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Stresses Need Of Home Ownership

Rep. McDonald Suggests Programs To End Riots

By DENNIS PAJOT
Editor Redford Observer

A program aimed at alleviating the cause of riots, such as those that blazed during the past summer, is urged by Congressman Jack McDonald, 18th District.

The limited amounts of money being spent in the "War on Poverty" are not doing it, he told a group of businessmen and civic leaders attending a Redford Optimists Club meeting Thursday.

He proposes, instead, that private and industrial energy be directed toward making it possible for poverty classed persons to buy their own homes.

"Home ownership is so darned important," he asserted. "Renters are only temporary citizens, and they feel like only temporary citizens."

"Home ownership is needed to give them pride and to establish them firmly in their communities to make them feel a responsibility toward it."

"We have to use our technology to produce a way to build homes that they can buy in the central cities," said McDonald.

"I believe we should allow tax credits to industries which provide training for people so that these people can then buy a home," he said, spelling out one step he believes can be taken by the federal government to promote more home ownership.

He said that breakdown of race relations has been pegged as a fundamental underlying the plight of poverty groups. These include white as well as Negroes by about three to one, he said.

LEGISLATION EYED

McDonald said he believes home ownership is a key factor in establishing pride and self respect that are needed for good home relationships.

A bill has been introduced on Capitol Hill in Washington, he revealed, which would help further this aim.

Basically, the bill requires that welfare recipients must take job training, or their funds will be eliminated.

Secondly, it requires that states set up day camps (schools) for training disadvantaged youngsters.

Thirdly, once a person has completed training he would be required to take whatever job was available on government listings.

Theoretically, he notes, this should be an incentive for persons to gain job skills, because otherwise they might be placed in menial labor.

A fourth point of the congressional bill would be to allow welfare payments only in an amount to make up the difference in needs over income.

It would become a provision of the Federal Social Security Act, said McDonald.

"It would be the first time since we provided welfare programs that we're really putting some teeth into it," the former Redford Township Supervisor stated.

He pointed out that while he was a township supervisor he instituted similar programs locally. "I had them work out their welfare at \$1.75 an hour ... It worked so well that the amount of such employees dwindled and we brought people in from other communities."



Jack McDonald

"Many of those who began by working out their welfare established habits and attitudes that made them later become fine regular workers. Of course, for some it didn't work so good," McDonald added.

CRITICIZES COURTS

As a short-range result of the riots a bill has been introduced, also, he noted, which is aimed at curbing people such as Stokely Carmichael and Rap Brown, who tend to incite riots.

"But, they couldn't start riots if there was a want problem to start with," declared McDonald.

"It's going to take a group of people, Optimists or any group, to erase this problem for their children."

He commented also that delayed enforcement of the laws, both in the streets by police and in the courts by judges, has contributed to the problem.

He asserts that "too liberal sentencing" has created an attitude of laxness towards law and order.

"You all know what has happened in Detroit over the past six or seven years. There has to be a reversal. This liberal sentencing attitude has to be overcome," said McDonald.

"The law has to be enforced. The law should have

been enforced in Detroit at first. Police and the courts haven't faced up to their responsibility," he said.

"It's not the answer to the main problem, but it has to be done," he emphasized.

Another bill he is introducing, McDonald said, would exempt police from the draft so long as they remain on departments during their draft eligibility.

This, he believes, will encourage greater numbers to become police and strengthen the enforcement of laws.

PRESS CRITICIZED

In a backhand way he called upon the press to help, too.

He cited an example of non-coverage that was, in his view, significant during the riots.

Four Negro boys from Atlanta, Georgia had walked to the nation's capital with an American flag in support of the Vietnam war.

McDonald said notices to the major press services and national news publications were issued.

"But I'll bet you didn't see a word of it," he challenged. "It wasn't news!"

PRESENTS FLAG

McDonald was the guest of the Optimists in his home ballroom primarily to present an American flag which flew over the nation's capital on August 16.

"The Optimists are one of our most outstanding service groups," he said at the presentation. Their questions prompted his post-riot comments.

Accepting the flag was Redford Optimists Club President Elmer G. Wegener and other club officials.

Present were Robert Anderson, Optimist and Redford Township Trustee, and Edward G. Milligan, Livonia Councilman, along with several guests from the Tri-City Optimists Club.

For Tech-Vocational Courses

Industry Furnishes Schoolcraft Teachers

William H. Baumgartner is an electronics engineer with 21 years experience in industry, the last 14 of it with the Burroughs Corp. He was project manager for the E210 design machine, a small digital computer which was an instant market success and earned for Burroughs the Michigan Product of the Year award in 1984.

Clifford Hall spent 34 years in the automotive industry. He started as a "grease monkey" in a garage and became a service manager in several automobile dealerships, a parts and equipment sales manager, and a vice-president for marketing.

Oscar H. Poupard has combined 11 years in industry as a data processing manager and supervisor with more than four years teaching data processing.

Ronald G. Simmons is a civil engineer who has served nearly 10 years with the Michigan State Highway Dept. as a project engineer. Baumgartner earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in mechanical engineering, and a Ph.D. in the same field, then switched to business administration and earned

a masters degree in that field.

Hall is a graduate of many highly specialized automotive service schools. Poupard earned a masters degree, and Simmons has a bachelors degree as a civil engineer.

What do these four men have in common?

They all joined the technical-vocational faculty at Schoolcraft College this year.

Individually and collectively, their academic and industrial backgrounds represent the combination of talents progressive administrators seek in assembling a faculty for career-oriented technology programs at the college level.

Baumgartner, who lives in Plymouth, is teaching electronics. Hall, of Garden City, has joined the automotive program faculty. Poupard is teaching an expanded data processing program. Simmons, a resident of Livonia, was enlisted to teach the new highway technology program.

"Business and industry need people trained in the technical skills of today's production techniques," said Jon P. Adams, dean of technical-vocational instruction at Schoolcraft.

"Our job is to provide this training to the men and women of our community so that they can make use of their skills in the labor market at a profit to themselves and to the benefit of their employer."

"When we look for an instructor to teach a course in data processing, for example, we must look for a man who not only knows how to teach, but one who knows, as recently as last week, industry's needs and techniques."

GOP To Hear Senator Kuhn

The Livonia Republican Club will meet at 8 p.m. Sept. 28 at Merri-Bowl Lane to hear State Senator George C. Kuhn, of Berkley.

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