

Editorial Page

Which Tax Cometh?

The current struggle in the legislature over tax proposals is political, it's true, but it deserves our close scrutiny because individuals and businesses will have to pay considerably more and soon.

It's interesting to compare Michigan's plight with other states. Oh, the others have them, too—except New Jersey. Fact is, the trend now is that the states are getting great competition from the communities within those states, in the race for tax dollars.

Municipal officers are beset now by two major pressures. One is rising voter discontent over huge property taxes, some of which are near the limits. The other pressure stems from the fact state legislators, due to growing state costs, are unable to make requested additional state aid payments to localities. Thus, other states also find they can't increase state school aid, welfare costs for large cities—and other needs just like Michigan's. Most popular municipal request is for state authorization to levy a variety of non-property taxes, such as levies on payrolls, business gross receipts, soft drinks and cigarettes.

Many Michigan municipalities are up in arms over the part of the plan for a state income tax, because it has been proposed to repeal local tangible personal property taxes, mostly on plant equipment and store inventories. Such an exemption, it is claimed, would cost Michigan municipalities \$80 million annually in revenue.

The Michigan Township Ass'n points out to officials a proposed resolution calling for an amendment to the Constitution to increase the present 15-mill limitation to 220 mills. This might be put on the April 6 ballot, but it's doubtful.

There's some irony about the proposed state income tax, and proposals by other states. Every time a state or local government raises income or excise taxes, the federal government loses some revenue. That's because local taxes are deductible on federal returns.

But also, every time these taxes are added, it's money out of YOUR pocket, so it is important for all to watch the day-to-day developments in our state legislature, and to appraise them by what others are doing.

Old Fashioned Winter

The last couple of months may have been hard on snow shovellers, the fuel bills, and patience of some people—but there have been some nice things about it.

Farmington children undoubtedly have made more use of the city's ice rink than ever before, and there's been a fine amount of assistance from individuals at the pond. There's been enough snow on the hills near the rink and elsewhere to make for splendid sliding and skiing. And the amount of ice and snow will give all of us something to talk about for years.

We've been told by local merchants sales have been excellent for such things as shovels, melting salt, sports equipment such as skates, hockey sticks, toboggans, etc. In fact, they can't get more of some metal items.

Hail to King Winter! But let's have an early spring.

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI—An annoyed citizen has washed the hands of a proposed Nine Mile landfill project under consideration and instructed the village attorney to draw up an ordinance to regulate state dumps and landfills in Novi.

Perturbed by citizenry conduct at two previous meetings which the council had held prior to last week on the proposed landfill, Village President Walter Zuck said that henceforth all public meetings will be conducted under strict rules.

A vote by the council was passed to cancel all negotiations with Gus McCreeby, Detroit lawyer, and Attorney Howard Bond to draw up the regulatory ordinance.

The council also recommended that Bond be paid for his services. The village should, McCreeby decided to carry his case to court. The recommendation was made in light of McCreeby's own opinion that McCreeby could win a court decision.

It was suggested that Philip Ozville, Northville attorney who was hired to represent Nine Mile land residents protesting establishment of the landfill, be retained to represent the village in the event McCreeby decides to sue.

Cancellation of landfill negotiations, the council explained, were made not because the council agreed with the people who protest the landfill, but because there has been no support for the landfill.

—The Novi News

SOUTHFIELD—Adoption of a new building code for the City of Southfield has been approved by the council on the recommendation of the city administrator and head of the building department.

As explained to council, the new code provided adequate protection while being more "realistic." The Building Conference of America (BOCA) as approved is described as a "performance" regulation because it will permit a wider choice of materials.

This code is in operation in Detroit. Its adoption here will increase with the exception of its plumbing chapter. A new plumbing code for Southfield is forthcoming.

—The Southfield News

FRANKLIN-BINGHAM—Dog owners who live in Franklin or Bingham Farms, who plan to visit to Pontiac this month, February 28 is the last day for obtaining dog licenses without penalty, and the Southfield Township office no longer issues them.

Westwood village issues dog licenses through a special ordinance but Bingham Farms and Franklin have made no such provision.

Southfield Township officials said that since the incorporation of the City of Southfield, the township no longer offers these services.

—The Village Crier

DEARBORN—A group called itself the Dearborn Council of Better Literature for Youth is about to launch its drive to rid drug stores displays of obscene magazines.

Within a few weeks the council has promised to submit a list of 62 objectionable magazines to the city's 35 drug stores.

It will be requested the drugstores to take the magazines off their display racks and put them behind counters. Adults' purchasers would be discouraged from buying them.

The Dearborn Council has been preparing the list and gathering support for nearly a year.

It is endorsed by several churches, clubs and civic groups. The council reports it has had good cooperation from most Dearborn drugstores and newsstand dealers.

LIVONIA—Home building in northwestern Livonia has been ordered restricted to 70 feet wide (or larger) except for rare exceptions.

The general area involved is located north of Five Mile and east of Farmington Road. Plans already approved, however, will not be changed.

Approval came in the form of an over-ride of an earlier veto of the bill by Mayor William Brashear.

Brusher warned repeatedly and to no avail that the ordinance was "unnecessary, lacked uniformity and was not essential to the public welfare and safety."

THE AMERICAN WAY



Well, Congress—?

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Weekly Papers Commended by Williams for Political Coverage

MICHIGAN'S NEWSPAPERS PICHUGA results for the state in ways which are most always obvious to the casual observer. Some of these were apparent at this annual convention of the Michigan Press Association held last week at East Lansing.

Weekly newspapers were on the receiving end of a hat tip from Gov. G. Mennen Williams, who appeared briefly on the program. He urged all newspapers to devote their efforts to informing the public of facts and factors in the crisis in state finances. He added it would be "nice" if his ideas were supported in the press, but much more important that newspapersmen see to it that the public is fully, fairly and impartially informed.

Then he remarked: "The weekly newspapers, everywhere I went during the last campaign) seem to me to be doing a very good job in covering the local political news which I have experienced before. They covered Democratic meetings with full stories and frequently with pictures. I'm sure they did the same for Republican meetings, and this is as it should be. The campaign coverage by the media weekly newspapers in 1958 certainly deserves public commendations, and I am glad to give it to them."

Promotion of the state's farm products by Michigan newspapers was accomplished at a gala affair called the "All Michigan Dinner."

Only food produced in Michigan is served, except for coffee. Many agricultural groups cooperate by sending the finest possible samples of their products.

In addition to the meal, each table setting included a supply of what has come to be called "Joel." These are samples made available by ag groups and food processors.

Here's the menu for this year's dinner: tomato juice, cold slaw, seven beans, baked potatoes, cherry pie with ice cream. Sounds simple, but there are very few states which can boast agricultural activity to match it.

Entrees were called "Billionaire's Best." This meat already available to the public, was developed by MSU over the years to be exceptionally tender and tasty.

"Joel" included some brand new products. A cherry sauce made and canned in Traverse City shows promise as an improvement over sauces already on the market, especially those served with fowl.

A new powdered drink, orange in color and promoted for breakfast, is entirely produced in Battle Creek. Pre-cooked beans, which if accepted by the housewife, will help sell an important Michigan product, were given as samples. New cereals, baby food, sausage and crackers were also present. Excellent samples of familiar products demonstrate cleanliness and pride in it comes to apples, mushrooms, potatoes, sugar, honey, skimmed milk, frosting mix, and even baby evergreen trees. Michigan can meet or beat similar products from any state.

The "All Michigan Dinner" is presented with cooperation of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. This year's banquet was the 18th. During the last 18 years, virtually every new food product in this state has taken its place one time or another on the "All Michigan Dinner" table.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 8, 1934

Bank in Sight
With stock subscriptions continuing on a satisfactory rate, the plan to establish a new bank in Farmington.

While the required amount of \$37,500 in local bank subscriptions is still far short it is now within striking distance. If the recent rate of progress is maintained, the objective should be reached soon.

Depositors in the former bank, with claims ranging from very small to large, have come in and, with few exceptions, all have expressed willingness and even eagerness to subscribe a good portion of their 35 percent dividends to stock in the new bank.

Dairy Meeting
A mass meeting of dairy farmers in this vicinity has been called for Saturday at the Farmington Town Hall. At this time a report will be made by the committee which went to Washington recently to appeal for changes from the base-surplus system.

This meeting follows one for three locals of the Michigan Milk Producers Association held in Farmington on January 25.

A minimum price of \$2.20 per hundredweight for milk asked by the delegation to Washington was turned down flatly by the Agricultural Department although it had considerable support from members of the Michigan delegation in Congress.

10 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 10, 1940

Township Policeman
At a special meeting of the Farmington Township Board held last night, William G. Gear was hired as the new Township police officer.

He will begin duties March 1 or as soon as a car and equipment can be secured. Gear is 29 years old and presently making his home in Pontiac.

NELSON C.P.A.

Attorney
for
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
—Faid Political Adv.

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Two of 14 divisions of his office, according to Attorney General Paul L. Adams, bring in 40 times the cost of their administration. The same two divisions bring in seven times as much revenue as it costs to operate all 40 of the divisions.

In dollars and cents, these two brought in \$780,374 last year. Cost of their operation was \$112,600. It cost \$780,374 to operate the entire Attorney General's office.

Knock on Wood
Knocking on wood is an European-inherited superstition intended to bring good luck. But, U.S. housewives who demand wood paneling in their homes and wood cabinets and built-ins have a practical superstition which supercedes superstition. The ladies like wood because it is beautiful, friendly, and easy to keep polished.

Elect BRENNAN

TWP. SUPERVISOR
—Faid Political Adv.

March of Dimes

Residents of Farmington city and township contributed a record total of \$847.81 to the 1949 March of Dimes campaign according to local chairman Joseph Hymmespach.

Last year only \$447 was raised.

Particular praise was given to the Civic Theatre Management and to the volunteer women who collected contributions there. A total of \$314.71 was donated during the one-week drive at the theatre.

5 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 11, 1954

School Building
The Farmington Township Board took initial steps at its meeting Monday night to bring the \$1,572,000 proposed school building program to a vote of the people.

Board attorney Claude H. Stevens was instructed to draw up the necessary proposals and resolutions for Board approval before a school election is held. It is hoped to have the necessary papers drawn up and ready for board action at a special meeting tentatively set for Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Dog Quarantine
Action requesting the County Health Officer to establish a dog quarantine in Farmington Township was approved by the Township Board at its regular meeting Tuesday evening.

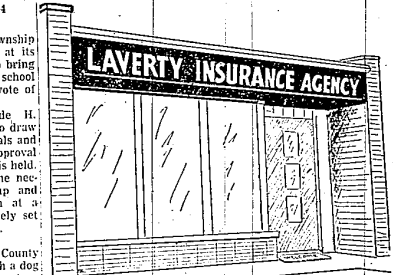
The director of the Animal Welfare Division of Oakland County appeared before the board to explain the need and

the function for the quarantine needed on the farm. He explained that because of the one case of rabies but also because of the tremendous amount of complaints received concerning stray dogs in this area.



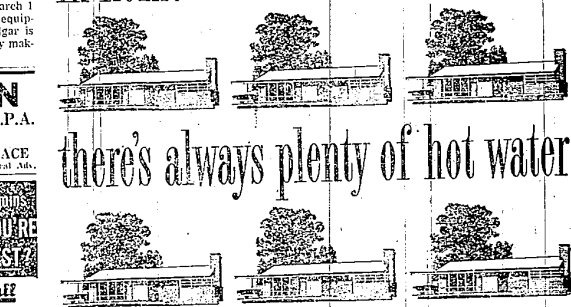
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