

## Congressmen Broomfield Levels Attack on Mackie's Road Plans

Congressman William S. Broomfield (R-Oakland County) charged recently that dreams of a south-east Michigan toll road would "turn into a taxpayers' nightmare."

Broomfield said attempts by State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie are "totally unrealistic and in flagrant disregard of the traffic needs to the Detroit Metro-poli-tan area."

Mackie plans to kill the extension of Northwestern Highway to U.S. 23 south of Fenton and wants to swing the highway westward along Eleven Mile instead.

"Mackie's plan would divert Northwestern away from traffic," said Broomfield. "I always thought the purpose of a highway was to carry automobiles, not to build expensive thoroughways away from the major sources of traffic."

Broomfield said a \$750,000 traffic origin and destination survey, conducted jointly by the Federal, State and Wayne County Govern-ments, showed the immediate need for north-south highways to relieve congested Woodward Avenue. "In-stead, Mr. Mackie has decided to use this money to create an east-west highway which won't be needed for a number of years."

"Even though the Federal Govern-ment is paying 50 percent of the bill for these new roads is no reason for Mackie to waste our money," said Broomfield. "Michi-gan is only allowed a certain per-centage of this money for its road needs. Once it is gone, we will have to build our own roads with our own money."

Broomfield said Mackie will at-tempt to revive the idea of a toll road this month. (December)

"I believe that Mackie is forget-ting the basic reasons for toll roads," said Broomfield. "They were an emergency means of financing new highway construc-tion because funds weren't avail-able from other sources."

## Yearly Farmington School District Operation Costs Now Tremendous

The Farmington Public School system is Farmington's biggest business and is continuing to grow by leaps and bounds with no letup in sight.

The yearly operating expenses alone are now tremendous. This is not to mention the large sums of money which have been necessary and will probably con-tinue to be necessary for years to come for the construction of more and more classrooms to keep pace with the rapid population increase in the district.

The Farmington school system's operation budget for this school year alone (1957-58) will run nearly \$2 million. Total operating ex-penditures for the year, as es-timated last month, will be \$1,911,765. This does not include an ad-ditional amount of approximately \$37,620 for capital improvements.

A BREAKDOWN indicates that the major portion of this will go for instruction. A total of \$1,450,275, or 74.7 percent has been earmarked for this phase of opera-tion alone. Another \$89,885 (4.7 percent) will go for administra-tion costs will take an estimated \$221,858 (11.6 percent). The bal-ance is set aside for maintenance, \$20,000 or 1.1 percent, and fixed charges, \$13,735 or .7 percent.

Where does this vast amount of school operation money come from?

The many who have the impres-sion that all of it comes from local taxes are very much misin-formed.

MORE THAN half of the total comes from State and Federal sources in the form of State School Aid Funds, Primary School Inter-est Funds, and special funds for Special Education and Vocational Education.

It is estimated that the school

district will receive \$1,830,640 for operations this year and that of this total \$1,086,325, or 59.3 per-cent, will come from State and Federal sources. Another \$761,056 or 41.15 percent will come from local taxes (both current and delin-quent) with the remaining \$2,478 or .13 percent expected from mis-cellaneous sources.

THESE estimates prove cor-rect, the school system's opera-tion deficit for this year will be nearly \$100,000.

Two reasons accounting for a major portion of this expected deficit were cited. Both resulted in a decrease in the amount of money which the school adminis-trators had expected to receive for operation this year. The county took an additional one-half mill of tax for each \$1,000 equalized valuation and the township, which had not previously taken any tax money for several years, ask for and got .86 percent of a mill for each \$1,000 equalized valuation.

It should be pointed out here that the various school districts in the state have been continuously laboring for a number of years under a hardship of not knowing exactly how much they will have for oper-ating purposes. A Michigan law prohibits the levying of more than 15 mills of tax per \$1,000 of valua-tion on property without the speci-fic permission of the voters in the governmental area where the tax increase is being sought.

SINCE county taxes as well as any township taxes levied come out of this 15 mills, the school dis-tricts do not know until after the tax rates for these two govern-mental bodies have been estab-lished exactly how much they will have to operate with.

Numerous school districts in the state have, in the past few years found it necessary to ask for voted increases to continue the operation of their districts efficiently.

## Seal of Approval 'Must' on Appliances

Look for the seal of approval before buying appliances or other merchandise operated by electric-ity or gas, the Michigan Depart-ment of Health recommended to-day.

The seal is now owned by a private hunting club.

The \$17,000 purchase would be financed by funds received from past sales of Great Lakes bottom lands and earmarked by the legis-lature for the purchase and devel-opment of wildlife habitat to re-place that lost as the result of such sales.

Cooking stoves, space heaters and other gas devices which carry the approval of the American Gas Association can be used with safety, the department added.

## Hope to Buy Frontage On Saginaw Bay

Revenue from the sale of Great Lakes bottom lands will be used by the Conservation Department to purchase more than a mile of Saginaw Bay frontage if the acqui-sition is approved by the Conserva-tion Commission.

Land involved in the proposed purchase adjoins Nyanquing Point wildlife area in Bay county. It has high value as duck marsh and will provide additional public hunt-ing opportunity.

The land is now owned by a private hunting club.

The \$17,000 purchase would be financed by funds received from past sales of Great Lakes bottom lands and earmarked by the legis-lature for the purchase and devel-opment of wildlife habitat to re-place that lost as the result of such sales.

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