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# Lakes Pollution Top Issue--Griffin

By TIM RICHARD  
"We researched it. In 1966 when we first ran, pollution wasn't even an issue. Now it's number one."

U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.) stopped on the bank of the Middle Rouge River in Hines Parkway to talk with Jaycees planning a river cleanup next Saturday. He was on his way to the Art Hogarth back yard in Livonia for a reception for people supporting his probable bid for re-election in 1972.

The two meetings symbolized two key concerns for the No. 2 Republican in the U.S. Senate—his own interest in the health of the Great Lakes and his uphill battle for election to a second term.

"ON MONDAY I'm introducing a bill to reduce the amount of phosphates in detergents to 8.7 per cent," Griffin said as the car headed north on Merriman Road. "The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and HEW say we have to go on having some phosphates because the substitutes can be more harmful to humans than the phosphates. That may be, but we have to reduce the concentration."

He said his bill would require manufacturers to reduce phosphates by 30 to 40 per cent by mid-1972.

Phosphates, Griffin said, stimulate excessive plant growth in lakes. "It's been estimated that phosphates, coupled with other nutrients, have aged Lake Erie 15,000 years in only the last 50 years."

GRiffin pointed to a recent speech that held some hope of federal help for the Middle Rouge:

"Congress will have to provide funds to help cope with the problem of combined sewers." At the present time, many waste treatment facilities simply cannot handle the volume of both sewage and runoff from storms.

"As a result, sewage and storm runoff are often routed around treatment plants and dumped directly into the lake or they back up, overflow and escape into the water."

That is precisely one of the Rouge's problems, Wayne County officials say. Storm runoff and waste water are combined in a single system; during a heavy spring rain, the system backs up, discharging untreated sewage into the Rouge.

A solution for the Rouge is estimated to cost a quarter-billion dollars.

GRiffin HAS other ideas on the Great Lakes problem. "There's not adequate monitoring of pollution—not enough personnel. And we need a Great Lakes water laboratory. The program has been authorized, but it still needs to be funded."

"We need more research on the twin problems of pollution—to halt pollution and to restore what's already dead," a reference again to Lake Erie.

MANY environmentalists see excessive population as one of the key pressures of the ecosystem. Does Griffin have any ideas on halting population growth?

"Population growth is part of it," he answered hesitantly. "But I've seen some recent population trends in the U.S. that looked encouraging, that showed we are moving toward zero population growth."

"I'm not about to advocate enforced sterilization," he added.

As for another pet plan of environmentalists—taxing horsepower to fight air pollution—Griffin had a different approach:

"I do think the auto companies are going to lick the problem. I picked up a plan from Leonard Woodcock (president of the United Auto Workers) to make a limited exception to the anti-trust laws. It would allow them (auto companies) to exchange information and research."

"I got a lot of flak in Congress. Ralph Nader is against. That's too bad."

"I'm discouraged. They're losing sight of the objective—cleaner air. When you try to reach the moon, you don't have a lot of companies competing against each other."

## OU Non-Credit Registration Set Oct. 4

ROCHESTER

The fall term of evening non-credit courses offered by Oakland University's division of continuing education will begin the week of Oct. 4 instead of Sept. 27.

All courses will meet on the scheduled evenings at the scheduled times. Classes will be held on the Oakland University campus.

Registration for courses listed in the continuing education catalog plus many new courses will continue through the first week of classes.

A faculty strike at the university ended last week.



SEN. ROBERT GRIFFIN (glasses) chats with Schoolcraft College student Tom McLellan (left) at a garden party attended by 180 persons Saturday at the Livonia home of Mr. and Mrs. Art Hogarth. (Observer photo)

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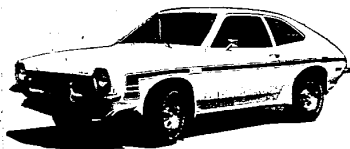


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"The Detroit-Northwest social security office at 17500 Lahser will discontinue the Wednesday evening office hours," announced Sam F. Test, district office manager. "Wednesday, Sept. 28, will be the last night that the office will remain open until 7:30 p.m.," Test added.