

Editorial Page

The Controversial Question . . .

of whether or not too much is being spent on the construction of new school buildings was focused on Farmington last week with the release of a citizen's advisory committee report indicating that the District is spending two to three times as much on new classroom units as either Walled Lake or Taylor Township.

The citizen's committee is to be commended for its voluntary effort in connection with the school building problem. The report contains some interesting comparative figures which merit further study and consideration. It is our opinion, however, that the report should be considered as only a starting point. A great deal more research and analysis of the methods which have been employed to build the less expensive schools should be made. The study should also be greatly expanded with cost figures being compared and analyzed in a far larger number of school districts. Included should be not only those districts which are constructing school buildings at less cost but also those which are spending as much or more than the Farmington District. To press for any changes in the Board's present school building program until a more comprehensive study of this nature is completed, would in our opinion, be premature and undesirable.

A realistic comparison can be made in the wide variations which are possible in building costs, by relating the expense of building new schools with those for building a new home. A three bedroom home with 1 1/2 baths can be built for \$12,000, or even less by use of low cost materials, stock fixtures and by using a minimum of accessory items. On the other hand, a house of comparable size with the same number of rooms can cost as much as \$30,000.

Any drastic changes in the design or quality of new schools or additions presently being built in the district, without first having highly justifiable grounds, would be counter to the wishes of the majority of the taxpayers. Less than four months ago the voters overwhelmingly approved a \$4,000,000 bond issue to finance the purchase of new school sites and construct new buildings and additions. How the money was to be spent and the estimated cost of each new unit was clearly outlined prior to the election.

Certainly the Board and the community as a whole can benefit from a continuation of this study. We are faced with the problem of tax dollars on the one hand and the needs and desires of the majority of the citizens on the other. Both must be considered if a realistic conclusion is to be reached.

Every Once In Awhile . . .

strange things take place under the capitol dome down Washington-way. So it was last week when the House Appropriations Committee cut some 7% from the often-labeled "pork barrel" bill which provides funds for public works projects in Congressmen's home districts.

Normally, this is rather sacred ground, not often trespassed by the budget clippers. Fortunately, the barriers have been ripped down. In our opinion, Congressional leaders have two major responsibilities as far as the proposed budget is concerned. One is to insure adequate funds for the proper operation of the government while at the same time insisting upon efficiency and a sound fiscal policy.

This is no easy task, yet it can and must be accomplished. We believe that the House Appropriations Committee, by its action on this bill is meeting its responsibilities.

A Solution . . .

to the critical water problem in the southeast section of Farmington Township is beginning to take shape. One milestone was reached with the appointment of Claude Stevens as financial consultant. Another was reached last week, when the Township Board approved a contract with Pate and Hirn for engineering services in connection with the water project.

There is still a lot of leg work to be done before water comes pouring into the kitchen sink, but a feeling of optimism prevails wherever the subject is discussed. As long as this spirit of determination, coupled with an equal measure of cooperation, continues to exist we have need to doubt the outcome.

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SOUTHFIELD — "Round and round we go" might well be the theme of Southfield's incorporation story. With the passing of the two-year period since Southfield voted to incorporate June 7, 1955, without the acceptance of a charter, it appears that the area must start all over again.

On file in Pontiac waiting for action by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors are two Southfield incorporation petitions. One seeks the incorporation as a city of that part of Southfield south of 13 Mile from Greenfield to Evergreen and south of 12 Mile from Evergreen to Inkster. The others seek incorporation as a village of most of that section north of the first petition's northern boundary to 12 Mile as Westwood Village. The proposed village would be approximately 4 1/2 square miles in size with a population of about 8,000 almost entirely in residential. The second area to the south, with a remainder of 26 square miles of the original 36 square miles, is left to make another attempt to become a city.

It is expected that the boundaries committee of the Board of Supervisors will make its recommendations to the Board on the latter incorporation petition June 24. If the Board sets a date for a vote at that time, it will be an probability by the end of September.

—The Four Corners Press

SOUTH LYON—The Lyon Township Board has voted to accept the entire Salem School District for annexation in a surprise move at the last regular school board meeting held. The Salem Board had been deliberating on the advantages of joining with either the Lyon Township or Northville School District.

Members of the Salem School District had met with both the Lyon Township and Northville School Boards for discussion and had visited school facilities in both areas before deciding.

Salem, with approximately 100 students in its district, operates only one school; a two room school for children from the kindergarten through the 4th grade.

Approval to annex the Salem District was given with the stipulation that the Salem District agree to pay up all outstanding debts for their own district.

—The South Lyon Herald

BIRMINGHAM—Compared to the other four Birmingham School District bond issues, the fifth which was voted on last Monday for \$6,800,000 and approved just squeaked through with only 58 per cent of the total number of voters approving the bond issue. The vote was 2,380 to 1,738 in favor of the issue.

On the four previous bond issues voted on, majorities in favor of them approached the 80 per cent or higher mark.

The \$6.8 million will be used to construct a new junior-senior high school, an elementary school, renovate the Baldwin elementary school and construct a service building in which to house buses and supplies.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

PLYMOUTH—A price of \$46,500 for ten acres of improved land will be paid for a school site in the Fred E. Greenspan Building Company development on action of the Board of Education taken last Monday night. The board authorized the superintendent to have the school attorney draw up an offer of purchase for study at a special meeting.

Also approved by the board was the hiring of Wheeler and Becker, architects, to proceed with plans for a new elementary school. The new school will be a replica of the James Gallimore school which they also designed.

The two conditions of purchase will state that the board will pay cash for that portion of the total price for the land (quoted at \$32,000); the builder will then be asked to sign a performance bond which will guarantee that sewers and water will be brought in and that roads and sidewalks will be laid before the remaining amount is paid.

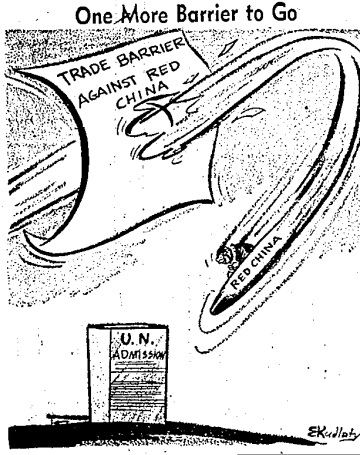
—The Plymouth Mail

NOVI—A possible era of new harmony between Novi Township and Northville may have dawned Monday with Novi's sudden withdrawal of its long-standing suit against Northville's annexation of township acreage. Northville thus gained 82 acres surrounding the Arnerman school.

The suit which has lingered in litigation since shortly after the annexation last August was settled within a two-hour period. The Township Board gave its attorney authorization to withdraw the suit after he had informed them that there was little hope of winning the case. The decision to withdraw the case was stipulated on the agreement that Northville would drop the customary claim to a division of assets on the 82 acres involved. Northville agreed to this provision.

—The Novi News

Shaving was originally a protective measure since long beards were easy for opponents in combat to seize.



MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Second Major Bridge Planned; Will Link U. P. With Canada

MICHIGAN GOT A REMINDER last week that it has another major bridge project on the planning boards.

It won't be quite as long, as high, or as expensive as the Mackinac Straits Bridge, but it will be important.

For years, governors appointed members to the International Bridge Authority, but the work went on quietly until this spring.

The Authority's mission is to build a bridge linking the U.P. Peninsula and Canada, from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

For years, the plans were a toss-up between a bridge and a tunnel.

This spring, the legislature appropriated \$1 to the Authority—a maneuver to link the Authority and its finances directly to state government.

Last week Attorney General Thomas M. Kavanagh ruled that the Authority is "an agent and instrumentality of the state and is acting on behalf of the public."

This added official stature to the Authority and observers predicted the day will soon arrive when the bridge is financed and started.

Only nagging fear—a fear present when the Mackinac Bridge and any other large self-liquidating project is started: that the direct tie with the fortunes of the state will require the state to pay off the bonds if revenues do not.

There are still myriad details to be worked out.

Michigan has cleared the approaches to the bridge, but the Canadian phase of the project is still in negotiations.

MACHINERY DEVICES by state government to keep as many bad drivers off the road as possible has set another record.

During the first five months of 1957, Secretary of State James M. Hare said the licenses of more than 6,000 motorists were revoked or suspended.

More than 3,183 drivers were called in for re-examination of their

driving fitness, another new record. More than 4,400 were sent warning letters.

"This is the first step in slowing down drivers who are headed for trouble," Hare said.

Prisons Are "Harvesting" a crop of more than 600 youths a year.

Young men between 15 and 25 represent 40 per cent of the state's annual prison intake. They were born during the years of World War II and are known as the "War Babies."

The increased number of young people in the prisons is bringing changes.

Prisons being planned for the future feature rehabilitation and vocational training, rather than the sheer detention of a criminal as punishment for his crime.

Work also is progressing on salvaging young men before they reach prison—a program of vocational training in the community on a probationary status.

Judges and penal experts are learning that the troubles of some youths stem directly from their failure to have developed useful pursuits. Making a living, for instance.

The program was pioneered by Robert H. Scott, youth division director for the state department of corrections.

When a judge places a juvenile offender on probation, he is enrolled in PREP (Pioneer Readiness

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COMMUNIST-STYLE DISARMAMENT

President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles are talking again of arranging a disarmament agreement with Soviet Russia. In the light of this development it is well for the people of America—and perhaps some of our leaders—to be reminded of what the founding and leaders of International Communism have written about disarmament and war for the special teaching of each new generation of Communist leaders. Here are a few statements from the basic textbooks of Communism, supplied by the Division of Research for USSR and Eastern Europe, Office of Intelligence Research, Department of State:

From THESE AND RESOLUTIONS, 6th World Congress of the Communist International—Vol. VIII, No. 84, pp. 1505-7: "The disarmament policy of the Soviet government must be utilized for purposes of agitation . . . (1) for recruiting sympathizers for the Soviet Union—the champion of peace and Socialism; (2) for utilizing the results of the Soviet disarmament policy . . . to eradicate all pacifist illusions and to carry on propaganda among the masses in support of the only way toward disarmament and abolition of war, viz, arming of the proletariat, overthrowing the bourgeoisie and establishing the proletarian dictatorship."

"This clearly says that Soviet 'disarmament' talks and agreements must be used merely as maneuvers to help reach the main objective—overthrow of the capitalist nations and establishment of Communist world dictatorship."

A Tactic of Delay STALIN: "We cannot forget the saying of Lenin to the effect that a great deal in the matter of our construction depends on whether we succeed in delaying war with the capitalist countries, which is inevitable but which may be delayed."

(Continued on Page 3B)

The Enterprise Files Looking Back Through

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (June 16, 1932)

Township Valuations Almost overwhelmed by the large volume of protests against valuations, officials of the Township Board of Review have concluded their busiest session in history and will now be occupied for some time by the tardy work of placing figures on the assessment rolls. In spite of two sizeable slashes of the assessment fixed last year by the State Tax Commission, numerous property owners remained unsatisfied. Local officials made two cuts in the total assessed valuation as set by the State of \$8,621,213, bringing the total assessed valuation down to approximately \$6,200,000. The first reduction was made by Supervisor Arthur Coo, totaling about 15 per cent, with the remaining amount of the cut being made by the Board of Review. The reductions were made quite evenly throughout the Township and included all kinds of property. Township officials said.

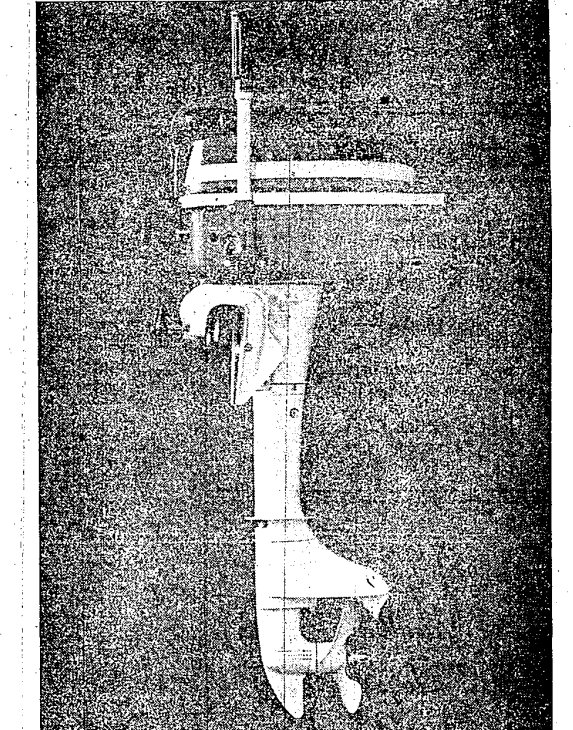
TEN YEARS AGO (June 19, 1947)

Recreation Program A proposition whereby a fulltime recreation program for boys and girls of Farmington Township and City might be provided was brought before the Township Board by Superintendent of Schools O. E. Dunkel Tuesday night. Dunkel requested that a representative from the Township be appointed to meet with representatives from the City and the School Board to work out arrangements for the program. He stated that it might be possible to obtain a recreational director who could be retained as a member of the school faculty during the school year and remain on throughout the summer to direct recreational activities. The details, as well as an estimate of the necessary expenditures to provide such a program, could be worked out by a joint committee, he commented. The Board, told Dunkel they would consider the proposition and advise him of its decision.

FIVE YEARS AGO (June 19, 1952)

City Planning Group Establishment of a planning commission for the City of Farmington received a boost last Monday evening when the members of the Council agreed to prepare a list for such a commission at its next meeting. The Council also directed member James Cavanaugh to make an investigation of the cost of setting up a planning group and to secure further information on its legal powers and authorities. The action followed a discussion on the matter with Thomas Blakeman, head of the Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission.

High School Bond The sale of \$850,000 in bonds to finance the building and equipment of a new Farmington High School was completed last Wednesday evening with the Board accepting the bid of the Braun Bosworth Company. Low bidder of two bids submitted, the average interest rate on the bonds was set at 3.0797 per cent. The bond maturing period is from 1954 to 1968. Modified plans are now being drawn for the new building. Costs were estimated to be too high on the first plan submitted.



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