

Editorial Page

A Seller . . .

Has a Right to Choose His Buyer. That is the title of an editorial recently published in the Lapeer County Press, which we'd like to reprint:

"Governor Williams has proposed a law making it illegal for a real estate agent to handle a deal in which there is any racial discrimination.

"We admire the governor's liberal attitude toward Negroes, and we share it to a great extent. We liked his championship of an FEPC law, and we were proud that our representative, Lou Cramton, played such a part in its enactment.

"But we come now to a matter of property values, and a man's right to sell to whom he chooses. First of all, let's recognize that most property is sold through real estate agents, so any law that affects this profession affects most buyers and sellers of property.

"We consider it a perfect right of any owner to discriminate in any way he wants to regarding the buyer of his property. If we sell a piece of our farm, we want to be sure the buyer will have an income to complete the payments. That's discrimination of a financial nature. If he's going to be a neighbor, we want to know about his living habits. Maybe he's a wife-beater, a brawler, or maybe he lets his property run down and look crummy. If so, we'll discriminate against him. If he's a member of another race, say a Balinese, or a Negro, or an Indian, and we prefer white neighbors, or believe our present neighbors would, then we're going to discriminate against such a buyer. We're going to protect the value of the rest of our property, and we're going to consider the value of our own neighbors' property.

"Now, suppose a Negro or an Indian or a Mexican came along under those circumstances and there was such a law as the governor proposes. He could cry 'Discrimination' and you'd find yourself without a real estate agent and would have to sell your property by yourself.

"The law is unworkable and certainly unfair to property owners and real estate agents. It invades the sanctity of property rights and the independence of the owner to choose his buyer on any basis he wants to."

Factory Layoffs . . .

are only one part of the business problems in our area, although undoubtedly of major importance.

Take Farmington Township. Most of us know someone who has been laid off recently. But we are doubtful if the total here would make up a very large percentage of the employable people in the township. Most of us still have our jobs. In some cases "take home" pay may be down, but because quite a few of our residents might be called in the middle industrial scale many not only have their jobs but actually higher wages than a year ago.

We have suspected that quite a few people, not knowing exactly what is ahead, have been putting aside some hefty savings. Conversations with bankers the last week have confirmed this. Savings here have increased quite a lot in the last six months.

Business therefore slows for two powerful reasons. It is logical to believe the savers are also hurting our economy—and theirs, too.

Farmington merchants do not appear too pessimistic about the business scene, although they're no Pollyannas, either. One, a photographer, feels his business is a trend indicator. He says he has an increasing number of appointments ahead, that his volume is still increasing. There's still quite a few "sold" signs being put up on homes in the city and township—new and old.

On top of all that—wasn't Sunday a nice day? Almost seems as if spring can't be very far away.

Try to do to others as you would have them do to you, and do not be discouraged if they fall sometimes.—Dickens

The Farmington Enterprise

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PLYMOUTH — City commissioners have turned down Wayne County Board of Taxation's proposed re-assessment. In a surprise move at their last regular meeting commissioners voted to "defer the assessment recommendations and to refer them to the city assessor for further study."

This does not mean that taxes will not go up when property owners get their bills in July, however, it was pointed out.

The chief reason for the change in plans of accepting the County Board of Taxation's assessment was indicated to be the result of sharp protests raised by numerous citizens against the new assessment figures on their properties. The City clerk indicated that his office was flooded with property owners wanting to see what their new assessments would be and in most they complained about after seeing them. "Some found their taxes going up 50 to 100 per cent, even with the proposed reduction in the city tax rates," he commented.

—The Plymouth Mail

NOVI — Willowbrook's long-standing water problem was solved last week as Saturday when a main broke and left some 30 homes without water for nearly 12 hours. Novi filled and Willowbrook's houses hauled water in fire trucks and filled up both tubs to get through the emergency.

The main was blocked off by Sunday morning, restoring service to the homes that as late as Tuesday some homes were still without water, residents reported.

The failure again set Willowbrook residents to muttering about their present water system which they want turned over to the township to operate.

Originally, it was planned that the system would be transferred to the township, but the developer indicated recently that he now intends to keep it as a private system.

—The Novi News

LIVONIA — Voters will be given the chance to express their opinion on a higher school board—advance members instead of five at the same time they will decide on the question of more millage to run the schools with.

On March 17 voters will be asked for: (1) Two and one-half mills for operating; (2) Approval to borrow \$4,400,000 for building and sites; (3) A decision whether to advance members from a third class district with a seven-man board instead of five.

The new request for funds represents a severe cut-back from previous proposals put on the ballot last November and rejected by the voters.

—The Livonian

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — Education study committees were organized at the second meeting of the Bloomfield Hills citizens' advisory group last week. A report from the transportation committee is expected to come in first. Other committees, however, are not expected to have final reports ready for a year.

Other committees include those to study curriculum, educational production regarding gifted child programs and educational materials and counseling. An administrative committee will review finances, salaries, teaching staffs, merit pay, library facilities, physical plants, public relations and lunch programs.

With the cooperation of teachers and the school administration, citizen committee members will explore all phases of the district's operation to suggest ways of improving it. They are doing so at the request of Superintendent Eugene L. Johnson and the board of education, it was pointed out.

SOUTHFIELD — A need in Southfield for long range planning for parks and recreation was the subject of a letter by George W. O'Jibway at the February meeting of the parks and recreation commission. He is land surveyor chairman of the commission.

"In most cities it is now too late to provide areas for large parks that should have been set aside 25 or more years ago," he stated. In an attempt to correct this situation, they have acquired park areas and beaches outside the urban areas, in the manner of Detroit. It is claimed, however, that because of their remoteness persons most in need of these facilities often do not have the means to reach them conveniently.

O'Jibway stated, "If the ultimate population of Southfield City (proposed) is to be 72,000 as estimated then we will need 720 acres of recreational area based on a desirability figure of 10 acres for every 1,000 people. If the concentration of population is condensed to 8,000 per square mile we will need 24 recreational areas for the proposed 21 square mile City of Southfield."

—The Four Corners Press.

THE AMERICAN WAY



A Fraud Exposed

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Politics Forgotten as Group Sets Out to Sell the State

THE POLITICAL HATCHET is buried when Michigan's Industrial Ambassadors sing praises of the state in an effort to interest other manufacturers, both large and small, in settling in Michigan. At a kickoff luncheon which sends some 200 of the state's leading industrial leaders "abroad" the emphasis was on a "unity of spirit." It was pointed out numerous times that what Michigan has to offer is much more important than disagreements within the state regarding the labor climate.

These positive factors were listed as: trained people, clean government, free of graft; one of the best educational systems; in the world, a good and important road system; the long coast line and wonderful supply of fresh water.

It was emphasized repeatedly that all Michigan citizens gain when the state secures a new industry; that everyone should be interested in seeing this accomplished.

MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY is developing as the biggest issue of the 1958 legislative session.

Records show that thousands have been out of work in industry and the pinch of decreased buying power is being felt by businessmen on many streets.

Effect on state government is difficult to assess, because of conflicting claims of rival parties. Republican finance experts are working to develop a policy which makes sense to them; when the people are forced to tighten their belts, state government should be the same.

Senator Elmer R. Porter (R-Blissfield) has charged that too many of Michigan's 30,000 employees are abusing coffee breaks and having breakfast on the job. He says the practice costs the state \$15,000,000 per year. Other

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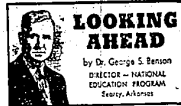
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CLOSED SUNDAYS



LOOKING AHEAD

by Dr. George S. Benson
PRACTICE — COLONIAL
EDUCATION — INDIAN
TEMPLE — ALABAMA

INTERNAL DEFENSE IS VITAL

One of the most important tasks before Congress in the present session is the rebuilding of America's internal defenses against the Communist conspiracy to destroy our nation from within. In two years the U. S. Supreme Court, in 17 final decisions, has almost completely wrecked the carefully constructed legal safeguards against Communist subversion which the Congress had erected after painstaking research and investigation.

Herbert Philbrick, who worked for nine years as a secret FBI counterspy in the Communist underground and who now is the New York Herald Tribune's columnist and authority on Communism, told me a few days ago that the legal arm of the U. S. Government now is practically powerless to set against the Communists, "The Justice Department," he said, "has been forced to virtually halt its operations against the Communist subversives. Each of 17 Supreme Court decisions has been a victory for Communism and a defeat for the United States."

Supreme Court Scuttling The Supreme Court decisions have just about scuttled the Smith Act under which the Justice Department had been prosecuting the Communist conspirators. And the Court also has destroyed the States' power to deal with the Communist subversives. The FBI continues its vital work of checking on the Communist underground apparatus, but with its legal power crushed by the Supreme Court the Justice Department cannot move to neutralize the menace.

The best qualified authorities on the Communist conspiracy believe we are losing in the battle for America which the Reds have been waging for a great many years. Herbert Philbrick, who knows intimately the power, the strategy and the present operations of the Communist conspiracy, says a sly flattery that we are losing the fight. Dr. Fred Schwarz, the noted Australian authority, warns that we are continuing to lose. Robert Morris, counsel for the Senate Internal Security Investigating Committee, says we are losing. Whitaker Chambers is of the same opinion.

A Strange Power In Washington I have talked to some of the best informed persons working to safeguard our nation's internal security. They say there is a force at work in America protecting the subversive activities of the Communists and undermining our internal defensive strength, and that the recent Supreme Court decisions have greatly aided this (Continued on Page 6B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 23, 1933)

Township Election With the largest number of candidates in the field in any election contest in recent years, Farmington Township officials anticipate an exceptionally heavy vote in the March 6 primary. For the first time in many years there will be Democratic ballots waiting for voters at the polls. Notification has been given that a challenger will serve the voting in Precinct Two for this election. The Tax Economy League of Farmington Township has appointed Mrs. Elsie McCullough as the challenger. Thus far no challenger for Precinct One has been named.

Protect Trees Action to preserve beauty along the highways and prevent the cutting down of valuable and beautiful trees in Oakland County has been taken by the County Road Commission. Many of the trees are being destroyed because of the increased need for firewood due to hard times. The Road Commission called attention to a State law which forbids the cutting or harming of these trees. They indicated that an all-out effort will be made to see that this law is strictly enforced.

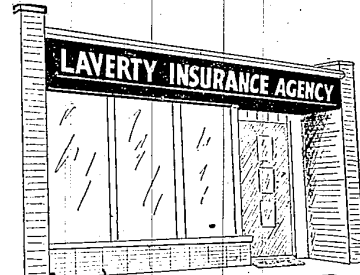
TEN YEARS AGO (February 26, 1948)

Game Turney Farmington will be the scene again this year of the Michigan High School Athletic Association District 20 Basketball Tournament to be held March 4, 5 and 6. Both Class "B" and Class "C" playoffs will be held during the three day tourney. Farmington has been selected as the site for the district tourney for some years because of its fine gymnasium facilities. A total of five Class "B" and four Class "C" teams will participate in this year's tourney here.

New Dog Warden Farmington Township has a new dog warden in the person of Mrs. Margaret Green of the Grand-Ten Veterinary Hospital. All calls concerning stray dogs should be referred to her. Persons wishing to contact her regarding any matters about dogs are asked to call the Farmington Police Department and they will take care to see that the matter is made known to Mrs. Green.

FIVE YEARS AGO (February 26, 1953)

Zoning Changes Two suggested amendments to the Farmington Township zoning ordinance were rescinded by action of the Township Board based on considerable objection to both proposals. One called for rezoning on the south side of Grand River from Heise Street to Middlebelt Road from commercial to light industrial and the other for the rezoning of all the Anhalt Hotel property to commercial. The first proposal was dropped completely while the second was held over with the idea that a new amendment might be drafted which would be satisfactory.



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