

# Editorial Page

## Cost Of Caring

For mentally retarded, insane, and others for whom the state must provide quarters is mounting to such figures that, with the decrease in state income, there is a very grave problem.

We've been told and retold about how we don't care well for our state patients and prisoners. With so much competition for our dollars, there is a limit to what Michigan can do in Michigan or any other state, although the federal government. In the last few months that fact has been brought home forcibly.

Leslie H. Hudson, state representative from Pontiac, with Rep. Waldron and others has introduced House Bill 452 which proposes to close three out of four state sanatoria with a bed capacity of 481, which would still leave 256 beds available for tubercular patients we don't have.

There have been recent attempts at this, but they haven't gotten far. He cites figures to show savings which would accrue. The appropriation request to operate these three TB hospitals for 1958-1959 is \$1,430,413. He says a large portion of this would be saved in the transfer operation of patients, but that in addition to the financial savings, without capital outlay we would make available three modern locations for other needed state service.

Farmington should be concerned with this, for we have the Children's Hospital which is a branch of Lapeer State Home for mentally retarded patients. This was created a couple of years ago as the best temporary answer then to the demands for more beds. It is a nice hospital, it is well run and well staffed.

But it is a very expensive state operation. We have been told on what we consider good authority that it costs \$49 per day per patient to operate the facility here. That's because nearly all children there are crib patients, and because of the high rental. It's a terrific cost, and compares with a reported \$8 or \$10 per day per patient at Lapeer State Home.

Mr. Hudson's bill provides for a legislative study committee to survey and recommend future uses of the three TB hospitals if they should be closed. He suggests priority in the mental health and social welfare fields.

On Jan. 31 this year he says the waiting list for mentally retarded was 872, and number of patients in temporary quarters was 1,008. This is 1,880, but there are 250 beds under construction now at Mt. Pleasant.

Requested in the 1958-59 capital outlay budget for mentally retarded is \$7,889,500, which would provide 1,250 beds and some other facilities.

We'll agree with Mr. Hudson that these figures, and the state's financial picture, demand full use of any possible existing buildings, and a very critical eye on expenditures. In the past we've done without state facilities that were claimed to be needed, and we're very certain we should do that right now also.

## Church Architecture

was discussed recently at a three day national meeting in Detroit of church architects. It was generally agreed that these years are the beginning of a great change in church architecture. They are startlingly different from those being built just a generation ago.

We understand and approve, much of this, for change is progress, and we do have different conditions under which it is desirable to work. We also couldn't help but appreciate a statement by one of the speakers. He said:

"However, in the swift change which religious architecture is undergoing, we shall witness some unhappy structures in which architectural acrobatics will be married to ecclesiastical caprice to produce some unholy children."

We've seen a few of those, too.

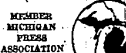
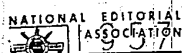
## The Farmington Enterprise

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**What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS**

**SOUTHFIELD** — Members of the Southfield Board of Education learned pleasantly that it will cost them less per square foot to build their proposed addition to the high school than it did to build the original high school five years ago.

When bids were totaled they showed \$38,450 each for construction, plumbing, heating, ventilating and electrical work or a cost of \$11.09 per square foot. The original high school building was put up at a cost of \$16 per square foot.

The high school addition to be paid for out of the \$4 million bond issue passed by voters a year ago will include an addition of 29 classrooms, band room, choral room, doubling of present kitchen and cafeteria space, faculty dining room, auditorium to include a center lounge, storage space, an elevator and conveyor belt and other minor items.

A total of 15 construction bids were received for the general contracting work and ranged within the \$613,230 (low) to \$759,500 (high) bracket.

—The Four Corners Press

**BIRMINGHAM** — City Commissioner Florence Willet, who ran and was elected three years ago on a "housekeeping" platform, took 60 minutes of Monday night's meeting in a final effort to persuade the other six commissioners to take action on the plan.

Purchased almost 30 years ago as part of the three-block Birmingham civic center in the park, it took 60 minutes of Monday night's meeting in a final effort to persuade the other six commissioners to take action on the plan.

Birmingham's downtown green spot has outlived its original landscaping and present design, she said. An adequate and appealing improvement would cost slightly over \$7,000,000.

After much discussion, a vote was taken on a resolution to take a "first bite" at the park improvement project by authorizing the expenditure of \$5,000 for this purpose.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

**WIXOM** — A proposed city charter, which would put the year of its adoption at 1958, will go before voters May 19.

At the same time voters will be asked to elect a mayor and city council members in the year of its adoption.

Most important provisions of the charter include: —An eight-month term of government.

—Primary elections for all city offices rather than direct nomination.

—Machinery for providing a city manager form of government by ordinance rather than by an expensive charter amendment.

—The Novi News

**PLYMOUTH** — Town Hall Tonight — a program to help inform citizens of various issues and candidates — will be resumed next month.

A series of six Town Hall meetings will be held over the years, according to the sponsoring Area Cooperation Group. The first subject to be tackled will be taxes.

The Area Cooperation Group will sponsor the programs but other community groups will be asked to make arrangements and conduct the programs of the Town Hall meetings in the series.

The Kiwanis Club will sponsor the first meeting.

Each of the programs will be judged and a prize presented to the organization conducting the most outstanding program.

Judges will be Dr. Carol Munchow and Dr. Charles Wells, both of the Wayne County Board of Education, and the Chairman and Publisher of The Plymouth Mail.

Two Town Hall meetings were held last year, both conducted by the Area Cooperation Group. One was prior to the local spring election and the other prior to the school board election. Both proved of great interest and value to the audience.

—The Plymouth Mail

**LIVONIA** — Another attempt by the Livonia Board of Education last week to reduce the county's price tag on a nine acre site in the Hawthorne Valley, Nankin Township, for an elementary building, proved this time to be successful.

Ira Hotchkiss, land developer, agreed to reduce the price by \$9,000 plus costs.

A condemnation jury of Wayne County Circuit Court had declared the site to be worth \$76,500 in January.

The School Board Attorney was instructed to negotiate for the site immediately.

—The Livonian

A reliable estimate says the maintenance of records costs business a total of \$12 billion a year — which explains the fast-increasing use of electronic computers and memory machines.

## THE AMERICAN WAY



Watch That Foot In The Door!

## MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

### Need For Economy in State Becomes A 'Political Football'

MICHIGAN'S ECONOMIC STAMINA is being tested by a business setback that both parties agree is gripping the nation, either temporarily or on a long-range basis.

The effect on state government is cumulative. For the second year, Republicans are faced with a need for economy, ranged against demands for expanded services, especially in the fields of higher education and mental health.

"Caucus instructions are to cut the budget. There will be no new taxes. That was the explicit announcement of Senator Frank D. Beadle (R-S. Clair) after a two-hour conference with the Republican majority. The repercussions started immediately.

Democrats charged it was a trial balloon, a frank plea for public support; but there was also the opinion that the GOP is making wise use of the existing situation.

Republicans reason that if the public reaction is against their decision, the party will have a ready-made argument that, despite the anticipated flood of red ink, the public wants services.

"It means that the public will, in effect, be demanding new taxes and we'll have time to pass them," one said.

The final decision can fix state spending on a two-year-old standard with increases only to take care of year-old pay raises, recent promotion adjustments of wage scales and committed buildings.

Another increase will be more than \$19,000,000 poured into state school aid from the general fund — a drain never anticipated.

School aid was handled, until two years ago, by the law turning over two cents of the three-cent on a dollar sales tax to the schools. When the fund ran short, the state made up the difference.

First move to keep the level at \$150 per pupil was to advance payments two years ago. Last year, the answer was the \$25,000,000 cigarette and liquor tax increases. The twin tax boost fell \$9,000,000 short.

That means that the state will have to raise \$6,000,000 to handle current-year payments, then find \$14,000,000 more for the 70,000 new pupils expected next fall.

Republican education anticipates a deficit of some \$10,000,000 — which party hopefuls describe as "manageable."

Republicans said the decision will mean the equivalent of a 10 per cent across-the-board decrease in state services.

Because some items like public welfare cannot be decreased, the decreases will have to be spotted heavier in some agencies. Republicans said the 30,000 state payroll will have to be reduced.

At the 1958 session of the legislature nears the halfway point, the question develops: Is this really a trial balloon, or a policy decision that will stick?

CAMPAINING POLITICIANS must develop strategy to loss a state services. (Continued on Page 3B)

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

By Dr. George S. Benson

EDITOR - NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sherry-Ashmun

**LET'S NOT STAMPEDE**

On any western cattle range the cowboys can tell you that sometimes a very small and insignificant event can cause cattle to stampede. Sometimes a little thing that would not have harmed the cattle catches the eye of one or more, causing them to bolt through the herd and set off the stampede.

If the cattle had reasoning power wouldn't a little investigation of the situation calm them down and prevent the destruction of a stampede? Sometimes reasoning power works and sometimes it doesn't. When a person yells, "Fire!" in a crowded theater or in a street there is a great upheaval and rush of human beings and some get trampled to death.

The stampede psychology needs to be examined today in the light of two recent developments bearing on the welfare and security of American citizens. The Russian satellite, and some Americans in some ways acted like stampeding cattle. And now, to add to the excitement of the panic-stricken, we have what some people are calling "a recession." All kinds of urgent emergency measures are being taken to meet these two developments.

Calm Thinking Needed

Let's not be cattle. Let's not stampede. Let's do a little calm thinking. Unless Communist dictator Khrushchev loses his hard-headed reasoning power he will not strike against the United States while the scales are still tipped against him. The Soviet satellite launching proves that their crash program with missiles and space satellites has achieved notable progress. But this assumption must be weighed against the unquestionable array of facts which show that Soviet production is no match at all for the U.S.A., and never will be so long as we keep our free system and they keep their slave system.

Even if Khrushchev should go berserk and strike at us he could not knock us out with one offensive spurge, however gigantic it might be. And from our ring of bases much closer to Russia than Russia is to us, we could devastate her war-making capability in a short time. Khrushchev knows this. And for a sustained follow-through after the initial spurge Russia couldn't come close to matching America's staying power. Khrushchev also knows this.

Soviets Want Centralization

The Soviet dictators are counting on infiltration, propaganda and the undermining of the strength of nations. (Continued on Page 6B)

## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 2, 1933) Township Taxes

Much to the surprise of all officials, Farmington Township taxes have come in to the extent of over \$3,200 since the State-wide bank holiday started over two weeks ago. The increase pushes the Township total received over the 20 percent mark which is above the percentage collected last year when the taking of taxes was concluded. Farmington city taxes have not come in to the same extent although a check for \$3,534 received from Detroit Edison Company will be a big asset to School District No. 5. It will not benefit the city, however, as it does not include any city tax payment. To date the treasurer reports that a 30 percent collection of city taxes has been made and a 33 percent collection of School District No. 5 taxes.

TEN YEARS AGO (March 4, 1948) School Site

Purchase of a new school site for the proposed Noble-William Grace area school on Middlebelt Road at Ten Mile was announced this week by the Board of Education. The new site, which has been under consideration for several months, consists of 10 acres and was purchased at a cost of \$8,400. The parcel will take care of the proposed Noble-William Grace area school plus ample playground space and allow for future expansion when necessary. Plans call for the construction of a one-story, five classroom building on the site. This is the first actual step in the program to add three new school units to the Farmington Township School District since the sale of \$300,000 worth of bonds several weeks ago.

FIVE YEARS AGO (March 5, 1953) Parking Problem

Off street parking will be given top priority by the Farmington City Planning Commission, it was announced at the second meeting of the group to be held. A traffic and parking committee will be one of the four committees to be organized by the Commission this far. The traffic and parking committee will be headed by James Cavanaugh with V. O. Bates and Frank Nicholls as members. A land use committee will be composed of Bayard Tupper, chairman, James Tennant and James Tagg. Making up a government cooperation committee will be V. O. Bates, chairman, James Tennant and Frank Nicholls. The city development committee will be headed by James Cavanaugh with Toy Fendt as a member.

Fire Discussion

A meeting of the three Farmington Township fire chiefs will be held this week to discuss the establishment of a fire district for the new Clarenceville Fire Station. Recommendations will be made to be submitted to the Township Board for its consideration.



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