

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Wayne County and South Oakland County suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Townships of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

Contentment Connected To Razor Strap?

When the casualty lists from the war in Vietnam are announced, from time to time, we are told the number of men who were lost in action, the number of men who were injured and the number of planes that were lost. These are tangible things.

What they fail to tell are the intangible losses we have suffered such as:

- 1—Loss of contentment in our way of life.
- 2—Respect for law and order.
- 3—Breakdown of our moral standards.

As a result of these losses we have become a nation of jittery people reaching a new peak in selfishness on a creed of every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. And with this change has come a new generation of young folks who are helping to build up a ghastly crime wave across the land.

With each new wave comes the cry, "What's wrong with the young folks today?" At the same time an attempt is made to supply the answer by telling ourselves, "The youngsters are not entirely to blame, it is the parents who are delinquent and must be blamed."

The use of the word "jittery" is a term we are reaping the harvest from the seeds sown in an atmosphere brought about by unwanted and unpopular wars and that in such an atmosphere we have traded contentment for jitter and fear.

Few of us stop to realize that we are generation of young folks—these so-called "teen-age hell raisers"—were born since the hydrogen bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. From the moment it was dropped we have lived in a world which could be obliterated by one simple little mistake that would touch off an atomic war.

First it was the "police action" in Korea, then the fracas in Laos, and next the "offer to aid the South Vietnamese" that have kept us on edge... living in fear.

In an atmosphere such as this, young folks have a tendency to ask, "What does life hold for me?" In many cases, born of

Citizens, Look To Source

There comes a time when elected officials should sit down and evaluate some of their actions that are causing valued employees to leave jobs rather than take the ridicule and public criticism that has come out of too many open meetings of the governmental bodies in recent months.

The point at hand comes after the resignation of Kenneth Fisher, longtime police chief of the City of Plymouth, who ends 25 years of service to that community by retiring at the relatively young age of 47.

It was the fourth resignation of a department head in Plymouth in a period of less than two years. The wave started when City Manager Albert Glasford, who had served for 16 years, quit to accept a position at Albion.

Then followed in succession City Clerk Richard Shaffer, Superintendent of Public Works Joseph Bida and now Fisher. Although members of the City Commission will be the first to say it isn't true, all resigned because of harassing tactics by the Commissioners and because they were held up to public ridicule in open meetings.

It must be qualified that all members of the Commission have been guilty of these harassing tactics, only a few are involved but the others have allowed the incidents to take place.

Some Plymouth Commissioners will take the time to point out that they had known for more than a year that Fisher planned to retire when he completed his 25 years of service and became eligible for a pension.

That could be true enough since the embarrassment of the popular police chief started well before that time and he had been fed up well in advance of last week's announcement.

Perhaps these same Commissioners will answer the question of why should a police chief resign at the age of 47 to accept a pension which he can't start collecting until the age of 60—that's 13 years away. Mean-

while, Fisher has nothing ahead but to look for another job between now and Feb. 1 when his retirement becomes effective.

He isn't a wealthy man. He could ill afford to retire with a daughter in her second year at the State University and a son in his senior year at Plymouth High. But the fact remains that he did retire because he could no longer take the needling he has been subjected to in the public meetings of the Commission.

All of which brings up the point that perhaps it's time for elected officials to remember that city employees aren't animals. They are human beings just like everyone else and they shouldn't be subjected to ridicule anymore than any other worker at any business, industry or financial institution.

In the case of Plymouth, the Commission departments should go through the City Manager hired to handle the city's affairs. He has charge of all departments. All complaints about the operations of the various departments should go through the City Manager.

If the individual Commissioner feels he must take a department head up for ridicule, then there is such a thing as a meeting with the City Manager and the department head to register these complaints.

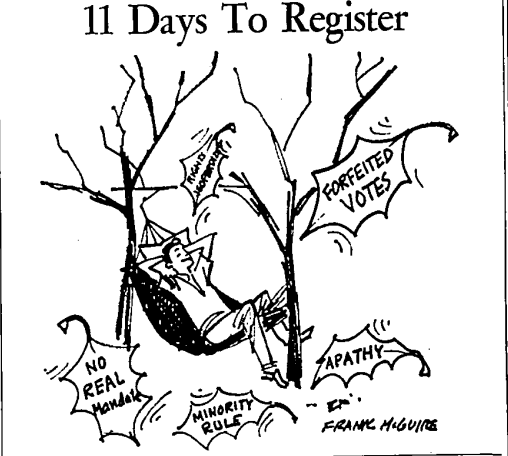
It shouldn't be in a public meeting with the public listening in. But perhaps there are those who feel there is some publicity to be gained by sounding off in front of the citizenry.

It may get some publicity at the moment but it should be evaluated against the adverse publicity when one department head after another calls it quits and goes into private industry or accepts a position with some other governmental unit.

No municipality can afford to lose men with years of experience during these turbulent years, particularly no municipality can afford to lose four of its top ten men in less than two years.

R.T.T.

GET OFF THAT HAMMOCK



Editorial Creates Concern

I was very concerned over the comparisons which were drawn by W.W. Edgar in his recent editorial comparing City administrative salaries with those of the school district. If the purpose in making this comparison was to lead to the voter of the city, then the comparisons are irrelevant. Mr. Edgar might better have compared City administrative salaries to those of other cities of our population size.

The Citizens Research Council made this comparison in their study of Livonia in 1962. Their report made it quite clear that salaries and city services were low in Livonia as compared to 11 other cities of our approximate population.

If, on the other hand, Mr. Edgar hoped to convey the impression the school administrators were overpaid and did not earn their salaries, then this just is not true.

Administration of a city or school district the size of Livonia is a momentous task and few administrators know regular office hours.

The school district long ago realized, and planned for, the need to offer good salaries in order to attract and retain qualified administrators.

At: Westland Voters

If you have never voted, registered to vote in the City of Westland or the former Township of Nankin or have neither voted or continued your registration in the last two years, you must register with the City Clerk in order to vote in the important Nov. 8 election. You must register by Oct. 10.

PHYLIS MURCH

Ed. Note: Did it ever occur to you, Mrs. Murch, when City officials are paid full-time salaries, as our school administrators are, perhaps they could lend themselves to "leadership" as opposed to just administering. Incidentally, it was the dedication of the Mayor of the City of Livonia to make known the needs of the park proposal to the City of Livonia—and this is fact.

WILLIAM H. BANUSH
JOHN F. MARKES

OMBUDSMAN

(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers — we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!)

Dear Mr. Case: You are right, Mr. Case. There are no plans for an overpass, except under Sheldon Road north of R.R. to Five Mile. There will be two lanes of traffic in either direction on Sheldon with a left turn lane in center. For complaint purposes call Al Barbour, WO 2-7670. He is in charge of this phase of planning.

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OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

The most interesting theory was broached by a New Yorker in Detroit the other day to talk to the Society of Engineers about an incident that happened in December of 1945.

It concerned five fighter planes that had just disappeared without trace or clue. Subsequently a search plane with 15 aboard also disappeared in the same general area—near Cape Kennedy where the Government chose to come and go into space.

A radio report, just before the five planes were apparently "swallowed up," indicated something strange was happening and all mechanism was out of order.

Now the inference and the investigation of this New York writer was, of course, outer space people claimed, rescued, spacemanned them, and the Government felt this was a fact also, but had no proof, so said nothing.

He also broached the idea that if we chose this particular spot to leave earth's atmosphere it would be a logical place for our space neighbors to enter. But why haven't they?

I didn't hear the end of the program so I don't know what his theory was, but it occurred to me why in the heck should they.

Certainly, (I am a believer in the little green men) if they are so far advanced of us to be able to succeed in, they certainly are more intellectually advanced than we.

Now, it follows, they have knowledge of energy capable of blowing themselves apart as we have. But apparently they have advanced to the intelligence of peace on their planets.

Alas, we are far behind them.

I sincerely believe our first atomic explosion and subsequent testings have drawn them to "investigate us"—and we are being observed.

Can't you just see a routine assignment handed out: "Keep an eye on earthlings and just tell me if they blow themselves up so we can change our charts."

I think with their super-advanced devices they can judge our hypocrisy, and duplicity in government.

Parents living one way while mouthing something else to our kids.

Our greed for power, more money, and success, based on personal recognition rather than accomplishment.

Our deck of real warmth for our God, our neighbors and those of different religion and color.

What if they did turn out to be green—with webbed feet? Well, who could communicate with a soul like that? Who would want to? They probably can't make a sharp buy in the stock market, shoot in the low 70's, or know how to shift four-on-the floor.

A philosophical telephone conversation the other day with Weldon O. Yeager, head of the Workers' Compensation for the State of Michigan on GOP politics, brought the whole thing in focus for me. Weldon and I have always had our differences under the GOP umbrella—sort of like a junior Javitz and Goldwater. Weldon isn't as bad as Goldwater and I'm not as good as Javitz, nevertheless, we have not heard the same drummer.

But we did the other day—and he said it first. Often in our party the candidate is chosen by the powers-that-be based on his ability to win rather than his knowledge and basic integrity. And these powers-that-be always deny the helping hand.

This could be true with the Dem. party, too, but my hunches have only included GOP arenas.

I think a case in point is Jack H. McDonald. Way last Spring at the Governor's Task Force convention I persuaded Elly Peterson to talk to Jim O'Neil who said he would only run for Congress if he was assured the party would not object. They did. They had Jack picked out because they thought he could beat Billie S. Farnum over Richard Kuhn.

So they made their bet. To me Billie S. Farnum is far better qualified than Jack H. McDonald.

Billie Farnum and Jack McDonald both are liberal, they both seek Democratic and labor help—but the real difference is Jack H. McDonald is a neophyte in Governmental affairs coming from his father's excavating business to serve to promote himself. He has little experience in state, fiscal, or foreign affairs.

While Billie Farnum has grown in State Government all of his adult years; being Auditor General—and is considered a conservative in fiscal spending. Farnum's ability was recognized his first term in Washington and he was put on the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Regardless of party, I think it is time we started recognizing the worth of a man based on his ability and the time to start is now.

I want those little green men to think we on earth are worth visiting.

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