

Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

OBSERVER SPEAKS UP Censorship Dynamite

F. Alden Shaw, former Head Master of Detroit Country Day School, was in Farmington on Jan. 6, to participate in the first meeting of that city's Community Forum. Shaw is a distinguished educator, an old-school gentleman of unquestioned goodwill. But the Observer must take exception to his defense of censorship.

The practice of censorship has an unhappy history. There have always seemed to be good reasons for it. But all too often, it has proved an instrument of irresponsible repression and vigilantism.

It is strong and unreliable medicine, and should be taken only in the most extreme cases.

Shaw's specific concern is with the "harmful effects" of the "increasing" distribution of pornographic literature.

He may well be right that this type of writing is on the increase. Unquestionably, pornographic literature is undesirable for our children. But there are those in our society who regard Shakespeare's works as pornography. And once we have set the machinery of censorship, who is to decide whom the censors will be.

Ervin Ellman, of the American Civil Liberties Union, who debated Dr. Shaw, made the point that there is a price to pay for freedom. Democracy is a dangerous form of government.

THE BEST OF PAUL CHANDLER Lowering The Legal Age

(Editor's Note: A bill which would grant 18-year-olds the right to vote was re-introduced in the Michigan State Legislature last week. It was just a year ago that State Representative Paul Chandler and Harry DeLoach originated such a bill in the State House. A project close to Paul Chandler's heart, the lowering of the age limit for legal responsibilities was discussed in his "Facts and Opinions" column of Jan. 30, 1963.)

In the course of pursuing the duties and privileges of a State Representative, we introduced a bill last weekend for the consideration of the chamber and the public at large, which would require youths to attain the age of 18 before receiving a solo automobile driver's license. (It's 18 today.)

The proposal has strong arguments within its own merits, but there was something additional in mind.

Facts and Opinions contends that the much-publicized teenagers in our midst deserve consistency and intellectual honesty from their adults... and the same from all laws which rest on the Michigan books.

They don't get it today.

For purposes of the law, a teenager today cannot smoke or drink until he is 21.

He is not regarded as qualified to exercise his vote until he is 21.

He can drive a car when he is 16.

He can be married when he is 16 (for girls) or 18.

And it has been ruled entirely responsible that he shall offer his services (and his life, if need be) to the armed forces when he is 18.

Nor is it the same from State to State, within the same nation. In some states (and the youngsters know it, and talk about it), it is entirely legal to drink at 18.

In the two youngest States in the Union, Alaska and Hawaii, it is legal to drink at 18.

In two others, down south, they could vote at 18.

Few states indulge in the pretense of a "no smoking" law. It's an ancient Michigan statute. And it is the laughing stock of students, teachers and parents alike. Thousands of our local youngsters smoke before they are 21 and are in "violation" of a law with every puff.

Enforcement is impossible as a practical matter.

Out of all this we believe, could come a logical pattern.

To convince our teenagers that their

Like a boyfriend meeting the family for the first time, candidates when campaigning for public office are on their best behavior.

Their ideas are crisp as their shirts. "Yes," they are for better education, tax relief for senior citizens, mental health. "No," they are against higher taxes, deficit spending. How do they vote?

... And those brochures — pearly-tooth, shiny kids, sweet-smiling wife, happy doggie — complete with many promises for a happy new year.

Once the candidate is elected, the brochures have long since lain in the trash, the majority of voters forget about him, the way he votes on issues and how he carries out his campaign ideas and dreams.

Not so with the newspapers. It is our business to watch and record the elected officials' action, reaction, or lack of same, all the dreary year long.

This is why Paul felt the newspaper, based on the day to day observation of the performance of the elected official, should play a strong part in recommending qualified candidates to the public... who only read the campaign material (often written by a committee) and see a polished version. Many a Mr. Hyde campaign, only to be a Dr. Jekyll one elected. Very few candidates running for an office, even for the first time, are unknown to the fourth estate.

Course, I'll grant you, there are differences among news media. Some use every release that crosses the desk without even removing their feet from same — but there are others that are on the move and have eyes and ears at every meeting, every week — and there is another breed of cats that just pick up their competitors' paper, rewrite it slightly and save themselves a staff.

This writer's interest in the State Legislature is particularly keen this year. Having heard all of the campaign speeches at least three times, the performance and recorded vote shall be noted and reported in both the House and the Senate from representatives serving Plymouth, Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington.

Personally I can't see why it shouldn't be a good year for the voters. I think Governor Romney and the lawmakers are beautifully bound together by an amazing set of circumstances.

For one thing we have really a comparatively conservative group of new Democrats in the legislature serving with a liberal Republican Governor. It has been reversed since 1958.

For this reason, although the Dems have cried "Isaiah" reform for these many years as the minority party, I doubt if they are so inclined now. Gov. Romney had his neck nicked, not only by some in his own party, but by Democrats who wouldn't do anything to make him look good, even if it meant the tax reform they worked for all those years, therefore he probably won't push it until he is sure of solid support.

Of course most of the anti-Romney Republicans have either been goldwatered or reapportioned out of office — and with the Dems as the majority party, working to prove their statesmanship (to be re-elected) — it should be a productive year.

Statesmanship won't be too difficult in the Senate because the majority leader, Ray Drendzel, is a statesman more so all the time.

But in the House, the majority leader Joe Kowalski is a politician in the morning, in the afternoon, at lunch and on the floor. He is a scrapper just for the love of it; he has a sharp wit and a tongue to match.

You won't see gentlemanly, mid-mannered Republican from Farmington, Ray Baker, go to the mat with John Bennett, (D) from Redford Township, is of course a freshman. Majority leader Kowalski should chew him up before breakfast.

And then there is James Tierney, representing Plymouth. Of course his having been shot as the Mayor of Garden City will be good training for him when the fireworks begin in the House this year. Marvin Stempien from Livonia couldn't possibly get the stars out of his eyes in time to get into the fray in the first session.

I expect to see the suburbanites caught in the middle of a crossfire between the U. S. legislators and the city men. It is the first time people have been counted instead of cows — and the city legislators have been waiting a long time to have the numbers on their side so that they could put through legislation that would benefit factory people and the aged.

There are approximately 2500 bills being prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau.

I have asked that the ones Paul submitted be sent to me; so that I can give them to the man who wins his seat for consideration.

Paul put so many hours of research into them that I have a strong desire to keep them alive — particularly those having to do with education.

The Education Committee was tops on Paul's priority list. I was glad to see one of the representatives from these communities make it — Marvin Stempien is on this committee. He will be serving on the Judiciary Committee along with Ray Baker — who used to chair it when the Republicans were the majority party. John Bennett will be able to use his experience as Township Treasurer on the general taxation committee to which he was appointed.

We'll keep in touch.



READER SPEAKS UP Retired Couple Protests

Editor:

On Jan. 8 we received a bulletin from Clarenceville Public Schools. We live in Livonia, but pay taxes for schools out of our \$25 per month social security check, to put on dinners serving 2331 individual meals! Who are these served to? Not us taxpayers who can't even afford a turkey when the taxes come in December.

The article in the Clarenceville newsletter describes the amount of food required as 82 turkeys, 450 pounds of potatoes, 195 dozen rolls, 94 pounds of butter, 390 pumpkin pies and 400 half-pints of milk. And who but those receiving good salaries eat all of this, while we who even get more taxes saddled on again this past month?

It's too bad so many school people today think nothing about others who foot their bills and they are always crying for more pay. If they would only stop to think what real hardships it costs those who have so little coming in to live on, pay taxes, gas, light and other expenses with no discounts or free meals, maybe they would choke on food served in these caterinas, cut out this annual meal expense and stop asking for more and more money. Not one of them needs food like that. Folks that have no children have to pay for it too. Why are meals served in schools? Most children carry their lunches anyway.

Why can't we be in the Livonia School District, where charity begins at home? Maybe then we could have turkey.

A TAXPAYER WHO ASKS NO CHARITY — JUST A CHANCE TO LIVE.

Editor:

Now that the Christmas rush of votes from Home recordings is over and we are into the new year may I take this opportunity to thank you for all the publicity your newspaper gave us to help make the 1964 program a success.

As you may, or may not, know this is a year-round project and we invite families of servicemen and the Peace Corps to make a recording for a birthday, religious holiday, such as Easter, or a wedding anniversary. We shall start our Easter recordings in March during the Lenten season here at the Detroit Chapter and Regional Offices.

This year we invited the Foreign High School Exchange students and the 1,000 Foreign College students in the Detroit area to come in and make a record for their families, sort of a reverse switch, and we are

already hearing from families of these students.

Records were sent to 43 different countries for our servicemen and foreign guests.

Again, thank you for the publicity you gave us and may I wish you a belated Happy New Year.

MRS. JOHN F. SAEFKE.

Report Untrue

Editor:

I read with a great deal of interest your report that I and my family will move to Arizona next month.

To those wishful thinkers who have originated such a report (including myself), may I say that I have been thinking about making such a move for the past ten years, particularly during the worst part of the winter.

However, we may be able to get there for a vacation, as we have in the past.

WILLIAM W. BRASHEAR

Zoning Aid

Editor:

Thanks to the Observer for taking the suggestion of Farmington Councilman Henry Forst, and printing a portion of the proposed new zoning map prior to the Public Hearing on Jan. 11.

At least two people at the meeting remarked that, to the best of their knowledge, they had not received any notice of the proposed changes. They said they were not aware of them until they read them in the Observer.

I would like to suggest that a calendar of public meetings and their topics, be given a prominent place in your paper. What contributors to the more people taking an interest in the affairs of the community.

READER

Cheers

Editor:

Cheers to Myra Chandler and the Observer Newspapers for the splendid editorial "11th

by Les Wilson

NIFTY... AND A BARGAIN

We got to thinking recently about all the different cameras we carry in stock and which one of them represents the best all-around bargain for the person who just wants to take snapshots of things he enjoys, yet are good enough so that he needn't be ashamed of admitting that he took them... well-framed, sharp, correctly exposed. One camera that stands out from all the rest is the new KODAK INSTAMATIC 150 that sells for less than \$30.00.

In addition to all the regular features of INSTAMATIC Cameras (instant loading with KODAPAK Corriges, built-in pop-up flash holder, to name just two) this one includes the same automatic film advance found on a much more expensive INSTAMATIC Camera model.

With one winding the powerful spring motor advances all the film in a cartridge, shot by shot. You can shoot a dozen pictures in a dozen seconds, if you wish. Great for catching children off guard to capture those elusive pictures you prize so highly. What contributes to making this a bargain is the fact that the price includes a handsome carrying case, when you buy the complete outfit: camera, film, bulbs, batteries and "how to" booklet. In fact, this is the only camera that stands out from all the rest include a carrying case of no extra cost. It'll be glad to demonstrate this attractive camera outfit value any time.

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Yesterday's Headlines

20 YEARS AGO built near Five Mile Rd. on * The Livonian of Jan. 17, 1945. Farmington. The banner headline of the government's new line for this issue reported that officers for all 45 positions had been selected for the Charter Commission. The order states that all men, for the Charter Commission no matter how they may be handicapped, must find employment in some industry helping the war effort.

10 YEARS AGO Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Sam Brenner told The Livonian that the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is of the view that a sketch of the proposed St. gate the alleged murder of a Paul's Lutheran School to be race track worker here.

Stock Market Courses
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