Once the south half is annexed to the city, then the north half can seek annexation as soon as they see how well it works."

TAKING THE OPPOSITE side, McConnell said, "Annexation is not the way to get together. True, the township form of government is out of date but we're looking toward one local commission for township and annexation is not the way."

On roads alone, he said, the township has paved six miles of roads. On zoning, the township has a master plan that goes back to 1959. The density control of the township has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Where is the master plan for the city? Density

could change in the city and cause a change in the school budget for instance.

McConnell continued, "As for police, in the city there are 25 officers for 2½ square miles. They tell us the public safety department will be increased to 36 men."

"At a salary of \$10,000 per year, I estimate that at an extra \$360,000. Even with \$17,000 from the industrial park, the city cannot possibly pay for the addition to the police force."

McCoy was the next to speak for annexation.

He said: "You've heard a lot of talk from the north end about why you should not go in on annexation, but I'm from the south end and I think you should. You hear a lot of talk about SEDVs (state equalized valuation) and I'd like to know where it's coming from. It's only a possibility to annexation is incorporation."

He said: "It can't be done without changing the charter. It has only been changed once and that was 17 years ago."

SPEAKING AGAINST annexation, Fairfield bid hard on the city council's resolution provision for seven councilmen to be written into the city charter.

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Will Decide Tuesday

Continued from Page 1A:

County allocated millage from the present 18 mill (\$15 per \$1,000 valuation) ceiling to an 18 mill limit.

If the county question passes, the ceiling will be frozen at 18 mills and the county tax allocation board eliminated because the question also freezes the split between the participating units of government.

The extra three mills which would result if the proposal passes would be split between local school districts, the Oakland Intermediate School District and the Oakland County government.

If the proposal passes, the township's share of the allocated millage would remain at one mill. A "yes" vote would allow the county to collect an additional three mills and freeze the limit at 18 mills and freeze the allocation.

The three state proposals on the ballot are: Proposition A which provides a bonding program for low-income housing; Proposition B which asks the voting age to be lowered to 18; and Proposition C which seeks the elimination of public aid to private schools.

STATE AND COUNTY races will be decided for county commissioners, state senators and representatives in addition to the state-wide races.

For county commissioner, Delos Hamlin (R-17th District) is running unopposed for the district which includes the City of Farmington and the southern portion of the township.

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Then you'd have a 33 square mile city with the power still in the north end... it's a guessing game as to what form of government you'd have.

The best possibility is annexation — a city that can take care of its problems now — no promises for the future.

"There has been a lot of comment that we in the township will have a new supervisor and some new trustees. Their hands will still be tied by the township form of government. We have to stop gambling on our future and what form of government the new city will take."

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Continued from Page 1A:

Christian Powell (R-18th District) is running against Henry Krolik, Democratic challenger from Birmingham, in the county district which includes the northern portion of Farmington Township.

Rep. Raymond L. Baker (R-Farmington) is facing challenge Leonard Baruch, Democrat from Southfield, in the House of Representatives seat in the 6th District which includes all of the Farmington Area.

The State Senate seat for the 14th District, which includes all of Farmington, is being contested by Republican Carl Pursell of Plymouth and Democrat Paul Kadish of Livonia.

This is the seat which was held by George Kuhn, West Branch Republican, who was beaten in the August party primary.

Congressman Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) is being challenged in the 19th District by Democrat Fred L. Harris, also of Farmington. The 19th U.S. Congressional District includes all of the Farmington Area.

THE ONLY LOCAL candidates up for election Tuesday are Farmington Township positions. City of Farmington officials are elected in spring elections.

For township supervisor, the only name printed on the ballot will be Earl Teeples, the official Republican candidate. Louis Rebeck, also a Republican challenger, Teeples as a write-in candidate.

For township clerk, Floyd

There have been two annexation sites then."

Fairfield also made a point of the north end's state equalized valuation being \$1,500 per person and that in the south end being \$4,000-\$4,100 per person.

He said: "In annexation passes, the city will have \$6 less per person in revenue than it has now. Revenues from state and federal government will now be based on the 1970 census.

He also said: "When I moved out here in 1953 I didn't know there was a north and south. I thought the Civil War was over a long time ago."

"The township has had problems because it was essentially a rural area. Today we're pushing 6,000 people — we're no longer a rural area."

"The only advantage the city has on something like road paving, for instance, is in gas and weight taxes. The property tax in one place there is no advantage."

Cairns is running unopposed after serving for 15 years. The treasurer's race sees Republican challenger from Birmingham, against Democrat Harris Berger.

Two trustees will be elected for four-year terms from a field of four candidates. Trustee candidates are: Earl Crolik, Republican incumbent; L. David Stager, Republican; Dr. Burton Levy, Democrat; and William Hatton, Democrat.

Township voters will also be selecting constables. Four constable positions are available, but only three candidates will appear on the ballot. The Republican constable candidates are Bernard T. Christy Jr., Hessel G. Beaman, and William P. Sonnenberg.

IF THERE IS a 70% voter turnout Tuesday, candidates for supervisor and treasurer will have to obtain between 6,000 and 7,000 votes to win.

Based on a 70% turnout, the winning trustee candidates would have to receive about 3,200 votes. With a 70% turnout, it is conceivable the annexation question could be decided by a 4,000-vote total.

An early indication of how annexation might fare could be obtained by checking the absentee ballot counting board for Hamlin's county district which includes the affected south end.

Rebeck holding telethon

Louis C. Rebeck, Republican write-in candidate for Farmington Township supervisor, announces he will conduct a three-hour telethon on Sunday, Nov. 1.

Rebeck will be answering telephone calls from 5-8 p.m. Sunday at the Republican campaign headquarters located at Grand River and Farmington Rds. in the City of Farmington.

Residents wanting to ask Rebeck questions may call the headquarters for answers. Four phones will be set up to handle incoming calls.

Phone numbers for voters may call to question Rebeck are: 474-4343; 474-4840; 474-4671; and 474-4792.

Our Choice Is Pursell

If Paul Kadish were running in any ordinary race, he'd be a darned good choice for 14th District state senator.

Kadish has campaigned vigorously on the Democratic ticket. He hasn't dodged any of the tough issues, and he has taken progressive stands on school finance, taxation, abortion reform and the rest.

But Kadish isn't in an ordinary race. He's running against Carl Pursell.

PURSELL, A MEMBER of the Wayne County Commission, is one of the most unusual politicians in the region. A Republican, he has shown he can concentrate on a problem and work with all sorts of political forces, especially the apathetic, to seek out solutions.

EDITORIAL

Pursell has kept in touch with local units of government in a way no other politician in this area has, persuading them to cooperate in joint solutions, soliciting their views on county and state problems, getting and giving information. Our communities need that kind of representation in Lansing.

Pursell has done more than vote for good causes or "push" legislation. He has led. He has been a leader on Rouge River pollution control and recreation development. He has been a leader on awakening the region to the need for mass transit. He has been a champion of regional cooperation when others were paying it lip service.

Since his primary victory over incumbent George Kuhn, Pursell has shown some lack of energy in presenting his views and some fuzziness on the anti-parochial Proposal C.

Naturally, we can't endorse every proposal Pursell has made in Wayne County or would make in Lansing. But we are convinced he will continue to devote his energy to solving social problems in a gentlemanly, cooperative manner, and he gets our strong endorsement for the State Senate.

—Observer Newspapers

FFA Denies Aiding Rebeck

FARMINGTON Rumors have been spreading throughout Farmington Township this week that the Future Farmington Association (FFA) is supporting the write-in campaign of Louis Rebeck for township supervisor, reports Robert McConnell, FFA President.

The rumor appears to be unfounded and has been working during the past six weeks solely to defeat annexation."

"As officers of the association," says Robert McConnell, "we reaffirm that the association is non-partisan, supports no candidates in this township election and has been working during the past six weeks solely to defeat annexation."

The FFA position was reaffirmed by Fred Fairfield, FFA vice president, who issued the joint statement with McConnell.

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Urge Defeat Of County Tax

Tuesday's ballot will include an Oakland County proposition urging that the increase in the tax collected by the county and for the freeing of the ceiling at 18 mills and freezing of the allocation.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer urges a "NO" vote on the county proposition because we view it as a stopgap measure which does not accomplish what it should.

Our first objection is: the proposition freezes the allocation to townships in Oakland County at one mill, the rate townships now share.

If a three mill tax hike is to be realized, there little excuse for not raising allocation for townships which certainly need more funds for roads, drainage, police and fire protection, etc.

SECONDLY, no one has offered any substantial information or arguments to convince this newspaper that the extra three mills are needed. Certainly all governmental agencies could use more money but the NEED has not been substantiated.

EDITORIAL

Finally, the proposition is a stopgap measure and has found its way to the ballot only because the State Legislature has failed to meet its responsibility in tackling the two-headed problems of educational and fiscal reform.

We urge defeat of the county proposition and hope our newly elected legislators will see in that defeat another mandate to face the long neglected need for fiscal reform.

THE NEED for educational and fiscal reform has been the key issue in the campaign for the State House of Representatives.

This newspaper hopes our readers will consider these two crucial needs when voting Tuesday for their state representative.

Rep. Raymond L. Baker, the Republican incumbent, has not faced either of these issues with any noticeable courage. We are disappointed in his failure in pushing for educational and fiscal reform.

But Baker's opponent, Democrat Leonard Baruch of Southfield, has not convinced this newspaper he is the obvious choice to represent the Farmington Area.

We have been disappointed in Baker's leadership in Lansing and his lack of communication with Farmington residents. But Baruch's promises only sound good and are not overly convincing.

We do not feel either Baker or Baruch are best qualified for the House and withhold our support from both.

—FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER