

# 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 Township of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

# Closed Shops Good For Taxpayers, Employees?

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Just like any other organization, newspapers are not monolithic. There is just as much disagreement on the staff of a newspaper as there is on the staff of any business or school.

It has been the policy of The Observer Newspapers to promote full and free discussion of the issues of the day in the editorial columns of the paper. This will continue to be our policy.

We further realize that there is often much room for legitimate disagreement, even among people who may write editorials. It is our policy to promote such disagreement and discussion, in the hope that full debate will in some way add to our readers' understanding of the issues.

## Pro

## Con

Unions are here to stay, whether we like it or not.

In recent months, many public employees—teachers, firemen, policemen, hospital employees, and so forth—have chosen to be represented in negotiations with their employers by a bargaining unit, i.e. a labor union. The legal authority for this development, at least in the State of Michigan, seems quite clear.

What is needed, however, is to do our best to be precise when thinking about the emotionally charged issue of unions and, in particular, of unions representing public employees.

Among others, there are two key issues involved in question of unions for public employees:

1) Shall these unions operate under a union shop agreement or under some other sort of arrangement?

2) Does the existence of public employee unions substantially diminish the degree to which citizens and voters control the actions of our government units?

The pros and cons of whether all public employees in a certain area shall belong to a union are quite different than the effect union bargaining has on the principle of citizen control of local government.

Much sound and fury has come out of the issue of the closed shop. Briefly, the argument against such an arrangement is that no man should be required to join a union merely because he happens to be hired by a particular employer.

Expressed in slogans, this argument asserts that a man has a "right to work" without having to join a union.

The argument for a union shop is two-fold. First, it suggests that if a majority of employees choose to have a union take time and trouble to represent them during bargaining time, all employees should participate in the union and free riders should be discouraged.

Second, many presidents of large corporations assert that labor relations are much better when there is only one union representing their employees than when there is more than one union or when there is a union together with a group of unorganized workers.

Now these arguments are interesting and important. But they have very little to do with the issue of whether or not having unions representing public employees will affect the degree to which the public controls the activities of local government units.

What, exactly, does a union representing public employees do? It represents, collectively, employees on matters such as wages, working conditions, vacations, time off, etc. These are precisely the same matters that are subject to negotiation between a non-unionized employer and an individual employee.

Unions may also assert that employers are not devoting enough time to full and fair collective bargaining or that a union shop should be the proper basis for employee bargaining.

But it is of extreme importance to realize that the subjects unions negotiate on do not include overall policy that shall be followed by public employees. Such policy is, quite properly, set by the duly elected city council or board of education.

Unions are not claiming, for example, that it should be the policy of the city of Livonia to run itself under a deficit financing system. Nor are they claiming that, for example, the Farmington school system must teach German in the high schools but not French.

—Philip Power

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## It's A Matter of Vision



FRANK MCGUIRE

### Letters To Editor:

## Protest Four Story Motel

**Editors:**

Many of us in the Hillcrest-Elmira area in Section 35 are concerned about the proposed Holiday Inn motel development just north and east of us. A request for a change in zoning from C-2 to C-4 (multistory) at the last meeting of the Planning Commission, March 14, brought out the fact that this plan for this development have changed considerably from the original proposal, last year, when there was no objection from the abutting property owners. We are concerned that if the facts of the new proposal are not fully known to all the neighborhood, and fully considered by the Planning Commission or the Council, that the proposal may slide through under the impression that the neighborhood has approved it and that it will have no effect on the area.

We had no real objection to Mr. Hemminger's original proposal, which consisted, in general, of a two story building and a swimming pool at least two hundred feet from the nearest fence on the abutting R1 property fence. This latest proposal has moved the swimming pool west about two hundred feet and has changed the building to a four story building. This whole development will be squeezed into a narrow space so that one side of the building is very close to the east fence in back of the properties on Hillcrest, and the pool is about fifty feet from the north fence in back of the properties on Elmira.

This new plan is quite different than that approved by about nine residents last year. It will destroy the privacy of the neighborhood and deteriorate the property values.

We believe that Mr. Hemminger should go back to the neighborhood and interview the residents again and also include others who are now affected, because of the change in location. We hope that the planning commission will visit the site and evaluate the full impact of a high rise building near the property line. We hope the Council will consider the loss in property values in the residential district.

There must be a better way to use this property and we hope everyone, Mr. Hemminger showed us himself of a much better way to do it. With a two story building at least two hundred feet away from the residential properties, with adequate landscaping, solid eight foot walls, well engineered area lighting, there could be no real objection. The appearance could be advantageous to the area, and with more room.

**Will Depreciate Value**

This letter is written in protest of the rezoning of land tract 35 C-1-A and 35 B from C-2 to C-4.

This area is located immediately east of Devonshire Park Subdivision, and on it Holiday Inn is planning to build a four-story motel if the zoning change is approved.

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## OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

If you ever looked into the piercing blue eyes of Representative Joseph J. Kowalski, particularly if you were arguing a point with him, you knew you were talking to a knowledgeable, knowing man. He will be missed in the House of Representatives—he will certainly be missed as "the whip"—I, for one, regret his leaving the scene.

**LIFE GOES ON**—and this week we might be one step closer to saving some who might be victims of drunk drivers—we might if the Civil Liberty lawyers that are thick as cream in Lansing, can see it my way.

An old Civil Liberty believer myself, I can't go along with their theory where the Implied Consent Bill is concerned.

The Applied Consent Bill, as you probably have read, automatically gives your consent when you apply for a driver's license, to be stopped if you are involved in any traffic violation or accident, and to have the Police demand, if they deem it necessary, a test to see if you are drunk while driving.

You have your choice of three testing methods: a blood, urine or breath test—or you lose your license. If you are not drunk, one of the above will prove it—and if you are, you deserve to lose your license—in my opinion.

Civil Liberty people are saying "invasion of privacy." There is no civil liberty that gives an individual the right to use a tool of destruction on other individuals as well as themselves. A drunk behind the wheel of a car is as much a tool of destruction as though he were carrying a keg of dynamite with the fuse lit.

The penalty if found guilty would be a suspension of his driver's license for a period of three months to two years.

Representative Donald Holbrook from Clare, (R), believes the Bill must include the provision the person must be arrested before any of the three tests be administered. Rep. Holbrook is chairman of the Judiciary Committee—and I think by requesting this amendment is trying to confuse the issue. All sorts of law suits could come out of false arrests. But an automatic test, if the police believe the driver is drunk, when a traffic violation or accident is involved, could be as automatic as "may I see your driver's license."

John Bennett of Redford Township is the author of the bill. I think it is a darn good one. It also has bi-partisan support. Both Secretary of State James Hare and Governor Romney are in favor of the Bill.

**ANOTHER HAPPY THOUGHT**—According to Daisy Wagenschutz, in the insurance business in Plymouth, tells me the Implied Consent Bill could pave the way for lowering insurance rates.

One bill, she says, would raise the insurance rates, and that is the Guest Bill—and hopefully it will be defeated. It is written so that any passenger involved in an accident may sue the driver of the car. Presently a passenger may only sue for gross negligence of the driver.

Can't you just imagine us becoming a state of single car passengers, because the Bill does not even exempt members of a family from suing one another—and who would want to take the chance?

Particularly would this be true in the care of den mothers, brownie and scout leaders—and for that matter neighborhood chauffeurs to school, church and parties.

**Supports "Y"**

At its annual meeting Feb. 10 the board of directors of the Livonia non-partisan club unanimously voted to give its full support and endorsement to build a Livonia Family "Y."

The club urges all its members and friends to come forward and offer any assistance or donations of services or funds, to this worthwhile cause.

The proposed Family "Y" center will have much to offer the youth of tomorrow which we so desperately need today. Any inquiries can be made through Ben Thomas,

president of the club, and also vice president of the "Y." His number is GA 7-6729.

Ben Thomas  
Livonia

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