

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

The Facts of Life . . .

are a little hard to take at times and yet we must take them if we are to survive.

Next Monday, March 4, the Farmington Community will be faced with one of these important facts of life. We have a choice of meeting it head on or by turning our back. The first represents a constructive and democratic approach to a vital fact of life, while the other is merely a delaying action on a problem which must eventually be solved. A delaying action which will be that much harder to correct in the years ahead.

In case you haven't guessed already, we are referring to the coming special election which has been called by the Farmington School Board for March 4. In this election the people will be asked to decide on whether or not they are willing to provide the necessary facilities and opportunities for the proper education of our youngsters. The question is as simple as that.

We could at this point go into a great deal more detail on the various aspects of the two questions which will appear on the March 4 ballot. However, this hardly seems necessary in view of the wide publicity which has been given to the program by the Citizens' Committee, the various P.T.A. groups, the School Board and The Enterprise. We will withhold editorial comment on the proposed program until this time, in order that as many citizens as possible might obtain the necessary factual background to render a constructive and intelligent decision.

The granting of authorization to expend \$4,000,000 for new school facilities as well as provide additional and continuing funds for operation, is not a matter to be taken lightly, especially when it comes out of your pocket and mine. Yet, how can we honestly ignore the facts of life? We are faced with a problem, which if it is not solved, could have a lasting and detrimental effect on thousands of youngsters. It is our responsibility as citizens to see that this does not happen!

The minute details of the program, the question of a more adequate tax base, the general problems of growth and financing, while vitally important, are secondary to the mute question at hand. We have a job to do and we must do it now. What more valuable contribution can we make to our community and our country than to invest in the education and well being of our future citizens?

The Possible Incorporation . . .

of the City and Township into one municipality has been the subject of conversation between groups and individuals for some time. The latest such discussion took place last Wednesday, when a panel of local officials and citizens probed into the matter at a meeting of the Farmington Exchange Club.

While no definite conclusions were reached, one suggestion was made which we believe deserves serious consideration. The suggestion pertained to the appointment of a joint committee from the City and Township to study the possibilities of incorporation. Such a committee, composed of civic minded citizens, could serve as a nucleus for future planning and information on the subject.

In our opinion, incorporation of the city and township at this time would be premature. However, we believe that as the community continues to grow and develop, incorporation is inevitable. When and how it happens will depend to a large extent on the opinions and attitudes of the people. Incorporation cannot be successful unless and until the majority of the citizens want it, nor can they be expected to want it until they know what it will mean to them. Thus a complete study of the matter by a group of conscientious citizens seems to be a logical step in the right direction.

Such a study should be started now while there is still time to do a thorough job. In the meantime we, as a community, should do everything in our power to strengthen our separate units of government so that when incorporation finally comes, the transition will be that much more orderly and efficient.

According To The Latest . . .

news coming out of Washington, Congress has accepted the President's challenge to hack away at the proposed Federal budget. Up to now the House Appropriations Committee has made a "slight" dent in the original request by cutting 60.8 million dollars from the Interior Department and 80.3 million from three other agencies. Anybody got a dime for a cup of coffee?

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NDV—The controversial "race track rezoning" proposal gained public approval by a slim margin, 38-32, last Monday. The victory for the rezoning proposition paves the way for heavy industrial development and leaves a site also available for a race track at Grand River and Meadowbrook. The successful referendum ends six months of stormy debate over the issue, which was approved by the Township Board in December and petitioned against immediately afterwards.

It was noted by Hesley Bachert, clerk, that over 500 voters casting votes for Township candidates in the Primary election failed to cast their ballots on the rezoning proposition. He assumed they simply failed to notice it on the ballot.

—The Novi News

SOUTHFIELD—Sand removal in the vicinity of Bruce School on Midway at Evergreen is again being protested by residents. Two women appeared before the Southfield Board at its last meeting and complained that in addition to blowing dust, earth removal has resulted in holes filled with water creating a hazard for children of the area.

Supervisor Eugene Sem stated that Michigan law has ruled that "fill is a thing of value and can be mined and sold." The present agreement between excavators and the Township is that removal may not exceed 10 feet in depth and that the area must be back-filled before removal from a second area is started.

It was suggested by two members of the Township Board that the supervisor review the zoning and consider the possibility of denying excavation privileges on a basis of "health, safety and welfare."

—The Four Corners Press

PLYMOUTH—The Good Ship Mayflower which for a year and one-half sailed on these little blue Plymouth Community stamps, is being stamped across local retail store counters will soon come to the end of the voyage.

Directors of the Plymouth Community Stamp Company have voted to suspend operations of its trading stamp venture as of March 16. The board of directors voted to close the company when many member stores decided that there was no longer any need for the stamp plan which year and one-half ago, were in the height of its popularity. Merchants expect to devote their efforts to other types of promotion and incentive plans for a retail store, as soon as the stamp operation ends, it was indicated.

—The Plymouth Mail

BIRMINGHAM—An additional \$430,000 a year should be spent by the Birmingham School District to greatly increase and strengthen its instructional and administrative staff, a 25-member citizens committee on education recommended this week.

This sum would have to be obtained as a specially voted increase from school district elections. It probably will appear on this June's school election ballot.

At a special meeting last week the group's steering committee made public a 182-page report compiled over the past eight months, outlining suggested ways of spending the money. Called for was the increasing of the starting salary of teachers from \$4200, the employing of a new assistant superintendent to have charge of personnel recruitment and administration, appointment of 5 additional assistant school principals, preparation of a teacher recruitment brochure and publication of a procedural manual for employees. Also called for was sabbatical leaves for two or three teachers a year, a program to evaluate system personnel and a considerable additional amount to improve all teachers' salary picture.

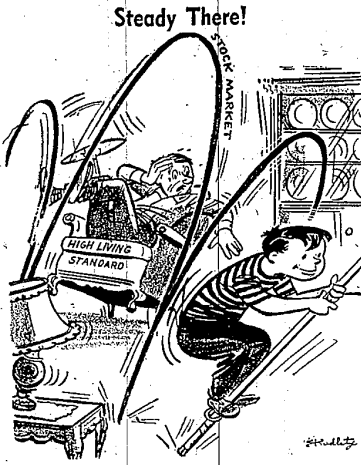
—The Birmingham Eclectic

ROMEO—Petitions seeking reconsideration of a site for the proposed new post office are now being circulated by Dr. John C. Nott, local dentist. Dr. Nott said he initiated the petition action because he believes the proposed site at 119 Church Street would not afford adequate parking facilities. The move came as a surprise to local postal officials and they refused to comment on the action at this time. Dr. Nott stated that he felt that there were numerous other sites than the one selected that would be better for a post office.

—The Romeo Observer Press

ELECTRICAL REPAIRS

Few amateurs are qualified to do a professional job of repairing defective electric cords and appliances. Unless electrical repair work meets professional specifications, the repaired object is generally unsafe to use. This warning comes from the Institute for Safe Living of the American National Liability Insurance Company, which states that defective and unsafe use of electrical equipment is one of the three greatest causes of home fires.



MICHIGAN'S CRIMINAL CODE needs some changes, says the State Corrections Commission. Placing its recommendations before the Legislature last week, the commission suggested that some laws don't provide equitable penalties, others are no longer necessary and at least one needs clarification.

A good example of an outmoded law, the commission points out, is the 100 year old statute against including Indians to violate peace treaties.

Other laws, such as those covering counterfeiting, are no longer needed because federal agencies have assumed control and the prosecution of such offenses.

Laws prescribing "indeterminate sentences" require clarification according to the Corrections Commission report. The intent of an indeterminate sentence is to provide a flexible means of placing a man in prison until he can once again become a useful member of society. Such a sentence may carry a minimum prison term of two years and a maximum of life imprisonment in some cases.

The Michigan Supreme Court interprets indeterminate sentences where a life sentence is the maximum to actually mean life imprisonment. Possible parole hearings are thus held off until an inmate serves at least 10 years even though the sentence "could" be completed in as little as two years.

Some 545 persons are now serving life sentences in Michigan prisons, the report states. At least 102 of them did not actually commit murder. Many were involved in other offenses such as robbery at the time the killing occurred.

State prison population continues to rise steadily the report to the legislature concludes. At the end of 1956 there were 9,827 inmates in state correctional institutions, plus 510 at the Detroit House of Correction. This places prison

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THE TRILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

In measuring the efficiency of an economic system for a nation's people there are two basic questions we should ask: (1) Does it produce adequate goods and services? and (2) Does it equitably distribute its goods and services? Because of the spread of economic education during the past year many people today are aware of the fact that our American private ownership, free enterprise system produces 42 per cent of the wealth of the world although we have only seven per cent of the world's population, only six per cent of the land area and only a proportionately small share of the world's natural resources.

While many Americans are aware of these facts, a far greater number are not; and comparatively few can properly answer our second basic question — does our system equitably distribute its production of wealth? The answer, of course, is: Yes, it does. Its distribution is based on the contribution each citizen makes to the production of goods and services.

Cultivating Distrust
The facts to prove that this is a satisfactory system as an equitable system are not generally known, however; and this lack of understanding permits the Socialist and Communist propaganda and their dupes to sow doubt and in some cases distrust in the minds of millions of Americans. Doubt and distrust, if cultivated by the liars and the dupes, can be converted into hostility, even among otherwise good citizens.

Those who want to uproot our American system seek first to turn our own people against it. It is easier then to get socialistic measures adopted and centralized governmental power so that a few can rule and shape the destiny of our 170 million people. Therefore, let every citizen should know about the American economic system's widespread distribution of wealth, documented facts from the Department of Commerce.

Who Got What?
In the year ending with 1955, the national income in America was \$3 trillion, 780 billion. The wage earners and salaried people got 65 per cent. The self-employed, professional people and small business operators, got the next biggest share, 9 1/2 per cent. Corporations received 7 1/2 per cent (before taxes). The farmer and dairyman who supplied food markets and processing plants with raw foodstuffs received 6 1/2 per cent. Stock-

(Continued on Page 4C)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 25, 1932)
Election Challenged
For the first time in the history of Farmington Township, challenges will be watching the conduct at the polls for the Primary Election to be held March 7. Township Clerk Willard Campbell was notified Thursday in writing by the Taxpayers' Association of Farmington Township that they would have challenges. Floyd Howard was named as challenger for Precinct 1, the Bond School, and Mrs. Eva LaFevre for Precinct 2, at Clarensville. Last year an attempt was made by the Association to have challenges at the voting places but the move was deemed illegal because notice was not given of the challenges nominated at least ten days before the election, as the law requires. Election boards in the districts will be headed by veteran chairman. Walt Eagle is chairman for Precinct 1 and Walter Headleir for Precinct 2.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 27, 1947)
Zoning Ordinance
Announcement was made this week of a public hearing regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance for Farmington Township. The hearing has been called for Saturday, March 8, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, with members of the Zoning Board to be present to explain the ordinance and answer questions. It was pointed out that the proposed zoning ordinance has not been designed to limit or hamper township residents nor to place unwanted and unnecessary restrictions on their property. It is rather to serve as a guide or pattern for township residents, protecting the rights of residents with an eye to both the valuation of their property and their own health and well-being. Other neighboring townships have already passed similar ordinances that are in effect and proving very successful, officials of the Zoning Board stated.

FIVE YEARS AGO (February 28, 1952)
Zoning Administration
A temporary zoning administration was established by action of the Farmington Township Board at its regular meeting held Tuesday evening at the Township Hall. Justice Thomas Tardy was elected temporary zoning inspector by the Board with full power to act under the provisions of the new zoning ordinance. His principal duties will be to review building plans submitted along with applications for a zoning permit, and to conduct building inspections. The Board emphasized that plans for a building need not be complicated or detailed. A sketch of the outside dimensions of the building to be constructed, its location on the lot or property, the size of the lot and the lot number are all that will be required.

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