

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

The Church in Politics

Has the church a place in politics? This question, often debated, was courageously raised again by a Farmington minister a few weeks ago at a meeting in his church, at which occurred a discussion of the state amendments voted on in the election last week. With equal courage the pastor quite definitely and emphatically declared that the church has a place in politics and should take an active interest in public matters.

It was courageous of this minister to thus assert his view because it is quite conceivable that there might be some, perhaps many members of his congregation who would disagree with him, who feel that after all the church does the common welfare no good and itself perhaps some harm by such interest and activity, that the function of the church and its ministers is to preach the gospel and confine itself to that.

There is plenty of room for debate here, and a good deal of it has taken place. The question is perhaps clarified by framing another, and upon the answer to the second question can rest the first. If one believes that the church should concern itself entirely with what is termed the soul, with assisting individuals to tread the path of rectitude on earth that they may earn and enjoy the kind of happy hereafter for which all human beings yearn, then the church has no place in politics. There are those, however, who believe that the church has a mission also to perform, in endeavoring to improve things here on earth, even though this involves engaging in the often messy thing called politics, which does not present always the pretty picture that we all might wish it would. Those who hold this view cannot but feel that the church has not merely an interest but more, a genuine duty, to assume its part in the improvement of life through an active interest in practical politics. The last two words might be softened a bit by using the term "public affairs," but there can be no dodging of the issue—participation in practical politics, whether we like it or not, is the one way in which one can help to improve the circumstances of life.

The issue is thus clear between the two schools of thought, and each individual may choose his view as to what church should do. Admittedly this is not all of the problem. For instance, how far should the church go? Should it confine itself to activities in which there are merely principles involved, as in the amendments recently voted upon? Or should it be active also, in the matter of candidates and the platforms on which they stand? If the latter answer is "yes," there are unquestionably grave problems, many pitfalls. Most of them are avoidable by keeping unwaveringly to the policy of illuminating what is being voted on and bringing information, rather than seeking to direct or unduly influence, even slightly, votes. And any suggestion of bias, however infinitesimal, is to be avoided as one would the devil. It is a good rule, for the individual, too.

Recount Rule Unfair to "Losers"

Close contests in both primary and general elections this autumn have served at least one good purpose. They have illuminated a very unsatisfactory and unjust situation in the election law relative to recounts.

Under the present statute, a candidate who is defeated by a close margin and wishes a recount must put up five dollars for each precinct, filing a bond in that amount. If the recount changes the result of the election sufficiently, that is, if enough error is found so that the petitioner becomes victor rather than vanquished, then his money is returned and the recount costs him nothing. If however, this does not occur, and the petitioner remains defeated, he forfeits his five dollars per precinct.

The purpose of requiring five dollars per precinct is apparent and worthy enough. It is to cut down the number of recounts, because of their cost. Of course five dollars per precinct does not cover the expense, because each election official receives that much in most precincts and there are usually at least six. So while the provision does not by any means reimburse the governmental unit for the actual cost it does act as a sort of scarecrow facing defeated candidates. Some sort of discouragement is needed, too, because in times past there have been a number of instances in which disappointed aspirants, whom everyone but themselves would admit were decisively defeated and who had not the proverbial "ghost of a show," would rush in with a demand for a recount. The defeated candidate had nothing to lose, everything to gain, and was kept in the limelight for that much longer. The number of recounts begun, only to be called off in the midst of the work because it was obvious no hope remained, mounted to considerable proportions.

But the rule now in force, however effective it may be in discouraging recounts (and it does prevent a good many), is not the remedy. Rather, it is a distinct unfairness to every candidate who comes close to victory. There is the instance of the Democratic primary contest for register of deeds. The victor received 3,308 votes, while right behind him was a woman who polled 3,303 ballots. Three other candidates received 3,162, 2,597, and 2,456 respectively, making in all 14,877. In a total of nearly 15,000 ballots, the result was determined by only 49 votes.

Naturally, friends of the woman who had lost by a margin of only one-third of one per cent of the total vote, urged her to ask a recount. But there are 107 precincts in Oakland County, and it would have been necessary to put up a bond for \$535. That being a large

sum of money nowadays, it is quite understandable that neither candidate nor loyal friends had that much. So the result stood, although it is ridiculous to assume counting 15,000 votes is less than particularly when one is familiar with boards, particularly in the cities, and you will find that an error of one-third of one per cent is not unusual. In the counting of ballots, with all the legal requirements of throwing out marked ones, inspection by the tallies, and all, it is difficult to believe that errors would average, not one-third of one, but perhaps three or even five per cent. Nevertheless, in the situation above outlined, the woman who lost was put to the burden of depositing \$535 or giving up, and so she had to give up. Now the man who defeated her by so small a margin has won the election, and a job worth \$4,000 a year. He is of course, entitled to it, and no one will begrudge it to him, but perhaps those sealed ballot boxes might have told, if they were opened, a different story.

An error in one vote of every loser by a ballot or two, and unless he had the \$535, there was nothing he could do about it. This is clearly discrimination against the less wealthy candidate for office.

Just how ridiculous a situation is easily shown. A candidate may demand a recount, putting up his five dollars per precinct. The recount may show errors, nay worse, even votes. Yet failing by one ballot, a ranker kind of fraud and error, he would lose both the election and his five dollars per precinct.

It should be quite possible, by drawing a much more equitable law and unwarranted recounts. Such a law as this might be invoked: When in an election contest the difference between the votes received by two candidates is less than one per cent of the total ballots cast, then the defeated candidate may ask a recount without expense to himself. Where, however, the margin is greater than one per cent, the requirement of five dollars per precinct might be retained. This would eliminate most recounts, but discourage those with least reason behind them. Some other figure than one per cent might be fixed as the arbitrary division between the two classes of recount requests, but dividing them into two kinds, those free and those that require bond, would be more just than the present method. In the average election in Oakland County with less than 30,000 votes cast, candidates would have to receive within 300 votes of the

total deposit.

CHURCHES

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Rev. James A. Callaghan, Pastor
Sunday masses at 8:30 a. m. and 11 a. m.
Daily mass at 8:00.

Baptist Church
Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor
Sunday, November 20:
10:10 Prayer Service.
10:30 Thanksgiving message by the Pastor.
11:45 Bible School with classes for all ages.
6:30 Young Peoples Hour.
7:30 Evangelistic service. Sermon theme "Only Trust Him."

Monday night we will have our annual Thanksgiving supper for the entire church.

Methodist Church
Rev. F. C. Johnson, Minister

The annual thank offering service for the Woman's Home Missionary Society will be held next Sunday morning. At this service Mrs. R. D. Hopkins will preach. Everyone is most cordially invited. In the evening Mr. John Kuhlman, a young student preacher, will give the sermon.

Sunday School Young People's Club, and mid-week prayer services will be held at the usual time and place.

West Point Park Presbyterian Church
Rev. Roy J. Miller, Minister

Sunday, November 20:
10:30 Sunday School. Mrs. Robert Fredericks, Supt.

11:30 Founders' Day. Mr. Miller speaks on "What We Can Be Thankful For" to the adult worshippers, and "The Service Club" to the youth.
Thursday, December 1:
8 p. m. The Adult Bible Class business meeting in the church.
Friday, December 2:
Afternoon and evening is given over to the annual Community Club bazaar.

Evangelical Church
H. Niedernhofer, Pastor

9:30 a. m. Service in German.
10:15 a. m. Service in English.
Text: Hebrew 12:18-24. Topic: "What Really Counts." Choir will sing. Mrs. Edgar, organist. Come and attend these services.

11:15 a. m. Sunday School. Eskine W. Evans, Superintendent. Come with your children. Wednesday evening, the District of the Ladies Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. E. Gildemeister. Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. Union Service at the M. E. Church at 10:00 a. m.

Thursday at 8:00 p. m. Rehearsal of the choir.
Saturday 9:00 a. m. Catechetical instruction.

Universalist Church
Dr. Frank D. Adams, Pastor

Sunday, 3 o'clock. Rev. Frank D. Adams will conduct the services.

CLARENCEVILLE
Mrs. Fred Menke

Mrs. Mary E. Lynch and Mr. and Mrs. William Judge of Detroit were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Menke Thursday evening. On Friday Mr. and Mrs. Menke attended an Armistice party at the Veterans Building Detroit.

There will be a Thanksgiving program given by pupils of the school in the assembly room on November 22.

The Garden Club met at the home of Mrs. Karl Ritter on Eight Mile Road Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Stanley O'Neal will entertain the Teachers' Club at their next meeting.

Sea Scout Ship "Typhoon" will give a dance at the Boys' Club of Detroit at 35th Street and Michigan Avenue, on November 26. Several Clarenceville boys are members of this ship.

Melvin Witte, Wayne Wagener, and Fred V. Menke are taking a 10-week officers' training course in Sea Scouting, at the Detroit Naval Armory.

At the special meeting of the Board of Education of Education of the Clarenceville schools, Friday evening it was decided to start running the school bus again December 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nelson are up north on a hunting trip. Mr. and Mrs. William Kilpatrick of Detroit were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Menke on Monday.

Teachers of the Southfield schools and the Clarenceville schools are making a study of reading in their respective schools. They have been given the services of Miss Van Antwerp from the school commissioner's office. The purpose of the study is to formulate a more uniform method in the teaching of reading throughout the schools. At the next meeting of the teachers' club Miss Ruby Munro and Miss Mildred Kercher, under the direction of Miss Van Antwerp, will give demonstration classes in reading.

The club met at the Central school Monday at four. The next meeting will be held December 5.

Edgewood Rebekah Lodge No. 259 will have another of its ten cent suppers next Tuesday. All are welcome. Supper will be served from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock. Mrs. William Morris will be in charge.

Henry Striner, father of Mrs. Jasper Paul of Pearl Street, is injured seriously in an auto accident in Dearborn on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Schweizer are the proud and happy parents of a son, Erwin William, born on Thursday November 10.
Mrs. Fred Prew and Mr. and Mrs. George Hertz and children visited Mrs. Walter Schweizer

on Sunday. On Tuesday Mrs. John Schweizer, Jr. was a caller. Mrs. Walter Schweizer has been ill the past week but is somewhat better. Miss Mildred Kercher and Miss Ruby Monroe spent Friday through Sunday with Miss Monroe's sister in Jackson.
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Cool and baby of LeRoy spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Otis Jensen.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thistle and son Donald of Detroit and niece, Miss Margaret Bramer of Montreal were dinner guests at the Jensen home Thursday.
Mr. and Mrs. Otis Jensen spent Sunday evening with Miss Helen Gray at Northville. Miss Gray, who formerly lived in Clarenceville is feeling very well.

DRAYTON HOLCOMB'S AUTO UPSETS; DAMAGE IS LIGHT

Drayton Holcomb escaped with only a cut on his forehead when his car overturned after running into a ditch on Nine-Mile Road between Maple and Power Avenues at 12:30 Monday morning. The top of the car was smashed in but there was no other serious damage done to it.


WEST FARMINGTON

Mrs. Ervin Knapp 40-74
Starr Heliker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heliker, underwent an operation at Pontiac Tuesday. He is getting along nicely.
Mr. and Mrs. James Heliker gave their daughter Mary Ann a pleasant birthday surprise party on her 18th birthday anniversary Saturday evening. Cards were the diversion of the evening. She received many gifts. Lunch was served.
Miss Ethel Graham spent Thursday in Pontiac.
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Randell and Elva Tolman motored to Ovid Thursday and spent the week end with relatives there.
The willing workers of West Farmington cemetery will have a meeting and supper Thursday December 1. The place will be announced later.
Among some of the hunters to leave for the deer hunting trip this season were Edward Grimmer, Frank Walters, Harvey Bush and Russell and Stewart Coe, who left Saturday morning for the upper Peninsula.

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Residence: Phone 110-2
Cook: 110-2

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Physician and Surgeon
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