



GARY FRINK, 19th District Democratic congressional candidate, greeted Vice President Hubert Humphrey in Southgate Friday morning.

only a few hours after President Johnson announced aerial and naval bombardments of North Vietnam would be halted.

Viet Bombing Halt Rocks Local Race

President Johnson's decision to halt the bombing of North Vietnam not only rocked the world but had political repercussions in the 19th Congressional District Friday.

Democratic Congressional Candidate Gary Frink was elated; Republican incumbent Jack McDonald said he would continue to support the President; Gov. Romney, in a Redford Township appearance, warned voters, "Don't be brainwashed by the bombing halt."

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, in an appearance at the southern Wayne County suburb of Southgate, said he was "very encouraged."

FRINK, who attended the Southgate reception for Humphrey, told The Observer Newspapers by phone, "I think it's a wonderful thing that the President feels there's a good enough chance for serious negotiations to take this step."

"I've been calling for a bombing halt all through my campaign. I'm pleased, encouraged, and glad he did this."

The Pontiac lawyer said he thought the decision would help his campaign, in which he is an underdog against McDonald. Asked about Johnson's willingness to let the National Liberation Front (Viet Cong) take part in the Paris peace talks, Frink called that "the only realistic approach," adding:

"This is no change of policy. The President has said this for months. It doesn't mean that he will recognize them as a government though."

McDONALD, APPEARING at a Republican candidates' brunch in Paul's Restaurant in Redford, said he would support the President in any endeavor to end the war.

McDonald, a freshman Republican in Congress, said he concurred with the President

that the U.S. needs "only one voice at this time" in matters of negotiations with the North Vietnamese.

If the situation changes, however, McDonald said "I'll feel free to make further comments at a later date."

McDonald has followed the lead of Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon in declining to comment on any phase of the negotiations.

ROMNEY, A LIKELY Cabinet member in a Nixon administration, came out swinging: "Don't risk being brainwashed by this bombing halt," he told an audience of 114 at the Friday morning brunch.

He freely used the word "brainwashed," the use of which probably was responsible for destroying his own presidential aspirations last March.

He accused Democratic administrations of saying one thing and doing another in the past.

Romney suggested voters should ask themselves before going to the polls: "Why did he (Johnson) do this just before the election? And are the North Vietnamese trying to influence our election?"

Romney went on: "Do the North Vietnamese think they can do better negotiating with Johnson's pupil (Vice President Humphrey) than with Ike's pupil (Nixon, who was No. 2 man in the Eisenhower administration)?"

"Nixon promises a genuine peace," said the governor.

Romney said he drafted his statement at 4 a.m. Friday in a New York hotel room. He had been in New York as part of his national campaign activity.

HUMPHREY SAID the bombing halt "will help the cause of peace. I fully support this action," he said in an impromptu press conference in Newark before flying to Michigan Thursday night.

His Michigan appearances on Friday were designed to win votes in one of the "swing" states and to help local candidates such as Frink.

Humphrey said he had conferred with Johnson by telephone about 6 p.m. Thursday, a short time before the President went on national television to announce the bombing halt.

Nixon and third party candidate George C. Wallace also learned the decision from Johnson about the same time.

"As the President said, I have taken this action in the hope that it will reduce the killing and that this is going to help the cause of peace," Humphrey said.

WALLACE said in Norfolk, Va.: "I hope and pray" that the bombing halt will bring an early and honorable peace in Southeast Asia.

The former Alabama governor declined to say what effect the bombing halt would have on his campaign, but national wire service writers freely predicted it would help Democrats.

Wallace, however, said he "couldn't care less" whether the bombing halt had that effect because his only concern was an acceptable settlement "so we can bring the American servicemen home."

THE BOMBING HALT was called 50 months and 100,000 missions after President Johnson began the raids in August of 1964 after seven months of a partial halt.

The decision also stops naval and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam effective 8 a.m. Friday, Michigan time.

Johnson indicated the North Vietnamese would offer some concessions but that he had no firm promises.

The President, whose own decision not to seek reelection was influenced by the long and bitter war, warned that the bombing halt alone wouldn't lead to peace, and that the road to a permanent peace may be a long one.

The U.S. will, however, continue its flights of unarmed reconnaissance planes over North Vietnam, although the Hanoi government reportedly wants those stopped, too.

Detroit Does It Big

Suburbs' Mock Elections Small

By TIM RICHARD

North Farmington High School students last week had what seems to be a commonplace experience—a mock election. Actually, North Farmington's experience was unique in the suburbs.

For one thing, the students used the same voting machines their parents will use on Nov. 5. For another, they voted on every single office and ballot proposal—from president to township trustee, from constitutional amendments to daylight saving time.

Elsewhere in Observerland—Livonia, Plymouth, Clarenceville and Redford—stu-

analysis

dents who held mock elections at all voted only for one to three offices.

One had to go to Detroit Public Schools to find a district where, as a matter of policy, students voted for all offices on machines, just as adults do.

Why, when voting is considered so sacred and local offices are taking on increased importance, do so few high schools conduct full-scale mock elections?

The reasons appear to be two: Schools haven't made mock elections a matter of educational routine and policy, and it's more difficult for small suburban municipal governments to arrange such elections.

EVEN NORTH FARMINGTON'S full-dress rehearsal for the future wasn't a matter of school district policy. "There isn't a policy," said Asst. Supt. Marvyn Van Ameyde. "We've always left it up to the individual building principal."

"We feel that to conduct polls for the sake of having polls is an empty exercise. If they (principals) have a desire to have an election as an instructional method, it should be as nearly lifelike as possible," he added.

In part, the holding of such a realistic mock election is due to the closeness of Farmington Township Clerk Floyd Cairns to the high school. "I've done this for years," he said.

Holding the election involved some work and expense for the township clerk. "They wanted to use three voting machines, but I could give them only two," he said. "Then it cost \$3 for a printer pack in the back of each machine; you just wind the crank when you're done voting, and out pop the results."

The results had to be pulled from each machine and the machine re-set for use by the adults on Tuesday.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL did the next most extensive job on a mock election. Students there voted on the presidency, 2nd District congressman and 36th District state representative.

Ray Homer, social studies department chairman, said the ballot was kept short to hold down the use of paper. Another reason was to avoid consuming long periods of classroom time—elections were held in classrooms during the first hour.

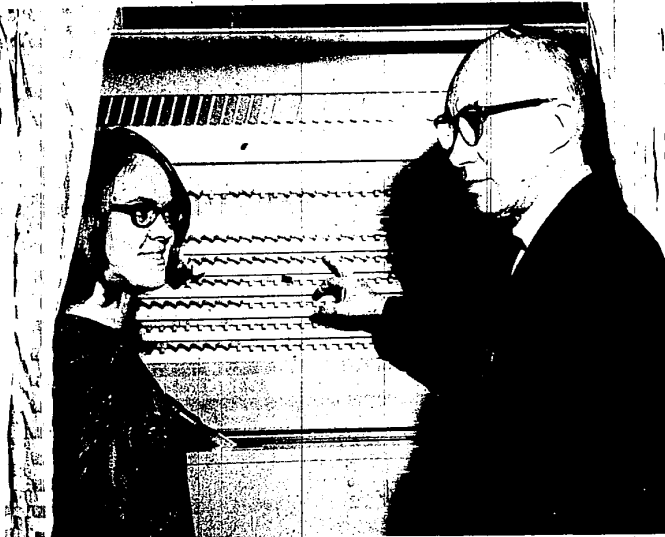
Homer added that he didn't think the students would be familiar with any but well-known candidates. Beyond that, he thought they would tend to vote a straight party ticket or like their parents.

IN DETROIT, they do it up big. Beginning in sixth grade, students are taken to voting machines that are set up in every school building which houses a city precinct. The few schools which don't also double as precincts use paper ballots.

Here, too, students vote on every office and every ballot proposal.

The Detroit mock election is conducted about a week before the general election so that the machines can be cleared and re-set for the adults.

Dr. Carl Byerly, of the Detroit Public Schools Division of Instruction, feels



FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP Clerk Floyd Cairns set up two voting machines in North Farmington High School and teaches senior Linda Oja how to operate it. North Farmington

held the most extensive high school mock election in the area, voting on every office and ballot proposal. (Evert Photo)

that a presidential poll is "mere chaff." He says it's important to teach students that they "have a stake in the lower echelon offices, too."

Some suburban schools give out results of their presidential polls promptly, but Detroit refuses to do this. "It would distort the educational value of the mock election," said Byerly. Results are released only after the Nov. 5 election so that no one can use them as political propaganda.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS use city voting machines for such things as student council elections, but they haven't been made available for mock presidential-state-local elections.

City Clerk Addison Bacon explained the problem of the suburban government. "Detroit has permanent employees in its Election Commission. We don't have that out here."

Thus, where Detroit can set up its machines for students in advance, a smaller government is unable to do so: Bacon said he recommended the establishment of a full-time Election Commission in this year's budget, but it wasn't approved.

Nevertheless, said Bacon, his office has helped Livonia schools set up paper ballots whenever they have requested it, and the voting in student elections helps the youngsters learn how to operate a voting machine.

Livonia schools have a sort of local option policy, leaving it up to individual schools and civics teachers to decide how far they'll go with mock elections.

YET THE ARGUMENTS for extensive mock elections are many.

America's public schools have been criticized by municipal officials for failing to teach enough about local and state govern-

ment, concentrating instead on the federal government.

The fact that so many suburban schools fail to hold full-scale mock elections does not, of course, mean they are failing to do the job of teaching about government at those levels. Mock elections are but one tool in the teaching process.

Yet the need to stress elections below the presidential level is apparent.

Television's impact has been to glorify national ticket personalities and a few glamorous senators. Other congressional, state and local office holders are largely ignored.

Indeed, it can be argued that a high school presidential mock election is nothing but a glorified Nielsen TV poll on the impact of presidential personalities rather than an exercise in the art and science of government.

McDonald Winds Up

Congressman Jack McDonald (R-19th District) spent the final days of his campaign with a series of coffees, speeches, and rallies. Most of McDonald's campaign efforts have been crowded into a three-week period since Congress did not adjourn until October 14.

Local appearances in Observerland during the last four days included introducing Richard Nixon at Roma Hall, a brunch with Gov. Romney in Redford, and speeches at the Livonia Lions Club, Schoolcraft Community College, and Livonia Franklin High School. The latter event was intended

to be a debate, but McDonald's opponent did not show up.

In a statement summing up the campaign, McDonald said, "This has been a rough election. I have had to contend with misrepresented comments by my opponent and erroneous statements concerning my voting record. I have enough confidence in the electorate, however, to feel that we will be returned to Congress to carry on with our efforts to provide new solutions to our nation's problems." He didn't elaborate on which statement of Donald Gary Frink he considered "erroneous."

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