

Editorial Page

Township Politics . . .

make an unhappy picture, and the way it is being played now in Farmington Township, at a very crucial time in its history, all the people within the area are going to suffer, whether they realize it or not. Maybe they don't care, but we know a few thinking people do.

First the Village of Wood Creek Farms took a square mile out of the township. Next Aug. 5, at the same time as the primary election, there will be a vote on incorporation of another village, and the two areas involved will vote on whether or not about eight square miles in the southwest portion of the township will annex to the city. And there's talk of other areas voting to become villages.

We'll make no forecasts as to how these elections will come out, but they reflect a sentiment which isn't good for the future of the township. The township officials should be working together, earnestly trying to plan the best future for this township. Instead they are politicking right and left. This includes the Supervisor, and every member of the township board in varying degrees.

The recent township annual meeting was a shameful affair, and very definitely harmful to residents of the township. Besides the town officials, a lot of other people with ulterior motives were whacking away at common sense and duly constituted government.

Officers of the Farmington Republican Association, present then, are still fighting Democrat Frank Stephenson. In their April 26 newsletter they indicted Stephenson for continuing "to show his disinterest in the expressed will of the people." This because he obtained an opinion from the Township Attorney that most actions at the annual meeting were not legal, and because he filed with the county allocation board the original proposed budget.

Now, the entire board worked hard before the annual meeting to agree on the proposed figures, and they pretty well did agree. Although board members were careful to get on the record that it was the supervisor who had asked for the attorney's opinion, we're pretty certain the action had their tacit approval. The budget presented was by ALL the township officials, and they should be fighting for it together.

With township laws in the mess they're in, legal purists (or anyone who has an axe to grind) can start an argument on quite a few technicalities—and this is being done. We expect to hear a number in the next few days.

Common sense and good government tell us that the supervisor and township board members should run the township as our representatives. They should resist the pressures of individuals and groups. They should work hard on a fair budget, and every official help push it through. They should work together on the interceptor sewer, and other projects needed for the healthy growth of the township.

But more important than anything else, township residents should tell our officials they want an end to bitter partisan politics in our local government. Taxpayers should realize THEY are the ones being hurt most by this, and they'll understand this more and more in the years ahead.

Partisan politics is a zestful game on the state and national scene. But when it gets ugly on the township and city level, we will all suffer more directly. We earnestly hope that the too many people involved here will soon see the damage they are doing, and that people will realize they have a duty to see that there is better government by our elected representatives.

Judges Are Elected . . .

just like our other representatives in government. The positions are supposed to be non-partisan, although everyone knows they aren't. Maybe so far as circuit judges are concerned, when one runs for re-election it should be made public just how far behind his docket is, compared with the average for others in the state.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

SOUTHFIELD

At a meeting of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors last week it was emphasized that Southfield is the third largest taxing unit in the county and, therefore, the third most valuable property in Oakland County, property value wise.

City of Southfield and Southfield Township property has a combined value of \$122,500,000 for tax purposes (after equalization). Assessed valuation is actually \$100,419,700. The tax bills for 1957, figured in both areas, will be based on valuation as assessed multiplied by the equalization factor. Southfield's equalization factor last year was slightly higher than it will be this year. If assessments for 1957 remain the same as 1957 then a slight decrease in taxes will be possible this year.

For the purpose of taxes, the villages of Westland, Bingham Farms and Franklin are considered township.

NOVI

The county equalized valuation of Novi Township was set last week at a record breaking \$29,416,285, a net 50 percent higher than last year.

The jump of more than \$9,000,000 from last year's \$20,316,809 comes primarily from three sources: 1. Novus construction at \$19,117,375 this year—or nearly 50 percent higher than last year's \$12,889,400. To the \$19,117,375 assessed valuation, the county applied an equalization factor of 1.53. This brought the county evaluation up to the \$29,416,285 figure. Staman said he is satisfied with the 1.53 equalization factor (a slight drop from last year's 1.54).

It has been figured out that if the same 1.19 township millage levy is permitted as last year, Novi will receive some \$1,000,000 more in taxes than last year. This increase was figured into the 1958-59 township budget, which anticipated \$40,000 in township taxes as against \$38,000 last year.

HOLLY

Metal identification tags, to secure admission to Holly's Bush Lake municipal beach, will be issued to residents of Holly township and those people living in the Holly area school district outside the township.

Each family in Holly village and township will receive one tag and additional tags will be given to parents of the family for a charge of 15 cents each upon request by the Township Park Commission.

It was pointed out that residents outside the township boundaries, within the school district, will be required to pay a \$2.50 annual fee for the family's tag. Holly township officials support the tag system financially through taxes.

Everyone requesting a tag must establish proof of residence within the boundaries set up by the commission.

SOUTHFIELD

Decision by Oakland County Circuit Judge George Hartwick is expected to smooth the way for construction of the oft-stymied Evergreen Interceptor to serve Livonia, Southfield township and city. Hartwick dismissed an injunction request made recently based on over taxation with the opinion that public health was of prime importance. West Bloomfield Township attorneys contended that the Evergreen Sewer project as well as the Farmington Interceptor would compel taxpayers to pay over the 15 mill constitutional tax limit.

LIVONIA

Barring unforeseen obstacles, citizens of Livonia will vote their approval or disapproval of a Civic Center for the city during the state election in November.

Fifteen months of study and planning on the proposed 40 acre civic center were climaxed last week when a final report was given to the City Council by the committee in charge. The area lies at the southeast corner of Farmington and 15th Mile roads, adjoining the City Hall. Plans call for a city hall, police station and branches, fire station and branches, community building, auditorium, mass transit library and branches, department of public works building, court building, post office, board of education building, parks and recreation areas, playgrounds, swimming pools, artificial ice rinks and vacant land.

This year's belts are wide and low at the hip. Fringed sashes that you wrap around your waist and loop are new attractions, too, according to Margaret Worring, retailing instructor at Michigan State University.

THE AMERICAN WAY



One-Way Street

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Government Economies in State Now Being Taken in Stride

GOVERNMENT ECONOMY has lost a few skirmishes but has won a major battle in Michigan. When the dust cleared following the 1958 legislative session which stuck to reducing spending programs the lawmakers who hold the pursestrings seemed to have come out on top.

Dr. John A. Hannah, president of Michigan State University, was the first to announce revised plans for operation. He made it clear that the more than \$1,000,000 cut from the 1957-58 budget cleared programs at the university; that the going would be tougher next year. He also showed continued concern over inability to prepare properly for increased student loads expected in the near future.

"But we can still operate a good university without major damage to our programs," he said. Hannah predicted that less important budget cuts and some of the services that are valuable but not basic can be dropped or reduced in scope to fit the budget cuts.

More agreement came from Dr. Albert E. Heustis, state health commissioner, whose budget cuts hurt his agency as much as or more than they did some others.

Even programs as small (\$100,000) but important as the fight against "swimmer's itch" were abolished.

Dr. Heustis called for all people to reconsider the impact on the taxpayer before complaining about less money to spend in state government.

"We should all do some soul-searching before throwing up our hands," he said. Heustis' statements are important. He is an appointee of Gov. Williams, who has argued for years that the state should expand its services and levy taxes to finance them.

Gov. Williams' reason for trying for his sixth consecutive term as chief executive made more news than the announcement of his candidacy.

No one was surprised when he said he would run. Anyone who did not know it just hasn't been paying attention. The stage was set months ago when Williams said that he and Lt. Gov. Philip A. Hart would run for senator and governor, but refrained from saying who would do what.

LOOKING AHEAD

by Dr. George S. Benson
DIRECTOR - NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Seneca, Adirondack

LEAP FROGGING WAGES AND PRICES

One of the chief reasons for inflation—the diminishing of a dollar's purchasing power—is a continued increase of wages in industry without fully compensating improvement in productivity per man hour worked. And since it is a factor involving the welfare of every American, young and old, we ought to understand it clearly. Let's take a case in point: Every year since 1947 the wage rate in the automobile industry has advanced.

In 1946 the average hourly earnings were \$1.60. In 1949 it was \$1.70, and it has gone up an average of 10c an hour each year since then.

The average now is \$2.50 an hour. Many workers make considerably more. Some make less. The wage increase of all auto workers in the automobile industry has advanced. The cost of labor to the auto manufacturers must also include "fringe" benefits which have been substantially increased in the same period.

LABOR 80 PER CENT

A few years ago I had an analysis made of the selling prices of a \$1500 automobile. It was found that direct and indirect labor costs added up to approximately \$1200, or 80 percent of the selling price. Raw materials in this \$1500 car of a few years ago were actually valued at only \$22 in their raw state—without the addition of labor costs in processing, transporting, and marketing.

The wage hikes at the auto plants and at their suppliers, have not permitted the auto industry to pass along to the buying public the net consumer benefits from increased productivity. In the 10 years that wages rose 56 percent, the manufacturer's price of automobiles increased from \$1100 to approximately \$1900, on the average. And the local delivery price of cars went up correspondingly. The manufacturers haven't gotten rich at these prices. The average profit on each dollar of sales in American industry is under 4 per cent.

That left Williams, who broke his traditionally long silence to announce he would go for his fifth term "to finish the job." Now, pointing directly at Republican Charles E. Potter, Republican Senator John B. Swainson (D-Detroit) announced for lieutenant governor.

Republicans, sharpening their weapons for the campaign ahead, retorted that Michigan is broke and is running a deficit after 10 years of Williams' regime.

They criticized the governor's nationwide trips, his 10-day absence following the 1958 session and threatened to make the "governor's sabbatical" the empty chair" a campaign issue.

INVESTIGATORS sent by the House to check on reports of mistreatment of mental hospital patients pulled a surprise nighttime visit at Northville State Hospital. Staff consisted of 50-bed unit had been idle for months.

Hospital authorities said they lacked money to staff the unit, despite a finding that staff positions have not been filled from authorized money.

Rep. Harry J. Phillips (R-Port Huron) said major mental hospitals in the state would get surprise visits.

"We don't want them to do the place up just for us," he said.

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 11, 1933)
Beer in Township

After an extended absence, legal beer returned to Farmington at 6 o'clock Thursday evening, with three places selling it under license obtained through the Township Board at a special meeting held Tuesday morning. No beer was sold in the city, however, since the commission did not meet to consider two applications received. The commission indicated it would meet early next week to consider the two pending applications and any others that may come in. Since beer came to the township, immediate action on them has been promised.

City Notes

Farmington City's new negotiable notes will make their first appearance next week. Only a small proportion of the notes, enough to pay the city's current bills, will be issued, city officials said. The Township Board's special meeting, four other applications have come in to the township. Immediate action on them has been promised.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 13, 1948) More Courses

Addition of several new courses and services to the curriculum of Farmington's merchants have been interviewed, it was pointed out at School Board meeting last Monday by Superintendent O. E. Duncel. It was proposed to add an art teacher on a full-time basis, a visiting teacher on a half-time basis and a speech correctionist teacher on a half-time basis. He also stated that a school nurse was needed and should be placed high on any priority list.

Traffic Ordinance

A new traffic ordinance for the City of Farmington was given final approval by the City Commission Wednesday night, to become effective on June 1. The ordinance regulates the operation of vehicles on streets and highways within the city, provides for traffic signs and signals, defines the powers of the police department to enforce the ordinance and the rules and regulations it contains and the penalties for violation.

FIVE YEARS AGO (May 14, 1953) Court Action

Action against two alleged violators of the Farmington Township Zoning Ordinance was started this week in Oakland County Circuit Court by Township Attorney Archie Leonard in the first legal step to establish more strict enforcement of the township ordinance. The names of the individuals were not disclosed but they are both property owners in Farmington View Subdivision. According to the charges, the individuals are using garages as residences, they secured no certificates of occupancy and are using outside toilets. All three charges are in violation of the Zoning ordinance. At the Township Board meeting Tuesday night, when announcement of the legal action was made, the sanitary inspector for the township was instructed to investigate an old house at Fink and Hawthorne to determine whether an unsanitary condition exists there.

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