

Mayor Moelke Has A Point

Getting the new Jeffries Freeway routed through Livonia today may be as difficult as was construction of the First Transcontinental Railroad a hundred years ago.

Only unlike the railroad, it isn't geographic or physical barriers that have halted planning for the highway. The problem exists because State Department engineers adamantly refuse to modify the plans for the north-south Freeway link which, under present proposals, would split off a large chunk of Livonia from the rest of the city.

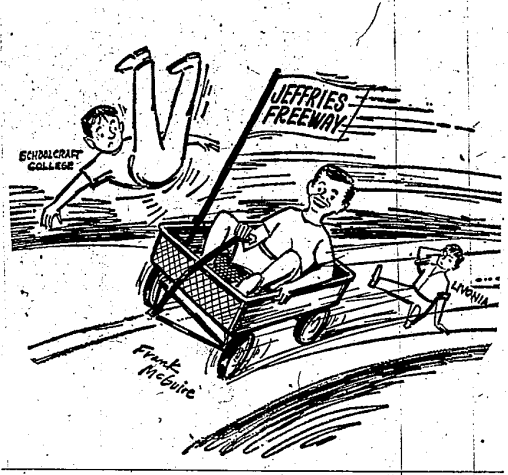
It has been close to a year since the Freeway route proposal was first released. And during these 12 months, Livonia officials have cooperated completely with the Highway Department in its plans for developing the east-west Freeway link along Schoeller Rd.

But from the point where the Freeway route turns northward — between Jeffries and Newburgh Roads — the city has held off.

Why?

The answer is simple — and justified.

City planners point out that Livonia's future residential growth will almost all take place in the northwest part of the suburb. If a surface-level Freeway, like that proposed here, is constructed with only three or four overpasses to link the area between the Freeway and the city's



THE READER SPEAKS UP Wants Rev. Eddy Off Youth Council

Editor:

In an article recently issued to this paper by the Rev. Robert Eddy, there is no doubt that he was referring to me, and the impression given by his article is that I acted in an irresponsible manner and without having been apprised of all the facts.

This article was a sermon released to the Detroit Free Press relating to the sex problems of our teenagers, and was issued on May 1st, of this year. There couldn't possibly be any question of what he meant in this article. Any doubt that I may have existed was removed through an interview with a representative of this paper three weeks later. At that time when he was asked "Do you deny that you are advocating trial marriages of 17, 18, and 19 year old youths?" his answer was, "I do not deny it."

It is very embarrassing to me to have to become involved in this controversy, inasmuch as it puts me in a position of appearing to malign an individual. I have already stated that he has the right to his beliefs and the right to express them. However, any citizen who subscribes to the moral teachings of the Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish faiths, cannot stand by and see problem children in this community indoctrinated with this philosophy. He says that he does not advocate promiscuity in his capacity as chief chairman of the Youth Guidance Committee. It is very difficult to believe that any man will not reflect his convictions in what he says and does.

When the whole controversy could have been avoided had this committee accepted his resignation promptly several months ago.

I may be old-fashioned, but I believe that the problem of our teenagers belongs in the homes, the churches, and the schools. Any problem beyond the control of the parent, the pastor, or the school teacher is a problem for specialized help. I see nothing in the background of the members of this committee to qualify them as experts in this field. It is necessary steps to provide professional personnel in our schools, where this matter can be properly handled.

LEO P. MEAGHER
(Editor's Note: Rev. Eddy resigned Monday — See Page 3).

Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

A law was passed in the State of Michigan this year that has just become interpreted for newspapers by Secretary of State James F. Hare. It will have a real effect on a portion of the 12,500 teen traffic violators recorded in this state.

The new law says "names of guilty juvenile traffic violators can be printed. Under a new law, PA 42, names of juveniles 16 or older who pay a fine, plead guilty, or are found guilty, of a traffic violation can be printed in a newspaper with the same rights of privilege as exist in other court records."

Previously these cases were assigned to the Probate Court where records are not open. The Observer Newspapers have always held fast to the policy of not printing the names of violators 16 or 17 years of age. It has been an unwritten agreement not to do so.

It was always the opinion of my late husband, Paul M. Chandler, that there should be one legal age, for voting, smoking, marrying, drinking and being responsible to face the consequences, when as an adult, they had the privileges of an adult behind the wheel.

As a State Representative he worked ardently to change this law and was in touch with state legislators, counselors, school people all over the state in soliciting their help and ideas on this problem.

This change in the law of putting a 16-year-old driver into the point system and in the adult court is significant and a step in the right direction. His plan was to raise the driver age to 17 — or even 18 — rather than have the 16 year old answerable in the adult court.

Nevertheless for a 16-year-old to drive, but not come under the laws of the state regarding violations is giving him a license to be careless and not starting young drivers off on the right road.

Local law enforcement agencies are varied in their opinion of exposing these tender teens in print.

Judge Michael Bradley of Nankin Township is against exposing a first offender. "I would be against it; I think the publicity would tend to make the youth a hero and actually it would be more of a punishment to his parents and relatives."

Detective L. Robert Turner of Livonia Police Department takes the opposite view and believes if the youth knew his demeanor would be exposed in print in his home town, he would be more careful. He would not want to take a drink while driving, to speed, or drag.

Police Chief Ken Fisher of Plymouth is against exposure of the young people. He feels more could be done with the police working quietly behind the scenes with them.

Chief Irving Yakes of Farmington Township feels it is a good thing. "Previously juveniles were not under the point system and I firmly believe they should be. I doubt if the real violators of traffic law would be much affected by publicity either way. We'll be giving out more names because these kids were just to print out more names because these kids were sent to juvenile court which was ineffective. Justice Court will be much more effective. It was time such a law was passed."

The buzz-saw this reporter ran into opposing the idea was Judge James Lincoln who is in the Board to draft the change in the new law. He is definitely against the publicity unless the names of ALL age violators are exposed. He thought it was definitely discriminatory just to print the 16-year-olds' names. He agreed there was value in publishing the names of drunk drivers found guilty — but wanted to be sure it had nothing to do with the age of the guilty driver.

Judge Lincoln reminded me of the exchange of correspondence he and Paul had last fall — and in going through the correspondence it was plain our late publisher was thinking about launching an experimental campaign whereby juveniles committing adult crimes would be exposed if over 14 in all traffic, liquor and delinquency felony cases. And under 14 if it was a second offense.

A letter from a judge in Montana claimed to have cut crime carrying out a law he fathered in 1961, providing for open court hearings for juveniles accused of felonies which included newspaper coverage, naming names.

He said juvenile felony cases were down 49 per cent compared in a three-year period.

The fear of punishment and the fear of publicity worked in a double way. It brought some apathetic parents into the act — many didn't give a hoot and let their kids do as they pleased. It also involved themselves — exposure brought personal embarrassment. They rode a closer herd; their wild ones in their homes because of the girls at the bridge club and the boys at the office finding out.

Sounds far-fetched, but so is breaking up a school with a hammer to hear glass smash; gang-like attacking an innocent person to hear them holler; or stealing a car for a joy-ride.

Let's Name School

Editor:

Isn't it time that a name is chosen for the high school Livonia? I am sure you are paying for the naming of a school on Six Mile Rd.

Visitors have often asked us the name of the new school and we must always answer "It has not been named yet."

We should name it after some worthwhile local citizen or some national figure and put a big, big sign up telling everyone the name of our new high school.

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Who Can See Private Files?

Comments made by a letter writer in the Aug. 4 issue of The Observer led to some further thoughts on the subject of the operation of public agencies.

The penman, David M. Stevens of Livonia, says that school "Personal files contain information given in confidence, recommendations by third parties, and entries by supervisors who have an opportunity to compare the subjects with his peers."

The question that continues to puzzle me and some other citizens is: Who is privileged to see these "confidential" files?

Does the inspection spot with the Superintendent of Schools? Or the school board president? Or the school board members?

If the school board can look at them, is there an oath a school board member takes that seals his lips from revealing what these files contain if they have come to his attention?

State Rep. Vincent J. Pettipiece of Nankin introduced a resolution in the past session of the State Legislature that would permit the school teacher himself to examine his file.

Judging from this action, there are apparently remarks in these files that even the school teacher does not know about.

If this be true, it is a sad state of affairs, because — unless the comments be derogatory — the subject has no chance to defend himself.

It is similar to the way files of agencies such as the FBI, the CIA, The Detroit Police Department, which contains merely allegations without proof and yet at times have been used to besmirch characters of respectable citizens.

This is also why I object to executive sessions on personnel. I have heard untold accusations of people who have no chance to make any sort of rebuttal because the remarks were made behind closed doors.

As a result of this, I will not attend any public meeting where I am advised the remarks "are off the record."

I welcome comments such as those made by Mr. Stevens for it is by public discussion that we solve our problems. It would be a great pleasure to hear from more of our readers.

We are seeing our freedom ebbing away as we abdicate our privilege as citizens to be kept informed.

BILL GALL

School Board Displays Courage

The Farmington Board of Education should be commended for the most difficult but just decision it recently made regarding the awarding of the milk supply contract to the lowest bidder, Sealtest Dairy. In doing so it took the business away from the local Farmington Dairy which has been the supplier and drew fire from many Farmington businessmen.

The School District followed its established procedure and advertised for bids for its milk supply. Seven companies responded and the two lowest bids — \$109,427.06 from Sealtest and \$109,623.21 by Farmington Dairy — were submitted to the Board for consideration.

In a split and debated decision the Board awarded Sealtest the contract — and so it should.

We believe it is in the best interest of the local taxpayers to accept the lowest bid for other things being equal. (The administration assured the Board both companies were equal in quality and service). The question still lingers: Should the School Board be allowed to pay a premium to retain business in the hands of local concerns? If the small difference of \$200 looked, should \$200, \$500, \$1,000 or even more be overlooked? We don't think so.

Also, once an organization has advertised for competitive bids, they have an obligation to accept the lowest acceptable bidder. It is a matter of ethics as well as selfish interests. Deviation from this policy might result in fewer bidders the next time due to resentment.

The Board might even find itself in a position where it has only one firm bidding. This is a dangerous risk to take. It could mean higher costs to the School District resulting in an increased burden to the taxpayers. Strict competitive bidding eliminates such possibilities.

Truth On U. S. Youth

Last week, this page carried a statement by the international organization for Moral Re-orientation, in which one of its members — a Jordanian student, apparently representing the feeling of the group — described American youth as soft.

The power, which is jealous of our success and glory, enjoys describing our youth as spoiled. The truth, however, is far different.

In Vietnam today, our youth is fighting as

Poor Road Planning

Editor:

Once again the Oakland County Road Commission and certain members of the Farmington Township Board are to be congratulated for their lack of foresight.

It's bad enough that Middlebelt Road between Grand River and Eight Mile Road has to be closed for about six months, but its even worse that no provisions were made to ease the situation.

Two very simple things could have made the alternative routes more tolerable: 1. Orchard Lake Road between Freedom Drive and Eight Mile should have

been black-topped. 2. The shoulder of the north side of Eight Mile, east of Middlebelt, should have been black-topped for about 200 feet. At the present, any car waiting to make a left turn off Eight Mile onto south Middlebelt, ties up traffic for blocks because only one car can pass on the right due to huge holes on the shoulder side of the road. This is extremely bad because of all the commercial vehicles that travel industrial situated Eight Mile. I'll never know why something wasn't done beforehand inasmuch as this Middlebelt development must have been in the planning stage for many months before the actual work began. It's a rotten shame when it can take a person almost a half an

Support Of Eddy

Editor:

I wish to express support for Rev. Eddy. But since his character was attacked here, I feel it should be defended here. I was attacked here, I feel it should be defended here. I was attacked here, I feel it should be defended here.

JOY STINSON
EDUCATION WRITER

Americans Stay Home

Editor:

Your July 28 issue included an article by W. S. Holden urging Americans to travel abroad.

A simplified background of the Government's request would be as follows:

1. Since 1959 the U.S. has not had enough gold to pay off foreign claims. If there were a "run" on us as a world banker.

2. At March 31, 1965 we were \$11 billion short of being able to meet these claims.

3. Several foreign countries have indicated that they will not hold more U.S. dollars in currency of Government securities but will ask for as they receive additional dollars. (The day Mr. Holden's article appeared, the Government borrowed \$300-million in foreign currencies from the International Monetary Fund to youth.

4. The Government has reviewed its loans, grants and military expenditures abroad, must certain cuts, and indicated

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On the Vietnam issue he participated in a controversial, unpopular action. Still, I find it difficult to see how we can be criticized on either moral or patriotic grounds. As a man of peace, he had to oppose a policy that went against his basic beliefs. For to him the political reasons for this war were not sufficient justification for the killing of men, women and children.

His position may be in conflict with world realities; but, it must be conceded, it is no conflict with Christian doctrine and teaching, nor with the United States Constitution and its principles. Conversely, he believes that his actions have reinforced both doctrines and the belief as he did, it would have been to Christian for him to have abstained from behaving just as he did.

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