



**Two 'Yes' Votes for Progress**

Nobody in Livonia quarrels with the fact that our police department is in bad financial shape—and that the salaries of the three chief executives of this city are woefully below what other communities pay their top administrators.

With a "Yes" vote on the two special ballot propositions next Tuesday, Livonians can translate these serious concerns into action.

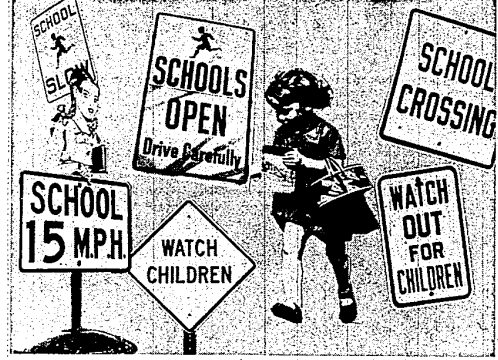
Regular readers of this newspaper do not need to be told of the tremendous loss of manpower which has sapped the police department in the past months. Week after week, headlines in The Observer have told of resignations, now totaling more than 17 men, from the force.

Low salaries have been the chief cause of these resignations—and low salaries have prevented the recruitment of men to fill the vacancies.

Livonia just does not have adequate police protection today. And without the financial relief which the one-mill ballot issue will provide, the number of law enforcement officers will continue to decline, while the population of the city zooms upward bringing a corresponding increase in traffic and crime.

Last week, the police department noted a 10 per cent hike in traffic accidents this year.

Livonia ultimately needs, of course, complete and drastic revision of its city charter. The five-mill tax limitation written into the charter



**THE READER SPEAKS UP:  
 Crack Down on Speeders!**

Editor: Must we wait for a tragedy? Must a fatal or crippling accident occur? Or can something be done to prevent these terrible possibilities?

The "something" that must be done is a crackdown on speeders, dragsters and traffic regulation violators.

The area that is of particular concern to us is the area served by Grant Elementary School and Whitman Jr. High School.

According to a recent census it was determined that this area had more young people between the ages of five and 19 than any other similar areas in Livonia. Yet, with these little "statistics" playing in the yards and on the sidewalks and traveling to school, parents are constantly stalked with the terrible possibility that some irresponsible automobile-driver may lose control of his screaming and burning turns into Delaware has a particular attraction for the "screamers" that have become to the common experience to the families living there.

The turn left from Delaware onto Florida provides a "S" type trial course to be negotiated by the most daring of the speedy drivers. We don't know if trophies are awarded but some day the prize may be a tragedy from which some one will not survive.

Of course, activity of this sort is not limited to daylight hours which may be a blessing since innocent children are not playing outside when the "screamers" perform at night. But it is a nerve wracking experience at any hour of the night by a wild auto careening through the "obstacle course."

Now, what can be done about the problem? We don't know, but we have some suggestions.

- 1—That a "SLOW SCHOOL" sign be erected on the curve.
- 2—That a "SLOW — CHILDREN PLAY HERE" sign be erected with the hope that at least some of the "irresponsible" might be conscience-stricken and take heed.
- 3—That, at least during school hours, a "SCHOOL CROSSING" sign be placed in the middle of the Delaware and Florida intersection. The extra care and caution must be taken.
- 4—That a "speed breaker" be built into the road on the curve, with a warning sign. This would certainly cause the "irresponsible" to slow down, if for no other reason than to keep from beating their autos apart.

That a patrol car be stationed at various places

By MYRA CHANDLER

INDIAN RIVER—Michigan's great north woods is a fine place to take a step back and view objectively the world around you. Among the pines you can stop the world and get off, check your pulses, see if your job owns you or you own it and if the people with whom you are surrounded in your daily work or play are uplifting or degrading.

While in this corner of God's own country, I made a new friend. His name is Charlie Crawford. He is the type of person you wish you could keep close, and whenever in life's decisions you waver between principle and expediency you could call on him to bolster your courage. He is the type of man who assures you, after spending some time with him, it is enough to do right for right's sake.

He was born here in 1878 and has lived in this country all of his life.

For the past 28 years he has been supervisor of Indian River Township, population 800—dead winter, 8,000 in the summer. He has trouble hearing, but no trouble with his eyes, bright blue ones which miss nothing and can spot a phony from a mile on a foggy day. He is active, has a sharp sense of humor, and is fortunate to care about individuals, their problems and be in a position to do something about them. Aside from his concern for his community he has raised 14 children in this north country—seven boys and seven girls; has 44 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

He was well acquainted with the late Supervisor of Plymouth Township, Roy Lindsay. They shared the same politics and ideals; in fact, reminded me of each other.

In trying to determine for whom to cast a ballot in the coming judicial race, going through the names on the list, words of the sage Mr. Crawford came back to me.

"Kids come up here from the city—all cities—and they're not like our kids at all. They have so much onerousness in them and do the darnedest things."

"What's the matter with people living in the city? Aren't they interested in helping their fellow men? We need men of courage in this country as never before. Men who can lead by example, lead these young people back to simple honesty and basic integrity, not to be clever, cunning or just educated."

This words narrowed the list.

Admittedly, I'm not acquainted with all 46 candidates. But without equivocation, among those known to me, I would say there are three that would not be vacillating, or deal-making, in their judicial robes. They are men of principle.

The three are:

- CHARLES McDONALD of Northville, a local Justice-of-the-Peace, and a competent attorney in Redford Township.
- PAUL HARTY of Redford Township, who has served his community in a variety of positions, most recently as one of the strongest members of the Planning Commission, and President of the North-West Lawyers Association.
- THOMAS FOLEY of Plymouth, a lawyer for the past 16 years and a former assistant prosecuting attorney.

ROMNEY REPORTS

**Tax Reform Now!**

By GOV. GEORGE ROMNEY



HARTY McDONALD FOLEY

I am happy to report that the state's surplus stood at \$133,500,000 at the end of the 1967-68 fiscal year June 30—\$7,500,000 more than was expected.

This is good news. The State Controller informs us that most of the added surplus is a result of administrative efficiency and improved management of state government, which has been a major goal of my administration.

In addition, our Michigan economic growth continues to run well ahead of the rate of national economic improvements, and revenue collections continue to set new records. This, too, is good news.

But these facts still do not change Michigan's basic financial picture. They should not lead us to believe that we are adequately prepared to meet our growing state needs.

First, there is no certainty that Michigan's economic growth will continue at a record pace for three more years. As a matter of fact, the slippage in August tax collection improvement from auto sales should remind us that economists generally expect a slackening in the rate of automotive expansion.

Second, Michigan's tax structure is unjust and needs improvement without regard to the need for added revenue.

Third, population and the resulting rise in the cost of education, health and other state services has exceeded the rise in revenues from our present tax structure—despite the unparalleled rates of economic and revenue increases.

Fourth, implementing fundamental tax reform on an orderly, efficient basis requires more than a year after such a legislative program is enacted. To be certain that we avoid an unmanageable financial crisis, we must do our financial planning on a two-year basis until we have an improved tax structure.

The latest improvements in our revenue and surplus figures do not change our basic financial situation. We still need tax reform, and we must have fiscal integrity—we must pay for what we spend.

In the absence of tax action, we will run a very tight ship of state through 1968 and 1969, making whatever reduction in the level of public services may be required to live within available revenues and surplus, if the funds available make this the most prudent course of action.

It is essential that the Legislature take needed tax action before we exhaust our surplus.

In view of our recent progress in the effort toward ultimate legislative action on a bi-partisan tax reform program, the latest revenue and surplus figures for last year take on a special meaning. There is no question that the continuing improvement in our state's fiscal picture will make it even more of a miracle if we achieve tax action, including reform—but I still believe in miracles.

However, I for one do not believe that the improvement indicated is reason for shortchanging our state by being shortsighted in our approach to our basic needs in education, mental health, water pollution, youth programs, law enforcement, parks and recreation, etc.

I will continue to work with the special tax committees of the Legislature in developing a bipartisan program of tax action to meet Michigan's needs.

**Obscenity... Where Is Thy Sting?**

Recently, the Detroit Vice Squad took an evening off from checking the spread of gambling houses, prostitution, and other unsavory matters to view a play at the Concept East Theater.

They saw the stark, raw drama entitled "The Toilet." They heard every word, every word and a few earthy six letter words strewn about as vividly as the sanitary tissue that graced the stage floor.

The Vice squad evidently agrees realism or at least the portrayal of it. You can't let the public know that such language takes place in the inner sanctums of a boy's lavatory. Our upright citizens must be kept ignorant of what they're missing.

Consequently, ever watchful "Big Brother" (the Detroit Vice Squad) put a padlock on the theater door. Naturally, a few weeks later the local courts over-ruled the Vice Squad's hasty decision.

But the damage had been done. The actors went their various ways quite disgusted with Detroit's provincial attitude. And well they might be unhappy.

**Better Human Relations**

Our nation needs, wrote Governor Romney in last week's Observer, citizens who are "gripped by a determination to provide every American with full opportunity to overcome past inadequacies and achieve human dignity."

The Governor was advancing suggestions on how all Americans—white and black—can combat the causes of racial prejudice and insure that riots like those which gripped Los Angeles last month and Detroit in 1943 are a thing of the past.

Within The Observer's circulation area, the Governor's plea has fallen on many sympathetic ears. From news reports in all the communities of western Wayne County, we have seen encouraging signs that of renewed, vigorous activity on the part of human relations organizations and commissions.

In Livonia, a band of more than 300 citizens calling itself "Citizens for Better Human Relations" will hear a speaker from the Civil Rights

**'Follow the Rugged Road'**

As a partner with many local religious and community organizations, Scouting has become a vital educational force in the lives of thousands of boys. Great strides have been made in congested urban areas, sparsely populated rural areas, fast-expanding residential areas—where boys live.

Now, however, the full round program of the Boy Scouts of America becomes a potent force to "reach" recruit more boys before they grow out of the ages 8 through 17. "Break through for Youth," the two-year program of the Boy Scouts of America, represents a new emphasis on bringing Scouting and its values to the many boys now without the opportunity to be Scouts.

We encourage every boy who wants to be a Scout and as well interested adults to join Scouting during the 1968 roundup.

**Monument to Failure?**

The picture you ran last week of the first units of the Independence Green prompts me to write this letter, for there is a new sign on the curve that has gone on partly behind the scenes since the first proposal for rezoning of the Halsted Road property.

We have lived in Farmington for over 10 years, but have never been involved in "citizen participation" in anything but the public schools. Recently, however, when this rezoning was proposed, we felt that not only was our local area affected, but also that our township was being sent the wrong message which would change its entire character — for the worse, we believed.

Indeed, our fears have since been realized, for now at least two other undesirable developments of this type are now proposed, and we, one, are now for the first time, in this immediate area, and many others for all over the township.

We discovered that many other people felt as we did. We in a short time had a petition signed by 75 people from just our sub. This petition was signed, as was every other, by a test we made, and the rezoning was pushed through. We then decided to find out if any other people outside our immediate area were interested in the rezoning, so we set out to get signatures of people from all over Farmington.

For a long time, we have been project so affecting this area. Our township should finally be decided by the people, for or against.

Several citizens participated, incidentally experiencing some harassment from unknown sources, and soon we had over 400 signatures requesting the most sacred right of American citizens—the Right to Vote.

We presented the petition to the township officials. The number of signatures was larger than the number of citizens who had voted in the last off-year election.

The township attorney then returned an opinion that said in effect: We don't know for sure how many signatures you need, but you do have enough. Right to vote denied!

After much agonizing thought,

**'Big Five' Lauded**

While driving to work in the area this morning almost all vehicles had their headlights on as a safety precaution. The glaring exceptions were two Livonia police patrol vehicles that, along with a high speed, almost invisible in the light fog.

All police cars, and for that matter all operators of official vehicles can help safety of the main suburban streets and highways safer by turning on car and truck lights early in the morning, at twilight, and at such times when fog or rain impair visibility.

**Lights On!**

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