



Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

Since it's fashionable to be tagged something in this day and age — left, right, Birch, Civil Rights — I de-
voted to conform. It is my desire to go on record as an Independent, Ramsey Republican, Conservative.
And this is after a task force of the mighty editorial staff of The Observer descended on Lansing last Wednesday for a day's perusal of our local Legislators and of the status of their bills.

Each of us was invited to "sit on the floor" of the House, as well as of the Senate, as a guest of our local representatives. It was an excellent opportunity to question them at length.
There are bills before our lawmakers that could change your entire future and that of your children and their offspring.
If you are concerned enough about some of these and want to express yourself — you will find your legislator has a willing ear.

In Redford Township your Representative is John Bennett; in Livonia, Marvin Stemples; in Plymouth, North Nankin and Garden City, James Tierney; in Farmington, Ray Baker; in four Southern precincts of Livonia, Richard A. Young; and in the Senate, Farrell Roberts for Plymouth, Livonia and Farmington; Edward Robinson for Redford Township; Terry Trout for Nankin and Garden City.

George Montgomery (D), Chairman of the General Taxation Committee, said there were several bills pending before his committee concerning legislation to aid parochial schools. He said he did not believe any of them would get out of committee this year. However, he added each year they get a little closer to going onto the floor for a vote. He thought that probably in next year's session one or more would pass, particularly the bill giving tax exemptions up to the amount of tuition paid by parochial parents.

It is possible some of us will gather at the launching pad, and board the Mayflower, for the moon to get away from church-controlled schools — or was this where we came in 300 years ago?
I was happy to recognize an old friend — a bill that I read last season — it was one Paul Chandler as State Representative had sponsored on the adoption of a proposal for State sharing in the cost of school construction and debt service.

It is H.B. 2107, wherein school districts are permitted holding authority for school construction. It passed the House 82-19 (D-parisian) and is now in Senate committee.

Other bills on education:
H.B. 2122 would amend the School District reorganization to permit an intermediate school district to merge two or more school districts of the third class or higher.

H.B. 2123 would allow school board members to file for the school board with \$100 instead of petitions, which would be refunded if nominated.

H.B. 2078 would amend the election law to require that in townships having a population of more than 50,000, the clerk would designate assistant clerks to be present at each elementary school building in the township for registration of voters from 8 to 8 p.m. each day except Sundays, 30 days preceding any general election.

HB #2160 provides financing for the Michigan Public School Employees retirement system.

H.B. #2309 Private Payment for Mentally Handicapped requires, in cases where school districts do not provide in any way for the education of mentally handicapped children, that payments of aid be made to the parent or guardian.

H.B. #2305 appropriation to community college districts of \$2,750,000, \$2.50 per student.

HB #2306 Felony to damage a school bus or equipment.

HB #2309 State Supt. may approve classes for mentally handicapped children conducted by nonprofit organizations. Tuition, reimbursement from school aid fund.

HB #2315 Misdeamors to have cigarette vending machines in any school building.

HB #2234 requires that the 7.5% taken by the state from school aid funds for retirement purposes be deducted at the local level.

SB #65 establishes library systems, provides state support.

SB #196 requires schools to offer social studies in state and local government, specifies the number of hours and length of time.

More bills have gone into the hopper in this session than in any other — and the above are only a minute smattering of same.

Lobbyists having to keep their masters informed, are no doubt entering their money this year — with the need to learn the names and habits of so many fresh faces.

The bill that proposed tax relief for senior citizens passed the House 62-36 on Friday (voted along party lines). The tax relief for elderly on low incomes is wonderful, but without tax reform is chaotic. The loss is now estimated at up to \$40 million.

There are 10 more such bills in the legislature that would reduce tax revenues — nice to tell the folks back home on the campaign trail, but what about the big picture?

WITH INCREASED SCHOOL COSTS (we hate to see about this the time BUT WITH INCREASED COMING DOWN AND EXPENSES GOING UP) it is really worth it — just to make George look bad?
Last week I sent for and received from Adlai E. Stevenson III, a member of the House of Representatives of Illinois, a copy of his bill on Lobbyist Registration wherein the lobbyist would have to register all funds received, and submit a tax return. Oh, would this one make the fur fly?

It occurred to me that it would be difficult to get any legislator interested in sponsoring it. HOWEVER, I discovered in Lansing this week, out of Livonia, Marvin Stemples (D). We have a David ready to take on the giant.

This freshman (all by himself) drafted a bill requiring elected politicians to disclose the amount of their wealth — and here is the kicker — the sources of their income.

In Defense of Farmington Forum

Building contractor Bruce Duke spends his free time as a Birch Society Chapter Leader in Farmington. He is a dedicated man.
Dedication is a fine thing. And you have to admire a man who fights for his beliefs.

But one of the problems with the Birch Society is that once its mind is made up it does not let facts get in its way.

CROCKETT LEFT-WING
On the evening of March 25, Bruce Duke stood in the cold, outside the Universalist-Unitarian church of Farmington, passing out leaflets protesting the appearance of a book by attorney George Crockett, as one of the panelists in the Farmington Forum.

The leaflet contained a list of left-wing activities carried on by Crockett. An inquiry by this reporter reveals that the list is correct; that Crockett is a radical gay leftist.

I have asked Mr. Duke whether he thought it a bad thing for the community to listen to a left-winger such as Crockett. He did not think so. He simply felt that the public should be informed of the man's philosophy ahead of time.

This is a reasonable position to take, and has been known of Crockett's background earlier we would have included it in our articles publishing the Forum. We did know that James and Grace Lee Boggs, who were also panelists, were of the far-left, and we so reported it well in advance of their appearance.

Ironically, Crockett, the subject of Duke's leaflet, did not show up. In comparison to the Boggs, he is practically a middle-of-the-road conservative.

MEETING RIGGED
While, as we have said, there is nothing wrong with handing out leaflets, it is a strong exception to Duke's version of what went on inside the church.

Duke's version of the forum statements was apparently rigged. Duke says there appeared to be a man at the back of the room pointing out who the moderator should call on.
He says that practically all of the people who were recognized were "non-conservatives"; that the few times conservatives got the floor they were ruled out of order by the moderator.

He says many in the audience deeply resented the way the affair was handled; that Thomas L. Poindexter, who was one of the panelists, had been recently dragged into an affair like that.

Finally, he has stated that the affair was sponsored by the Farmington Human Relations Council.

WHAT DID HAPPEN
What really happened at the Forum was far different than the Duke version.

To begin with, it should be noted that the presence of James and Grace Lee Boggs weighed the panel in favor of the left. But this was so only because Virginia Crawford, a Birch Society Chapter Leader in Farmington, withdrew from the panel, and her replacement, Birch Society Officer James Freed, of Farmington, failed to show up.

It should be noted that Birch Society member Schuyler Rogers agreed to appear on the next Forum program, Friday night, when the topic will be Russian-American relations.

It was not given a fair chance to express their opinions during the open discussion, is highly inaccurate. As a matter of fact, almost everyone who did offer an opinion or a question was more or less consensually ruled out of order.

This was so because of the presence of the Boggs. They are bitter people. For them, the American dream is a nightmare. They poured their vitriol out on the audience, and the response in kind. Almost every question and almost every comment was directed at the Boggs.

The moderator was John Milhorne, of Farmington. He is Chief Editorial Writer for the Detroit Free Press. He was plucking-birdism instructor at Farmington High, who couldn't be present.

It was my opinion, and everyone I have talked to outside of Mr. Duke, agrees that Milhorne did an excellent job.

About Duke's charge that he appears to have rigged the discussion, Milhorne said: "I didn't know most of those in the audience, and had no idea of the political philosophy of those I recognized to ask questions. The idea that there was some puppet-master in the back of the audience signaling me as to whom to recognize is absurd."

POINDENTER BACKS MILHORNE
Conservative Poindexter, who many conservatives admire, and who Bruce Duke feels must have been insulted by the treatment conservatives got at the Forum, actually feels just the opposite. On the conduct of the meeting, he commented to this newspaper: "Although Mr. Milhorne once wrote a rather scathing article against me in the Detroit Free Press, still I thought he did a very fair job in moderating the meeting at the Farmington Unitarian Church."

I am sure he and I would disagree on many political issues. But it was my impression that he called on most of the persons who had a question for the panel; and that any seeming favoritism for the Boggs' was due to the fact that a majority of the audience was opposed to the Boggs' and insisted on directing most of the questions at them."

GOOD MODERATOR
New to the charge that Milhorne ruled the conservatives out of order when they did manage to get called on. I was on the panel; I talked to a number of people who were there—including the Conservative Forum—and as far as my own recall, Milhorne only interrupted the people from the audience. Neither was a conservative. Neither's comment was germane to the topic of "State's Rights." One woman of apparently liberal persuasion wanted to discuss world government. And one dear soul wanted to describe her life on a slave plantation.

Duke's charge that the people in the audience were unhappy with the handling of the affair. I was one of the last people to leave, and no one expressed such a comment to me. In fact, I heard of no such complaint meetings going on all over the building, long after the main event.

I asked Mr. Duke to give me the names of some of the unhappy people; that I might call them and get their opinions. He said he wouldn't do so; but would contact them himself, and see if they wanted to talk to me.

As yet, no one has come forward.

FORUM SEPARATE ORGANIZATION
Finally, there is the statement that the Farmington Community Forum is sponsored by the Farmington Human Relations Council. Milhorne is Chairman of the Human Relations Council, but the Farmington Human Relations Council and the Farmington Community Forum are completely separate organizations. Few people belong to both; none of the officers are the same.

"The purpose of each is laudable, but quite different. The Council is seeking to improve human relations largely through education programs. The Forum is seeking to bring out conflicting views of ideas to this area by the presentation of sharply opposing viewpoints on a number of controversial subjects."

My only comment with the Forum has been to serve as moderator of its recent program on states' rights."

Mr. Duke says he got the idea that the Forum and the Human Relations Council were connected from the newspapers. This reporter has researched back, and can find no such reference.

Bruce Duke is an obviously sincere and well-meaning person. He believes in fighting for freedom—especially for the rights of the young people of the nation.

But what he fails to realize is that in his desire to silence opposition, he is acting in belief that its ends justify ruthlessness. Birchism is practically identical to the Communism it despises; that the difference between our system and that of the Communists lies in the tolerance we show to our dissenters.

"THAT," AS THOMAS JEFFERSON ONCE SAID, "TRUTH IS GREAT, AND WILL PREVAIL IF LEFT TO ITSELF."

ALLEN ROSENFIELD

LANSING LEGISLATORS
From The Observer Newspapers circulation area posed at the Speaker of the House's podium Wednesday when a three-man Observer task force visited the Capitol to interview them. From left: Richard A. Young (D), 33rd District Representative;

Speaker of the House Joseph Kowalski (D); John Bennett (D), 34th District Representative; Marvin Stemples (D), 35th District Representative; Ray Baker (D), 64th District Representative; and James Tierney (D), 36th District Representative.

THE READER SPEAKS UP: In Defense of Mrs. Liuzzo

Editor:
Last week a very brave young woman, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, gave her life, because it was lived from day to day in the belief of the equality and dignity of all people. I would like to try, at this time, to answer anyone who questions the intentions or character of this woman, and anyone who charges her with the handling of her children to please try to re-examine their views.

More said, I notice, as I have people talk who want for their children, that so much of what they want is made up of material advantages. In fact, of what they want for their children, that so much of what they want is made up of material advantages. In fact, of what they want for their children, that so much of what they want is made up of material advantages.

Editor:
Dear Mr. Upton:
Our boys attend Coolidge School and on occasion it is necessary for me to meet them at school. As a result, I have been fortunate to witness a most heart-warming scene.

There is a boy (presumably in the first grade) who is handicapped and as a result requires special transportation. He is met by a woman employed by Livonia Schools, whose name I do not know. Most likely she is one of the many "nameless" whose effect is to pass unnoticed. I hope to rectify this.

She greets this child with such warmth and tenderness that even at a distance it can be mistaken. He is always so delighted to see her, and though I do not hear the conversation, it is quite evident that her greeting is always spontaneous and affectionate.

She then very gently helps him to the car and into his seat. One can only guess at how this little episode affects this child.

These "small" things are so very important. Yet, when a school system reaches the size of ours, we tend to lose sight of the most basic ingredient—the child. Perhaps this episode will be a source of pride and encouragement to others in our community. I am requesting you to send this letter to "The Livonian Observer."

The young woman, Selma Goldberg

Editor:
Your sympathy to the readers is appalling in regard to State Rights discussion presented by the Farmington Observer on March 25 in Farmington.

I would like to have you answer why you felt it unnecessary to comment about this extremely controversial issue in this week's paper?

You must believe in something. Let's hear what it is.
Mrs. F. W. Johns
Farmington

Editor:
Congratulations on your expanded newspaper services to Westland. With the Observer now going into more than 70,000 homes in the western sectors of the Detroit metropolitan area, it should serve as a cohesive force to help our better communities work together to solve their common problems.

Editor:
The Observer of April 7, 1965, reported the results of a ribbon committee on whether or not Redford should become a city. When the question was raised on the cost of a new type of government the board answered that they had not investigated this factor but assumed that the cost would pay for itself in services rendered.

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Kindness Noted

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Yesterday's Headlines

25 YEARS AGO
Following the Livonia township spring election The Livonian Observer (April 10, 1940, printed page 1) reported the results of the election. For Supervisor Ziegler, 225 votes; for Harry A. Wolfe, 225 votes; and for Arthur Trapp, 200 votes. The front page news included the announcement of a special school election and a report concerning the sale of Livonia land by the state.

20 YEARS AGO
The Livonian of April 11, 1945 told of the urgent need for American Red Cross Motor Corps volunteers. Ladies between the ages of 18 and 60, were eligible to join.

15 YEARS AGO
Joseph Ziegler, Livonia's supervisor has publicly announced that he will seek the office of mayor when Livonia becomes a city as reported in the Livonian of April 7, 1950. Other front page news included the report by Dave Meininger that Livonia needs a recreation area.

10 YEARS AGO
"21 Percent Visit Poll Here" was the banner headline for the April 7, 1955, Livonian. This mark was up from two years ago when only 13% of eligible voters voted.

5 YEARS AGO
The Observer of April 7, 1960, reported the results of a ribbon committee on whether or not Redford should become a city. When the question was raised on the cost of a new type of government the board answered that they had not investigated this factor but assumed that the cost would pay for itself in services rendered.

72,350
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