

Editorial Page

Mental Patient Deaths

A couple of deaths which happened in mental institutions, and a couple of injuries or bruises have been allowed to create a ruckus which is way out of proportion.

We think we know what is news, and realize the Detroit dailies have played up these incidents in the belief they are newsworthy and interesting to many people. Frankly, we think they have been way overplayed. There's quite a bit of politics and some other things not even that nice behind it all.

We feel sorry for the families involved. But the members of these families must realize that when a person has to be sent to a mental institution for treatment, there is some chance of accident, even death from that. Most important, the public must realize this, too.

Anyone who has been around a mental institution even a few times knows that patients, in irrational moments, can and do cause abuse to themselves and other patients. Attendants try to avoid such things, and try to stop them as quickly as possible, even at some danger to the attendants. But there simply are not enough funds to provide private rooms for all patients, and attendants enough to avoid all accidents. To do this would be so costly that everyone in the state would rise up in protest.

We're not saying there have not been abuses and ill treatment some times, but they are far, far fewer than the public might be led to believe by all the stink in the papers lately.

By and large, most of the personnel manning our mental institutions are trained and dedicated men and women. We think they are often subjected to more unthinking abuse from the public than anyone should receive, and it is not surprising that some simply and quietly go into other lines of work.

Lodge's Oath of Office

Our State Senator Harvey Lodge recently completed his work with the Senate Interim Committee on Waste, and about all the group got for its work were charges of politics.

As a result he prepared a new oath of office, which he feels each public official should be willing to take, but nothing will come of it. However, here is the oath, in any event:

"I take this oath before God to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Michigan and to abide by all laws thereunder, and that I will do and perform my duties in the best interests of the people I serve looking upon their welfare and conserving and preserving their tax dollars, to the end of honest and efficient performance of my duties, so help me God."

Michigan government being what it is, the Lodge committee didn't make a dent in waste, and the legislature won't either. It will levy more taxes in the next couple of months, and little effort will be made to find ways to cut expenses or the payrolls.

It is of great importance in a republic not only to guard the society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of the society against the injustice of the other part. —James Madison

The Farmington Enterprise

22523 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan. Telephone: GR 4-2225

Established in 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week at the City of Farmington and entered at the Post Office in Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as Second-Class Matter under Act of March 3, 1879. Second-Class Postage Paid at Farmington, Michigan.

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES MICHIGAN PRESS SERVICE, INC.
East Lansing, Michigan
WEEKLY EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES, INC.
1725 Genesee Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.
New York, N. Y.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

DEARBORN — The City Council has called on a ban of Sunday sales of all non-essential goods.

At the same time, it directed the city attorney to draft an amendment to the existing ordinance prohibiting sales on Sunday of jewelry, appliances and furniture to include all non-essential services.

The resolution also directed that no ordinance enforcement be permitted.

This was an apparent slap at the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce which recently had criminal complaints filed against seven merchants who allegedly sold forbidden merchandise on Sunday. None of the merchants were members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Various members of the Council stated that they felt the real solution to the problem was Sunday sales under a state-wide legislation.

The Dearborn Press

NOVI — Plans to rebuild Novi road between Novi and U.S. 16 have not been abandoned.

Robert O. Felt, chairman of the Novi Road and Road Commission, declared this week.

The road head estimated the cost of the three-mile stretch of road rehabilitation at \$100,000. It will probably begin late this year or early next year with completion by the summer of 1954.

All road plans, he cautioned, hinge upon the financial condition of the county. But there is no reason to believe that at any time, he added, that the project will be dropped.

Cost of rebuilding Novi road will be shared by the federal government, the state and the county will pay one-half of the cost leaving the cost to the county slightly under \$100,000.

SOUTHFIELD — Robert J. McNitt, new City of Southfield administrator, has placed before the city council a plan to bring the fire and police departments closer together by "cooperative effort."

In his effort, the administrator means that the protective capacity of the city would be strengthened by training its police and fire departments in fire-fighting fundamentals of fire-fighting.

McNitt pointed out that the fire department has 22 men, including the chief, and must place men in the event of a second alarm, and to call in duty men if additional assistance is needed, including the chief, the police department has 17 men.

He added that the plan would include the training of all policemen in fire-fighting methods, and that the city would supply necessary clothing and equipment all police cars with fire-fighting equipment.

The Southfield News

LIVONIA — Two downriver cities have asked Livonia and Redford Township to join in a plan to bring the city and county authorities consult with local communities before any new Michigan state law in seriously comes.

The resolution, adopted by Lincoln Park and Trenton also sharply declared:

"...the tampering with local assessed valuations of property is a radical and dangerous infringement of local rights of self government."

The latter obviously applied to a recent ruling by the State Tax Commission which "revised" Redford Township, Livonia, and other communities to drop tax assessments on a few big industries.

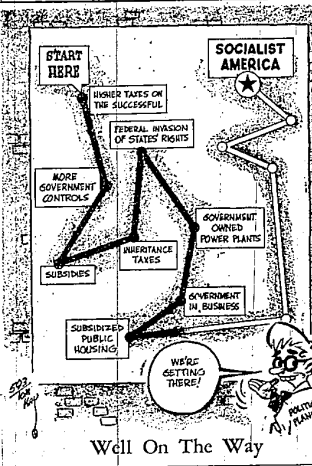
He has refused to go on any more of tax as originally calculated.

At the same time, Supervisor Richard E. Manning filed a suit in Michigan Supreme Court challenging the authority of the State Tax Commission of "tampering with local assessments."

Lincoln Park and Trenton governing bodies believe their area around the idea that any increase in state taxes would subtract from the amount of money available to handle staggering local problems.

The Livonian

THE AMERICAN WAY



Well On The Way

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Michigan Officials Face Biggest Challenge in History of State

UNPARALLELED CHALLENGES face G. Meinen Williams, his all-Democratic administration and half-Democratic legislature in 1953, the most difficult since Michigan became a state 112 years ago. Michigan is broke and faces a \$100,000,000 deficit as the legislature convenes.

During a decade in office, Williams has asked for more money to expand virtually all services. The problem has not been a simple one for Williams or his political opponents.

Williams on one side is pushing for more services to accommodate the state's booming population. Republicans, on the other hand, are trying to perform services within the framework of available funds.

Williams, in effect, says it is impossible without more revenue. Republicans partially agree, but say some of the government's programs are too expensive.

"DEMOCRATS WON an even 55-35 split in the House of Representatives last Nov. 4, and there lies the problem for the party."

Everything accomplished or not accomplished by the House will now be half the responsibility of each party. The situation leaves Republican politicians rejoicing, in a "sour grapes" sort of way.

The proposed income tax program logically will start in the House, since a House-sponsored study committee is making the proposal after two years of research.

Because that is the case, the Senate must wait on the House before moving ahead on appropriations. The key to the 1953 session, thus, is the House.

There are really no needs in higher education, public health, mental health and public welfare, where a deficit up to \$15,000,000 will exist next June 30.

Prisons are overcrowded. The new medium security institution at Ionia is half-complete, with no further appropriation in sight to make it a model of correctional endeavor.

Williams has remained silent on how to pay for the necessary increase in spending.

In the past, he has pushed hard for a corporation profits tax, but without success. Last year he urged a boost in the intangibles levy until it was noted that thousands of private bank accounts would be affected.

He has refused to go on any more of tax as originally calculated.

Another controversy revolves around this point. Williams takes the constitutional view that the legislature must raise enough money to cover the cost of government by some means at its disposal. This, of course, means taxes someone must pay.

The legislature reasons that an administrator, Gov. Williams, must not only go into the state but recommend plausible means to pay for them.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago
January 11, 1928

New Bank
Farmington is to have a new bank with one-half the stocks to be owned by the Federal Government through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Further, in connection with the plan for organization of a new bank in this community, the RFC will extend additional aid to make possible a 5 percent dividend, totaling approximately \$225,000, to depositors of the Farmington State Savings Bank.

The distribution of this money in the community will be one of the first functions of the new bank.

The new bank will be a member of the Federal Reserve System and its deposits will be guaranteed under the new Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation provisions.

The bank will not be a reorganization but will be an entirely new institution.

Police Radio
Police protection in Farmington and vicinity is now reinforced by radio connection with law-enforcement units throughout the state. A still more intensive plan is being worked out by county and state officials.

A radio receiver set has been installed in the car operated by Deputy Sheriff J. DeWitt. DeWitt and he has been assigned a number in the state system.

10 Years Ago
January 13, 1918

Driver Training
The possible introduction of driver training to the curriculum at Farmington high school was discussed by the Board of Education at its regular meeting this week.

Each board member was furnished with information regarding the program for further study. Superintendent O. E. Dunckel outlined the program and briefly explained that the school districts were doing in the way of driver training courses.

March of Dimes
Joseph Hammelbach has been named Farmington chairman of the 1949 March of Dimes campaign. The local drive will open January 31 and continue through January 31.

It was pointed out that last year Michigan, as well as the rest of the country, suffered from epidemic of poliomyelitis in history and as a result the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis exhausted its emergency epidemic aid fund.

5 Years Ago
January 14, 1948

School Building
The Farmington Board of Education will meet next week with the Citizens School Advisory Committee.

Rep Convention Set for Jan. 21

Plans are now completed for the annual Republican County Convention which will be held on Wednesday, January 21, at 8 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the County Office Building, 14 Lafayette St. in Pontiac.

The program will begin with a talk on "Planning Municipal Insurance Programs," delivered by Richard N. Mann of the Indianapolis Office of the National Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, followed by a panel discussion of the topic.

A talk on "Municipal Liability for Negligence," given by Louis C. Andrews, Jr., League Staff Attorney.

The dinner session will be highlighted by a talk on "The Michigan Tax Study's Effect on Cities and Villages," and concluded with the annual election of 1952-53 officers for Region IV.

Regional officers serve as liaison between the League headquarters and its regional member municipalities, and play a great part in helping member officials realize and make use of their League services.

The Michigan Municipal League, organized in 1899, is made up of 415 cities and villages in Michigan and is dedicated to the advancement of home rule and improvement of municipal government through cooperative effort.

Home Management

If one of your 1953 resolutions is to straighten up family finances, the Michigan State University leaflet, "Managing Your Family's Credit" may come to a timely rescue. The publication is authored by Lucille Ketchum, extension specialist in home management and may be obtained by request to the Bulletin Office, Agricultural Hall, Michigan State University.

Praise is the best auxiliary to prayer. He who most bears in mind what has been done by God will be most emboldened to ask for fresh gifts from above.

Henry Melville

Now at Newport
Good resolutions are a pleasant crop to sow. —Lucas Malet.

Elect
CURT HALL
TWP. SUPERVISOR

FIRE - LIFE - AUTO
30760 Grand River (Near Nine Mile) Phone GR. 4-6933

NOTICE

Now that the Farmington Interceptor Sewer is definitely assured, any Subdivision or area in Farmington Township seeking this service should start circulating their Special Assessment Petitions.

For further information call the undersigned at GR. 4-6115.

Frank J. Stephenson
Supervisor