

Editorial Page

Our Economic Climate . . .

is supposed to be much more stable now, and it's true it has many important built-in stabilizers, such as unemployment compensation. One great weakness which can't be legislated away, however, is a tendency of the public to sit tight and not spend money it has when things look a bit uncertain.

So, it's doubly bad that our current slowdown has developed into a political hassle, with Democrats tearing down public confidence by crying alarms. Most people recognize statements made for political effect only, and resent the implication they are so dumb as to believe them.

Some of today's pessimists should be measured by their own words. Let's recall that in 1949 and 1950 an economic recession hit a depth of 7.6 per cent unemployment. Here's what several personalities had to say then and now:

Harry Truman (Feb. 15, 1950): A certain amount of unemployment, say from three to five millions, is supportable. It is a good thing that job-seeking should go on at all times; this is healthy for the economic body.

Harry Truman (Feb. 10, 1958): There are those who have been saying that a little recession is a good thing for the health of our economy. They would like you to believe that a temporary curb of prosperity is the way to halt runaway inflation. This kind of thinking is like believing a little bit of war might be beneficial.

Senator Humphrey (Feb. 14, 1950): Yes, indeed, the State of the Union is good. The record and the evidence is overwhelming to support the President's conclusions. Despite the unemployment, economic activity was high and profitable.

Senator Humphrey (Feb. 10, 1958): The President's budget completely ignores the fact of an existing recession. The administration's budget, high credit and high interest policies have brought the economy to a standstill and threaten to throw it into a depression.

Senator Kefauver (Jan. 30, 1950): And while one can foresee the terrible consequences of another depression, we must not permit a slight decline in economic activity to throw us into a panic.

Senator Kefauver (Nov. 2, 1957): The nation's economy is sagging and sorely needs the invigorating stimulus which a price reduction in its basic materials industry would provide . . . production in many industries is falling off.

No one is so foolish as to not know that slow business has brought many problems. But it would be extremely foolish today not to question who says what, and for what reasons.

Chest X-Rays . . .

are available in Farmington through this week, with the mobile unit located at the Township hall yet this Thursday and Friday. Later it will return to the township, at Dunckel Junior High March 24, 25 and 26.

Township and city residents are reminded that all persons over 18 years are eligible to free x-rays, and it is in their own interests to get them.

It's true that tuberculosis is on the run, and need for TB hospitals is declining. But cases do still develop and if not caught early enough can be very bad, and also infect others. It takes only a couple of minutes to be checked.

The Voting Privilege . . .

is used by so small a percentage of eligible citizens that one sometimes gets weary of urging its use. It's something like urging auto drivers to be more careful. Those who read the warnings usually don't need them; those who won't read are the ones who have the accidents.

If you hear anyone griping about school conditions for awhile now, just ask him if he voted this week.

The experience of a century and a half has demonstrated that our system of free government functions best when the maximum degree of information is made available to our people. In fact, free and candid discussion of vexing problems is the bedrock of democracy and it may be our surest safeguard for peace.

—Brien McMahon

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

SOUTHFIELD — A public hearing on the township's plan to amend the zoning ordinance to provide and regulate green belts and buffer strips was held last week.

Buffer strips between commercial and industrial and residential areas have been prescribed in the past but no rules regarding what was to be planted were laid down. Under the proposed rules, a buffer strip or green belt, when required by ordinance, shall be installed within six months after occupancy or use and must be at least seven feet deep. Planting stock and location are described in detail under the proposal. It stipulates that use of certain softwood trees shall be definitely forbidden in off-street parking areas.

—The Four Corners Press

NOVI — While the state was studying an expressway sign program this week, Novi township was having its own trouble with billboards on the superhighway.

A handful of Novi businessmen have indicated that they want the township to relax its ordinance prohibiting advertising signs along the Farmington-Bridges expressway. Several have already erected signs in violation of the ordinance. The ordinance limits signs to commercial districts. Since only a small portion of Novi township is zoned commercial, this will effect limits signs anywhere along the route.

Merchants expressed the feeling that they need signs to attract at least some of the business which they have lost (as a result of the expressway) into the Novi business district.

Supervisor Frazer Staman spoke out against the signs, however, saying that the ordinance was designed to keep the expressway uncluttered.

"Instead of a hedge - podge of signs," he said, "we should put up a master sign at the ramps, with the recommendations. All businessmen could advertise and yet there would be control. A driver isn't apt to pay attention to a sign in the middle of the expressway going at 60 miles - per - hour anyway."

He also suggested putting lights along crossovers to help attract attention to the various commercial areas.

—The Novi News

BIRMINGHAM — Crime was on the increase in Birmingham last year, according to a detailed annual report released by Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

37 - man local police force's activities were at an all-time high in 1957, Moxley's report said.

Though juvenile arrest rose approximately 25 per cent, Moxley explained that out-of-town juveniles were responsible for the increase. He said out-of-town juvenile arrests rose over 100 per cent while arrests of local juveniles for criminal offenses dropped 10 per cent last year.

Major crimes increased 17 per cent over 1956, the report revealed. A 50 per cent increase in the number of reports of rape, robbery, burglary and larceny (under \$50).

Compared to none in 1956, two criminal homicides occurred in the city in '57.

An interesting sidelight revealed in the report was the fact that of the 9,319 complaints received by the police, 1,176 involved dogs and cats.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

LIVONIA — Schoolcraft Road is planned as a depressed, high-speed superhighway, to be in use within the next ten years.

The right-of-way would be a 250 foot strip starting at the midpoint between the dividing lanes and extending south. It would be a limited access state highway to link the west (Ann Arbor) with the metropolitan area.

The north lane of Schoolcraft would remain as a service street. Middlebelt Road is on the planning chart as a north-south expressway.

All of this was covered at a special study meeting of the Livonia Planning Commission at which the south advice as to what restrictions could be made now and where to prevent the proposed superhighway land from being built - up before the roads come in.

Questioned at the special meeting were Paul M. Reid and Bernard Schroll of the Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission, and Howard Beck of the State Highway Department and Mr. LaGosh of the Wayne County Road Commission.

—The Livonian

BLOOMFIELD — A taxpayers' protest group held a mass meeting last Thursday at Bloomfield High to protest the 1958 reassessment of property in Bloomfield township. The temporary chairman of the protest group stated that although the assessments were supposed to be 25 per cent of the resale value of the property, some ran 50 or even 100 per cent.

Protest petitions were circulated at the meeting.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

The Easter Seal Society treats crippled children regardless of race, religion or cause of crippling. It is the oldest and largest voluntary agency serving the crippled.

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Elections Some Months Off But Campaigns Already Underway

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS already have started for Michigan Republicans and Democrats.

They will grow with the issues already enunciated in a crescendo that will reach its peak eight months in the future - on a November day when the citizens go to the polls.

Republicans, choosing their issues with care, have selected UAW President Walter P. Reuther and his ambitions in government; and Gov. Williams' tax proposals for their Michigan campaign.

They make it plain that they understand the laboring man's problems and hope for support from union members. But they picture Reuther as a political boss in search of more and more power.

Two of Williams' appointees to state jobs were elected by the Republican-dominated Senate because they were UAW leaders and Reuther supporters before they were appointed.

Democrats are charging "guilt by association." Reuther's aides claim he has little interest in state politics, preferring to spend his time on what is good for the UAW on a national scale.

Williams' tax ideas make good ground.

For nine years he advocated a tax on corporation profits, but the recommendation was conspicuous by its absence in 1958.

His opponents will argue that Williams' attitudes in taxes and other issues affecting business and industry have created an "atmosphere" where the employer feels he will not get a fair shake in new issues which might develop.

But Democrats can be expected to point out that tax programs which were passed, were passed by Republicans; that the business receipts tax, which became law without the governor's signature, is really a less desirable tax than one on corporation profits.

Republicans will charge, but Democrats are fighting Michigan's political battle with national issues. They have little choice in the absence of opposition candidates.

They will charge that the Eisenhower administration has fallen in to an economic recession; that it is nationally and that only Democrats hold hope for the working man in Michigan.

Democrats will also use this (Continued on Page 5B)

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LOOKING AHEAD

Note: Dr. J. D. Bales, of the Bible faculty of Harding College, is on a world lecture tour. A recognized authority on Communism, Dr. Bales has traveled and studied extensively gathering material for a book on the subject. He has written one from Honolulu en route to Formosa—as follows:

—G.S.B.

HONOLULU, T. H. — Whether viewed from the air or on the island of Oahu, where Honolulu is located, is an island of beauty. Its sandy beaches, the changing coloration of the water, the many different kinds of birds and its tropical plants and trees all help it earn its name as Paradise of the Pacific. My reception here has been good. At two civic clubs where I spoke on Communism people came to tell me that they knew of the work of Harding College and that the films "The American Adventure" series have been very popular over here.

There is, however, a cancerous growth in this Territory, the cancer of Communism. In spite of the fact that the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants are loyal Americans, a mere handful of men, strategically situated in Harry Bridges' International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, and the United Public Workers' Union, exercise powerful influence in this crossroads of the Pacific—so strategic to defense of the U.S.A.

The U. S. Senate Internal Security Sub - Committee, after a series of hearings here, observed that 50 identified Communists, because of their positions of leadership in these two unions, have an influence far beyond their actual numbers.

When the CIO executive board expelled the ILWU it said: "The ILWU has consistently and without a single deviation followed the sharp turns and swerves of the Communist Party line and has sacrificed the economic and social interests of its membership to that line."

The majority of ILWU and UPWU members know little or nothing of the ideological struggle going on, but evidently they feel some sense of gratitude to such union leaders as Harry Bridges and Jack Hall, or they are simply not interested in what is going on - for otherwise they would not submit to the leadership of these two men. Bridges has been saved from deportation by the U. S. Supreme Court basing its decision on the flimsiest of technicalities. His poster here, many people feel, dangerously weakens America.

As Leverett A. Chapin pointed out in a current series in the "Hion" (Continued on Page 4B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

Widen Grand River. Preparations for widening Grand River Avenue in Farmington City west to the city limits will soon be underway. The city commission on Monday evening passed a resolution approving plans outlined by Grover C. Dillman, State Highway Commissioner, whereby the avenue would be widened to 50 feet for a short distance west from Farmington Road, to 45 feet for another short distance and thence 40 feet wide to the western city limit. The resolution giving city approval to the project has now been forwarded to the highway department with the recommendation made that the highway department press for the early awarding of contracts. It is possible before the end of the month, several trees along the north side of Grand River in front of the Town Hall will have to be cut down, it was indicated. The city will pay all of the cost for the paving up to 40 feet wide and the state will stand the cost of the remaining width.

TEN YEARS AGO (March 11, 1948)
School in City
Frank Labadie, President of the Farmington School District Board of Education appeared before the City Commission Wednesday night and showed blueprints of the new grade school building proposed to be built on Ten Mile in the city. Future plans for building on this site were also outlined. It was agreed that the city and school engineer should get together to go over the plans to determine the best means of providing sewage and water facilities to the school site. The property is located in an undeveloped section of the city.

Recreation Commission
Election of officers and the establishment of purposes of the organization were the main business at the third meeting of the newly formed Farmington Area Recreation Commission. Dr. M. E. Whitehead will serve as president and James Tagg as vice-president. Ernest Blanchard, township supervisor, will act as treasurer and Byron Oliver as secretary.

FIVE YEARS AGO (March 12, 1953)
Zoning Change
The Farmington Township Board, at its regular meeting Tuesday evening, approved a motion to recommend to the Zoning Commission that the area on the west side of St. Francis Street from the alley north to Byron be changed from residential to commercial. Plans are to establish a public parking lot in the area for the convenience of customers and merchants in the area, it was indicated. Requesting the zoning change was Maxwell Smith, owner of the Maxwell Smith Drug Store on St. Francis and P. R. DeLuvin of 27228 Grand River.

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