

# Wage Freezes Hit Many Schools

**Observer Roundup**

When President Nixon announced his wage-price freezes on Aug. 15, immediate suburban reactions dissolved into widespread confusion as more questions were raised than could be answered.

However, amidst the sound and the fury involving the suspension of pay increases, cost of living wage adjustments, negotiated wage increases, increases in personal and income tax exemptions and standard deductions, education has become a source of concern in Observerland communities.

At the time of the freeze Livonia, Plymouth, Southfield, Farmington, Wayne, Westland, Garden City and Clarenceville were all involved in some type of contract negotiations with their respective school boards.

**THE COST OF** Living Council, which has the final say in the application of the wage-price freeze, says: "If the contract periods started before Aug. 15, the salary increase may be granted. If the contract period starts after Aug. 15, the increase is not allowed."

**2 Colleges Find Pay Is Frozen**

Faculty members from Schoolcraft College and the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College will return to classes this fall under terms of last year's contracts.

As a result of President Nixon's wage-price freeze, Schoolcraft's faculty members returned to campus Monday under their 1970-71 wages.

FACULTY members had negotiated a two-year contract last fall, but since the second year's salary schedule did not take effect until Aug. 23, they were caught in the freeze.

The freeze also caught the college's secretaries in the midst of a strike based on economic demands. Because of the president's economic actions, the secretaries voluntarily agreed to return to work.

Fact-finding sessions on the secretaries' and the administration's positions are continuing.

**THE OCC FACULTY Assn.** was near agreement on a new one-year contract before the freeze. John Homeister, president of the group, said, "We practically had a contract," Homeister said. "We have decided to stop negotiations until after Sept. 1 and hope to have a ratification meeting on Labor Day."

He said there have been no major obstacles at arriving at the new contract although he said the wage freeze could affect the salary schedule.

In Livonia, although the freeze may aid in the reduction of a \$1.4 million deficit, the school district's contract with its 1,800 teachers took effect on Aug. 15. Because the school board does not know if this counts as before or after the Aug. 15 break established by the Cost of Living Council, pay increases are uncertain.

FARMINGTON, also, must set the tax levy by Sept. 1. Officials there feel that the freeze will not significantly reduce expenditures, because once it is lifted, they will have to negotiate a new teachers' contract to cover the whole year.

Teacher pay increases were also frozen in the Wayne-Westland Community schools. Despite the 90-day freeze, Garden City school officials—

are continuing to negotiate their new union contracts.

In Clarenceville, the current teacher contract expires on Aug. 31. Contracts with the bus drivers, custodial and cafeteria workers and secretaries expired Aug. 15. All boards, however, have postponed taking any actions until the decision of the State Legislature on state aid.

**ALSO AFFECTED** by the freeze were the City of Plymouth's water rates. In September, Plymouth will tie in to the Detroit metropolitan water system, a move which will necessitate an increase in water rates. This increase will take place as of Sept. 30, because it has been interpreted as a new product and thus exempt from the freeze.

Last week, striking Consumers Power Co. workers, despite pleas from the firm's headquarters, rejected the company's offer to return to work on wage scales based on their last contract which expired last spring. The strike, which is entering its 12th week, has idled some 200 workers locally.

However, as a direct result of President Nixon's order, secretarial workers from Schoolcraft College voluntarily returned to work ending their strike.

President Nixon has instituted his new policy for 90 days at which time it is expected that a new economic approach will be made. It is thought that at that time some kind of permanent mechanism to restrain inflation and some type of wage-price guidelines will be put into effect.

## GM's answers to your questions about the automobile excise tax.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN HIS ADDRESS ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, RECOMMENDED TO CONGRESS THAT IT REPEAL THE 7% EXCISE TAX ON PASSENGER CARS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15.

### What is the excise tax?

The excise tax on cars is a 7% Federal tax imposed on the wholesale price of the car and is included in the manufacturer's suggested retail price as shown on the price label on the car.

### Who will receive the refund if the excise tax is repealed?

If Congress follows the recommendations of the President, GM will pass along the full amount of the excise tax reduction to purchasers who took delivery of a new General Motors car between August 15 and the date the tax is repealed.

### What will you have to do to collect the refund?

Your dealer will furnish General Motors the names and addresses of purchasers who qualify for the refund. We will then arrange for the refund directly with you.

### Who will pay the refund?

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