

Are Lawmakers Suggesting Suburbs Pay Riot Costs?

Are we suburbanites our brothers' keepers?

"Yes," said Gov. Romney in effect in his message last week to the Legislature.

"Nuts," said many suburban legislators.

No one should have been surprised that Romney asked \$5-million more in special school aid to finance educational improvements for underprivileged. The request, Lansing observers said, seemed to stem from the New Detroit Committee headed by

Joseph L. Hudson Jr., seeking money to aid the neighborhoods ravaged by last July's riot.

Analyzing the riot on July 30, we predicted that suburbanites would pay—and pay heavily—for the damage. We calculated the property tax revenues lost by the cause of the destruction of property at \$5.5 million, and that the state would probably be asked to make up the difference.

It worked out just about that way.

THERE'S NO PURE right

and wrong on this issue.

The idea that out-state residents, including these suburbs, should cough up the money through state aid is based on the legal fact that education is a state responsibility.

The sociological crowd argues that we suburbanites were often former big city residents; that we work in the big city but take no interest in its welfare; that much deteriorating property in the big city is owned by suburbanites; that we white folks in the outlying portions of the city and in the suburbs help create the crowded conditions of the big city by our resistance to open housing, and so on.

The argument in favor of that \$5 million in school aid ends by hoping that this extra help will eliminate the rotten conditions that cause riots.

That's one side.

THE OTHER SIDE was expressed in Lansing by several suburban lawmakers.

"Our interests are not tied to Detroit's," said one. "There's no money for the disadvantaged program."

"If you gave \$5 million in the bill for educationally disadvantaged, then you have to give \$5 million to rural interests to get their votes," said a representative from Romney's 11th old home town of Bloomfield Hills.

A senator from Grand Rapids called the entire Romney agenda "unbalanced"—many bills for civil rights, blighted areas and social problems, but nothing for tougher law enforcement except a state police reserve.

No one said it out loud, but the underlying logic seemed to be that giving Detroit schools more aid after a riot would simply reward the rioters.

The candidate for the Legislature who were beaten in 1966 are probably breathing a sigh of relief about now.

It's a tough issue.

YET THERE'S a precedent for this kind of dilemma.

It came after 1945. Nazi Germany the wicked was beaten and physically destroyed. The Big Two conquering powers took different approaches to the future.

The U.S. reacted with aid. It made West Berlin, in particular, a showplace, occupying the conquered territory for awhile, encouraging self-government, and then withdrawing after reconstruction.

The Soviet Union left East Berlin pretty much barren—a grim reminder to the Germans of the price of their collective sins. It ruled through a puppet government.

Gov. Romney's \$5 million school aid proposal hearkens back to America's post-war strategy. It was a strategy that proved correct. Maybe we ought to try it in a riot-ridden area.

—Tim Richard



Observation Point

Fall brings falling leaves, crisp nights, fog sometimes, and rain.

Also the flu.

Nuff said?

Maybe Voters Were Ones Brainwashed

Gov. George Romney is an honorable man.

In the early 1960's he helped form the "Citizens for Michigan" organization to help promote a petition drive for a convention to rewrite the existing state constitution which was originally drafted in 1908.

ROMNEY SAID he had no interest in state politics—he just wanted to improve the state constitution and the state's economic climate.

Everyone believed him because George Romney is an honorable man.

The petition drive was successful and Mr. Romney was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention. Despite his success at his first try at an elective office, Mr. Romney said he has no interest in other elective offices.

Everyone believed him because Mr. Romney is an honorable man.

A year later, there was a "draft" to get Romney to run for Governor. Sir George heard the call and declared himself a candidate.

He said he wanted to correct the unfavorable conditions in Michigan and everyone believed him because Mr. Romney is an honorable man.

So, he won the election to the state's highest position in 1962 and in ensuing years, won reelection by overwhelming margins.

During the past year or two, there has been an increasing amount of talk and noise about Mr. Romney running for the nation's highest position—President of the United States.

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BUT MR. ROMNEY said that he had more important things to do—namely, get the state legislature to pass a badly-needed fiscal reform program so that monies would be available for important services, especially more state aid for public schools.

So everyone connected with the public school machine, from school board members, superintendents, PTA officers, teachers, and general do-gooders, got behind fiscal reform under the distinct impression that it would provide more school monies for the hard-pressed property owners.

Now that fiscal reform (really a state income tax on top of all the old taxes) is a fact, we find out that there has been no increase in state aid for schools.

As a matter of fact, Romney's recommendation for huge cuts in special education programs and mental health facilities was slashed as much as 50 to 60 per cent.

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SO NOW the school people are mad at Mr. Romney, who is an honorable man.

You may have missed the news story in the Detroit papers recently about an official disavowal of the Citizens for Michigan group. It was really the formal funeral service for something that died when the constitutional convention was formed six years ago.

Were millions of Michigan citizens wrong when they supported Mr. Romney? Not really, they were merely brainwashed.

—Leonard Foger

This Is The Week That

... By Don Henshall

LANSING—They still raise the flag on the south end of the Capitol when the Senate is in session and on the north end when the House is meeting.

When they raise the big flag in the center it means that the Capitol is still standing.

Gov. Blair's statue continues to stare down Michigan Avenue, his back to the scene. This is a ghost with class.

And, like the National Guard howitzers on inauguration day, politicians are still firing blanks.

Would you believe everybody's for open housing?

Everybody's also 100 per cent for sunshine, a bumper crop and good health. Sorry about that, doc.

... ..

WHAT THIS IS all about is that open occupancy legislation means nothing but public relations. And that makes it a perfect issue. Mind a bit of history, sir?

It was a bleak 1939, the year of thephony payless payday and the year of the Edsel. That was the low point and everything's been going downhill since then.

Lawrence Gubow, then Corporations and Securities Commissioner, imposed Rule 9. The first eight regulated real estate brokers and salesmen in their dealings with customers.

Rule 9 said any salesman or broker who participated in prejudice when selling a house could lose his license.

... ..

IT WAS TOUGH stuff for the real estate trade. Meetings were held and committees were appointed. Writs of arousal were issued and crosses were drenched in No. 10 oil for burning on laws.

It was a time for people to be taken off the hook—and they were, by the 1963 state constitution which created the Civil Rights Commission and gave it powers to equivocate. Like them apples, sir?

Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley came forth with two rulings which still stand—that local governments have no voice in such things, that the state commission has the last word. Cities can educate, he said, but cannot enforce. The issue thus became black and white. And moot.

Now we had Gov. Romney and others touring the burning cities and calling on legislators everywhere to do something that already exists in law. So the legislature will vote for open occupancy.

It won't stop the cities from burning or force you to sell your house to a Negro.

... ..

SO DON'T WRITE angry letters to your legislator or stage a march on Lansing, whichever you feel. It isn't worth the postage or gasoline bill.

In the legislature votes come easiest when they mean nothing, like resolutions of condolence and those passed on behalf of Class D high school basketball champions.

So, really, folks, open occupancy is not a four-letter word. It's a two-letter word.

PR.

Separating School Tax Could Be Beneficial

A distinguished gentleman of Redford Township has a reasonable answer to the question: Why isn't more impetus being given to cityhood for Redford Township?

His answer: The people think that incorporating the township

as a city would unite Redford Union and South Redford schools districts—and thus spread South Redford's industrial tax base wealth to Redford Union's residential responsibility.

This, he pointed out at the same time, is absolutely untrue. Only a school district of the first class follows exact city boundaries. The City of Detroit school system is the only district of the first class in Michigan. Redford Union and South Redford are districts of the third class.

Redford Township (or city) boundaries could not affect any school district boundaries. Incorporation of the township as a city would in no way alter the tax base of either school district.

CONFUSION (THIS matter is not surprising. Any local official can tell you of the many questions he gets from the public such as: "What is the township doing with all the tax money I am giving them?"

The average taxpayer believes that because the township treasurer collects the school taxes as well as the township taxes, that the township controls the spending of both.

It doesn't.

School tax money, which amounts to about 85 percent of what's collected, is passed directly to the schools, whose boards of education administer it.

No doubt the designer of the tax collection process was more concerned with economy of effort than he was with public understanding of government function. Otherwise, he would have realized that a mass public does not believe that money paid to Paul will be turned over to Peter to be spent.

Guest Editorial

Teachers across the state of Michigan have thrown a tantrum. "No contract, no work," they cried out. Posters taped to school windows read: "Positively no students permitted inside this building today!" Evidently these teachers were determined. The strike was on.

Usually, tantrum throwers are ignored, with the reasoning that eventually they will calm down. Michigan teachers didn't calm down. They marched with picket sign, they cried out against officials, they simply refused to change their attitudes. Daily newspaper and TV coverage gave evidence of their determination. The public could not ignore their demands.

Debate centered around higher wages and a shorter working year. Other areas of teacher discontent touched upon class size, text and curriculum, and qualified substitutes. However, regardless of the problems, the teachers, some said, were not acting as professionals should. Isn't professionalism an image a teacher bears only by virtue of her position? Teaching demands a dedication to the cause of educating America's children. Teachers are molders of character, guides over rugged and narrow paths of emotional adjustments, people to whom others are deeply indebted—Isn't this the image they want to create for the public?

Perhaps a down to earth reappraisal was needed. Most teachers must also raise a family and meet the demands of the ever-increasing cost of living. Critics might need to dispel the emotional approach to the profession of teaching and take a long look at what might very well be the beginning of diminishing numbers among the qualified intellectuals in the teaching field.

—Madonna College Herald

Where Else Can A Girl Relax?

With all that has been written about the feminine mystique, there is a factor that no one has considered.

That's woman's singular attitude about what is popularly known as "beauty shops" and having someone else wash and set her hair.

The male of the species looks at the cost (between \$3 and \$5 on the average) and screams "WHY?"

The female never comes up with what the male believes is a satisfactory answer.

(Of course, the reason is a mere man's inability to follow the simple process of feminine logic, but that's the subject for a separate column.)

TO MOST WOMEN, the hour of a week spent having their hair done is more than a utilitarian function.

It's a combined luxury-necessity for one's sanity.

Where else can a woman be so completely cut off from the phone, the errands and the daily inter-personal relationships with children, husband, neighbors, etc., etc.?

To the working girl, the peace and quiet of an enforced hour of sitting shut off from all outside contact is even more precious.

How women spend the hour under the dryer is revealing.

The great majority read. The material runs from the daily newspaper, to magazines to books of both the paperback popular and more intellectual variety.

SOME SNATCH the opportunity for a nap. Others knit or crochet. Still others might write letters.

Never have I seen a woman darn socks or some other utilitarian occupation that might be pursued in this "all-women's world."

This leads one to conclude that the time is precious to the ladies and is reserved for something they enjoy or are interested in.

Personally, this working girl, who is always behind on paper work and reading that should be done, reserves the time to read whatever is the most appealing in a non-work sense.

The time is mine and no one is able to infringe upon it.

It's part of the feminine mystique that men haven't even begun to expore. When they get around to it maybe they will stop asking that horrid question of "WHY?"

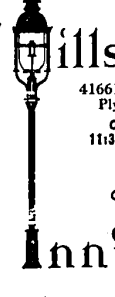
SENSE 'N' NONSENSE

We're going to write a book about hospitals, borrowing a bit from Bobby Kennedy's tome about the communist and criminal conspiracies in the United States: "The Enemy Within."

The only thing worse than having a stone in your kidney is having rocks in your head. Or none in your bourbon and branch.

Radio City Rockettes struck and history won't record it as the longest or bitterest or an economic benchmark mark, but what a picket line!

Harvey Moeke is on the side of the churches, quiet neighborhoods, and against go-go girls. We're waiting now for him to proclaim autumn.



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