

Editorial Page

The Right to Know . . .

bill now before the House of the state legislature was delayed several days this week, but was to have been brought up again for consideration Wednesday. The Senate has already approved the bill, which calls for open meetings of state and local governmental bodies.

Reason for the delay in the House was that one representative declared public meetings of House and Senate appropriating committees would cost taxpayers a lot of money because if they had to decide appropriations in public they'd be exposed to pressure so strong they'd be too liberal with appropriations.

As it is now, hearings on the financial needs of various state bodies are held in public, but decisions are made in secret.

There are always a few in government, local, state or national, who don't want to perform their duties in public. Either they feel the public doesn't know enough about government or they want to run public affairs their own way, with no critics. Sometimes they are sincere.

Most elected officials realize this is not in the public interest, and are critical of this practice. Let's point out here the real meaning of "freedom of the press." It isn't freedom FOR the press, it's the right of the press to attend these meetings and report them fully so that the public may know what is going on without having to attend every meeting individually. It's too bad the term "freedom of the press" was ever used, the "public right to know" is most accurate.

We doubt very much that state expenditures would be increased a nickel. In fact, they might be cut because it would be a little more difficult for log-rolling tactics, where one legislator says he'll vote for your project if you vote for his.

So, if this bill happens to get passed this week or next by our legislators, don't think it's something just to benefit newspapers. It's for you, and in your interest almost entirely.

The Kohler Strike . . .

Investigation has proved to be a big fizzle, so far as uncovering anything that was not already known. We believe it was a mistake in the first place, and that the senate rackets probes might better be spending their time on something else.

Announced reason for the probe was to uncover reasons for violence, to see if laws could be passed which would minimize violence in the future. It doesn't appear much has been accomplished on this score. We think weight of public opinion over the country indicates need for some corrective measures, but again the Kohler investigation isn't helping any thinking which would bring anything constructive.

On the other hand, the rackets committee has gotten into such a bitter political fight that feelings generated will probably hinder any constructive laws which might have resulted.

To both the Republican and Democratic senators involved, we say—a plague on both your houses!

The Statement . . .

was made in The Detroit News Sunday that a program showing a delicate surgical operation would be watched by 1,500,000 persons on television.

Such statements that so many persons will be watching a certain television program always irk us. Television operators use quite a few different methods to try to gauge listenership, but they are estimates based on elaborate formulas which are even questioned by the survey people themselves.

Where were you Tuesday night between 10 and 11 p.m.? If you did happen to be watching TV, were you watching the right channel, or perhaps one of the other three channels?

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The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

WESTWOOD VILLAGE

Flat-broke Westwood Village was assured financial relief last Tuesday when the Southfield Township Board and Westwood Village Council agreed on a resolution determining the population ratio existing between the two communities.

Westwood's share of sales tax, weight tax and intangible tax money due from the state treasury will, it was estimated, amount to approximately \$50,000.

Had there not been an agreement on population figures as they exist today it would have been necessary to petition for a referendum. The population of Southfield including Westwood was determined to be 33,344, as of February 3 when the village was incorporated. 81 per cent of Westwood's population was determined to be 8,390 the ratio was thus set at 23.6 percent for the new village. This was increased to 22 percent later, however, because of the fact that shares of Southfield Township's total must also go to Franklin and Bingham Farms.

In arriving at the ratio figure, it was agreed that Westwood had 2,432 homes as against 9,728 for the present unincorporated portion of Southfield Township.

Now in temporary financial straits necessitating the borrowing of operating money by village officials on a personal loan basis, Westwood expects a check in early May for money due from first quarter state tax receipts. Much of it will likely have to go to Southfield. When the consumer run up during the organizational period, however, it was indicated.

The Four Corners Press

NOVI — Last summer, Novi was plagued by repeated troubles with young toughs, most of whom came from Detroit. During one week in August, ranging from the brutal beating of a young man along 10 Mile to drunk driving of teenagers down Grand River.

This year, police hope to be prepared with a stiff ordinance giving them power to arrest trouble making teenagers before they can start anything. Chief of Police William DeGoole, the Township Board is now considering an ordinance that would set a curfew on youths under 17 and make their parents responsible for it.

Under the terms of the ordinance, no child under 12 will be allowed on the streets between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and no person under 12 will be allowed on streets between 12 midnight and 6 a.m. It also spells out that any person helping a youth violate the curfew is in violation of an ordinance violation and that ignorance of the whereabouts of a youth will not be excused.

The ordinance stipulated for violation of the ordinance is a fine of \$100, 90 days in jail, or both.

—The Novi News

BIRMINGHAM

Separate suits totaling \$50,000 were filed against the City of Birmingham in Pontiac last week by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Cecil of 1145 Pilgrim.

Mrs. Cecil seeks \$40,000 for alleged permanent injuries suffered when an improperly replaced cover over a hole leading to a sprinkling system controls at the city-owned Springdale Golf course) tipped when she stepped on it, resulting in her falling.

Her husband, a real estate broker, is seeking an additional \$20,000 for medical and household expenses incurred as a result of his wife's injuries.

Negligence in placing the cover or in maintenance of his base is charged.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

LIVONIA

Unemployment in Livonia was brought to the attention of the City Council Monday night by Councilman Peter Ventura. A resolution setting up a committee to study unemployment in the area to ascertain the approximate number of people who are out of work was quickly passed.

The Federal government is trying to pass a bill that would release funds for public works projects to local areas in distress, Ventura said. "How can we call this a distress area if we don't even know the number of unemployed in our city?"

The federal money would be used on local projects to create jobs for Livonia citizens suffering from the economic "recession" which has already idled more than 5 million in the United States.

—The Livonian

PLYMOUTH — A proposal to operate the Plymouth Community School District's classrooms on a year-around basis in order to get more use out of existing facilities is now being talked about by some citizens and the board of education. The formal study has not yet started it was indicated but it was felt that the fact that some thought was being given to it and would be brought to the attention of residents in order to get their reactions.

—The Plymouth Mail

THE AMERICAN WAY



Too High For Safety

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Feels Automation Good If Prices Reduced Accordingly

IF LONG RANGE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS are to be solved with least hardship, it will take some real statesmanship on the part of industry and labor, said Sen. Robert E. Faulkner (R-Berrien). He was referring to problems caused by increased automation. The senator remarked that it was all right to point to the great number of jobs caused by mechanization in the industrial revolution. "This is true," he stated. "But, there is at least one important difference between the economy of then and at present."

Sizeable price reductions resulted for the purchaser when the first machines boosted production, he pointed out. When the consumer receives part of the value of automation, it's good for the economy. He continued, because he then has more to spend for other things.

Recent automation, Sen. Faulkner reminded, had resulted in no such benefit to the consumer. In fact, prices have increased.

The problem today, the senator indicated, is to pass some of the saving resulting from automation on to the consumer. If labor or industry, or both together try to keep all the benefit for themselves, the result can only mean fewer jobs and higher prices.

While the senator was not optimistic that labor and industry will act now with the long range gain as an aim, he feels sure that there is no other sound and permanent solution.

JOB OPENINGS FOR 2,000 MORE qualified people will open up, in September and 11,000 more positions now occupied should be filled with better-trained personnel.

These job openings are for school teachers.

Michigan's growing birthrate, though it has many economic and social advantages, causes a relentless problem for educators.

The enrollment in elementary schools has been growing at the rate of 70,000 students each year. This requires at least 2,000 more classrooms each year plus the space and facilities to service the increase.

Because of a shortage of completely qualified teachers, about 11,000 "partially" qualified people have temporary teaching certificates. According to Superintendent of Public Instruction Lynn M. Bartlett, these teachers should be upgraded in training so they can be issued regular credentials.

There is a total of 55,000 teachers working in grade and secondary schools of the state, so next year there should be 57,000.

Starting salary for a teacher with a four year college degree and no experience is in the neighborhood of \$4,100 for a 10 month year. The teacher who has special training in music, art, etc. can command a beginning rate between \$200 and \$300 higher.

After 15 years, during which time the teacher is expected to have earned a Master's degree, he might earn about \$8,000 per year.

A high percentage of teachers leave the field after only a few years with a school system. Bartlett referred to a survey by the National Education Association which

(Continued on Page 4B)

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LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Benson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
EDUCATION PROGRAM
Society, Atlanta

THE PENTAGON CASE

What would you do if you were a civilian executive in the Department of Defense in the Pentagon in Washington and encountered a powerful force secretly working to weaken the armed services and sap the moral strength of the nation? You logically would take your alarm and discover to higher Pentagon officials. But what would you do if they rejected your report and asked for your resignation? The leading character in a new novel just published faces such a situation. The plot, its unfolding, and the book's stunning denouement make a gripping story.

The most fascinating and tantalizing question about this new book, "The Pentagon Case," is: How much of it is actual fact and how much is fiction? It is my opinion that key incidents in the book have foundations in actual fact, and that certain situations described in the narrative are identifiable with real situations in our nation. If the reader is well informed on the ramifications of the Communist apparatus in the U.S.A., he gets the gnawing feeling that the book is not fiction at all but a thinly disguised report of a shocking series of events.

Contributed to Education by the author, Victor J. Fox (an admitted pseudonym), says on the flyleaf that the book is fiction. Yet the denouement of the story leaves the reader with the conviction that most of it is not. At any rate, the book is a timely contribution to the education of the American people on the nature of the Communist conspiracy as it works within our nation. When I discussed the book with Herbert Phillips, who was an FBI counterespionage officer, he said to me: "One thing for sure; there is enough authenticity in this book to make it a bombshell!"

The book is not a polished professional job of fiction writing. But "Victor J. Fox" has such a madening tale to tell and gives the events in it such naked realism that professional polish wasn't required. The writer is identified as "a highly-decorated veteran who enlisted before Pearl Harbor, rose to senior officer status, and was decorated for his gallant combat stress attack against superior enemy forces. He also served in staff, intelligence, and planning and policy positions of one of the Armed Services during World War II and the Korean War, plus extended assignment as a specialist in enemy psychological warfare techniques."

How Reds Work
"The Pentagon Case" is published
(Continued on Page 5B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 16, 1933)

15 Mill Tax Law

Farmington City is not bound by the 15 mill tax limitation made effective in Michigan by adoption of an amendment to the Constitution last November, because of a provision in its charter, it is determined by a ruling of the Michigan Supreme Court this week. It was pointed out, however, that Farmington Township and all School Districts in the State are bound by the 15-mill law. The ruling, handed down Tuesday, holds that the limitation does not apply to home rule cities, of which Farmington is one. The Supreme Court ruling is that cities with charter provisions for higher tax rates than 15 mills are such provisions. They allow up to 2 per cent or up to 20 mills. Under the law, state, county and school taxes must be held within the 15 mill limit. This means that the combined total of tax from these three units of government may not exceed 15 mills with an increase by vote of the people in which it is proposed that the rate be increased.

TEN YEARS AGO (March 18, 1943)

Jump Yard Licenses

The approval of license renewals for the two jump yards within the Township of Farmington, now being used for the dismantling of old automobiles, was granted by the Township Board Tuesday night. Norbert Heater, operator of a yard on the north side of Grand River near 10 Mile, was granted a renewal of his license for one year, as was K. Z. Auto Parts at 28115 Grand River. Plans are to clean up the latter yard and construct a large cement block building there from which various auto parts will be sold.

School Vote

Residents of the Clarenceville School District will go to the polls Monday to vote on the question of financing a proposed auditorium addition and the construction of additional classrooms. An estimated \$144,750 would be needed for the addition. A total tax increase of 13.5 mills for a five year period would be required, it is estimated.

FIVE YEARS AGO (March 19, 1953)

Parking Lot

The Farmington City Council Monday night authorized City Manager James Tennant and City Attorney Paul Pare to proceed with the purchase of several lots south of Grand River and east of Farmington Road in the business section for a public parking lot. According to the Council, the property involved is interior lots behind the stores on Grand River at the rear of lots facing on Farmington Road. The property being considered is irregular in shape but approximately 200 by 300 feet in size. It has easements providing both ingress and egress on Grand River. The City indicated that it would attempt to purchase the property but, if this fails, is prepared to condemn the property through court action.

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