

# Brennan Speaks Out On Incorporation

(Continued from Page 1) urbanites where we live. The preservationists attempt to "prove" this proposition by making an example of our neighboring city of Livonia. I am not qualified to judge Livonia's educational problem nor would I attempt to compare the development of their school system with that of Farmington Township. I do know that our fine school administration has been making intelligent plans for years to avoid critical problems. But, the inference that Livonia's school problems, if any, are due to the fact that Livonia is a home rule city where zoning restrictions can easily be broken, is a bald-faced lie.

On zoning, friends and neighbors, I am qualified to speak. As your Township Attorney and representing three other Townships zoning laws and problems are something I live with every day.

After receiving a copy of this letter, I telephoned Mr. Wendell Brown, head of the preservationists, and asked him to cite those "differences in certain laws" which this letter contained. He readily agreed to the city's zoning ordinances that those in townships. Mr. Brown said that he did not have the information readily available but would call me back. I am still waiting for that telephone call.

Also called Mr. David N. Mills, an attorney, whose name appears on the Board of Directors of the preservationists. When I read the letter, I questioned the matter. Mr. Mills agreed that it was not true but denied that he had any part in drafting the letter.

The facts are that there are NO LAWS which make township zoning any stronger than city zoning. As a matter of fact, certain cases in the Supreme Court indicate that the opposite is true.

This Appeal by the preservationists aimed at causing you to fear for the education of your children is absolutely without foundation, is reprehensible and illustrates the unprincipled methods being used in an attempt to defeat home rule in Farmington Township.

**ARE CITIES VULNERABLE?**  
The so-called "fact" book contains this sentence (page 12): "Cities that have tried to set high lot standards have had their zoning attacked in court suits. In most cases, the cities lost and row housing followed. However the Township zoning as of lot sizes has never been successfully attacked in Court."

**THESE STATEMENTS ARE NOT TRUE**

Only three communities have been involved in lot size cases that have reached the Supreme Court. In the first case, Oakland Township's lot size zoning was set aside. In the second instance (two cases) lot size zoning in the City of Troy, (lot sizes larger than any required in Farmington Township) were successfully attacked.

The third case involves Farmington Township. I am rather familiar with this case, having

successfully represented the Township in the Circuit Court and before the Supreme Court. Not only were we able to uphold Farmington Township's zoning but a majority of the Supreme Court admitted that they were wrong in the Troy cases. The fact that has happened in Troy since the Troy cases were decided? Troy has revised its lot sizes downward slightly but the City of Troy still provides for lower population densities than Farmington Township.

**DO YOU BELIEVE ANYTHING THEY SAY?**

Space in this letter does not begin to permit a discussion of all the misstatements, misinterpretations, half-truths, and illogical conclusions which appeared in this book. The following are a few examples: "Road maintenance funds (received by a city from the State) carry statements, in the purpose of purchasing road equipment."

"This statement is false. A city can sell special bonds and assess all city property for their redemption even though only one section of the city benefits."

"This statement is false. A city has twenty times the taxing power of a township."

"This statement is false. Because of its limited taxing power, a township cannot find a market for faith and credit bonds in its own name. They must be sold in the name of the Special Assessment District."

"This statement is false. Township taxing power for the repaving of roads is unlimited. Bonds are never sold in the name of the Special Assessment District. All special assessment bonds are sold in the name of the Township."

"A Township cannot undertake improvements, except by the formation of a special assessment district through a petition of the resident."

"This statement is not true. Similar false statements appear on almost every page of this booklet. A thoughtful and prudent citizen of our township will be careful before believing anything put out by this committee."

**LET'S USE OUR HEADS**

We are not voting on June 6th to establish a city. We are voting to elect a charter commission and proceed to see if we can draft a charter acceptable to all of us to provide for the permanent government of our community.

This is a democracy and government is only with the consent of the governed. All of the details of the charter will be subject to your review, consideration and acceptance or rejection at the polls.

# Teachers School Bond Proposal Examined

(Continued from Page 1) speech and drama classes would be upgraded to the point where the physical teaching accommodations would match the quality and ingenuity of the teachers and students who are presently operating in these fields under tremendous difficulties.

The chief out-of-pocket cost for pools and auditoriums would be in their operation. It's estimated that this would be about \$125,000 a year.

Broken down in terms of an individual tax bill, this amounts to \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation as equalized. To pay for this, taxpayers must agree that the Board of Education raise the operational millage from 25.5 mills, authorized last November at the polls, to 26.5 mills. In simple terms, this would amount to agreeing to pay \$4 more a year if your house has a market value of \$10,000; or \$8 more a year if it's worth \$20,000; and \$20 more a year if it's worth \$50,000.

The price will never be better the way building costs are rising. Authorities estimate that if the pools and auditoriums had been built five years ago, the bill would have been only two-thirds what it is today.

Farmington's Jaycees who sparked the campaign to place these proposals on the ballot, believe that the 3,141 signatures they obtained on their petitions is a mandate to the community to provide physical facilities that will enhance the total educational quality of the schools and improve the recreational and social opportunities for the entire community. "We

want to get as many informed voters to the polls as possible," says chairman John Richardson. "The time is right to authorize the building and operation of these facilities."

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"We've been available whenever the FEA wants to meet," Harrison told The Observer. "We came last Saturday afternoon and we thought was quoted as the FEA left after about 15 minutes with no apparent desire to meet."

At North Farmington the negotiating team told the teachers that one of the requests made for was released time during bargaining purposes. They stated that this request had been denied.

They also said that in Farmington there is a problem in the district and they do not know that 20 to 30 percent of the teachers leave at the end of the fourth or fifth year to teach in other districts. They pointed out that the teachers do not have time they contended.

Harrison told The Observer that "We lose less than 10 percent of our teachers to other teaching positions."

He pointed out that Farmington is a growing district and as such hires many new teachers from outside. He pointed out that a person must teach two years before being granted tenure under state law.

The FEA advised teachers most of our teachers do not sign an contract issued by the District could result in a loss of their jobs next year and if the individual wanted to sign the contract to go ahead as "it didn't mean anything."

Teachers with tenure, however, were instructed to turn in the contracts over to their building representatives who would turn them over to the executive board of the FEA.

Harrison said at the meeting Monday night that if there were no objections from the Board, he would distribute contracts for the coming year to all teachers on Tuesday (May 24). The administration also has requested legal counsel to sit in for the Board at all sessions.

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