

Readers Speak Up On Many Vexing Problems

We Get A Pat And A Rap

EDITOR:

This letter has a two-fold purpose: First and foremost it is to commend the excellent articles appearing consistently in the Observer columns. All of the writers should be justly proud of their high quality as well as wide coverage of news matter as it pertains to each reader.

The second purpose, but perhaps more important, is to say that the leadership of the Observer Newspapers, as exemplified by Philip H. Power, is unmatched anywhere.

Having said that, may I be permitted to ask Power to be a bit more unbiased politically while he properly, as a publisher, remains critical of all politicians. I am specifically, of course, concerned with Power's frequent unjustified criticism of our Gov. George Romney.

I am not an affiliated member of either of our national

parties. But I have campaigned both for former Gov. G. Menah Williams and presently for Romney. I plead on behalf of those of us in the lower echelons who have no particular axe to grind, save that of following a true leader.

Williams was returned to office again and again by the people because he was honest. Gov. Romney is another great leader who believes in serving all of the people faithfully.

So, Mr. Power, won't you please, Sir, in your good conscience, try not to knock down George just because he has chosen to identify himself with the Republican Party. You know he stands for the people, four-square and fair. Let's all join and support Gov. Romney and be on the side of truth.

PAUL NASTOFF

Against Merger In Plymouth

To The Editor,
If there is one paper I enjoy reading it is the Plymouth

Mail and Observer. You can always find good arguments, pro and con, which is what makes it so interesting.

A recent edition carried a Letter Box contribution written by a resident of Lake Pointe Village in the township. Signed L.R. Jamus, Mr. Jamus deserves credit for the article as it must have taken time and effort and very few of us are willing to serve our community by publishing them.

After living in the township for eight months, he hungers for a return to the good old city. Life in Plymouth Township has really gotten Lauren down.

He feels a merger of the township with the city or vice versa would be a disaster. However, this enthusiasm for the city carried him away and he failed to check the facts.

As Dale Carnegie says, "If you want to make a successful speech, pick a subject you are familiar with."

I would like to supply the answers to all the problems he mentioned in the order made.

1. "City supplies more services for less taxes."

Answer: Taxes for schools, the county and Schoolcraft College are the same whether one resides in the city or the township. These taxes amount to approximately 85 per cent of the city taxes and 90 per cent of the township taxes. For the services referred to, the city, in 1966, collected \$14.65 per mill and the township collected only \$7.01 per mill. In 1967, the township's figure of \$7.01 will drop to \$3.02 per mill, which figure is less? These figures may be challenged but will not be changed appreciably.

2. "No street lights in Lake Pointe Village."

Answer: There are street lights at main intersections, however, I checked and am informed that some time ago the residents felt they would prefer to have only their front yard lamps for atmosphere.

Woman's Club Will Hear Detroit Speaker

The Woman's Club of Plymouth will mark its 75th year as they meet Friday, Jan. 5 at 1 p.m. in the Masonic Temple. Guests are invited to this first 1968 meeting featuring Mrs. John Shada who will speak on the "Wonderful World of Women". Mrs. Shada, mother of eight, is acknowledged as one of Detroit's outstanding speakers.

3. "Police protection lacking."

Answer: He hasn't seen a sheriff's car for two and a half months. Possibly he is not home on weekdays. I generally see two to three a day plus one state police car. I have checked this problem for over a year and can say that after a call is made a car will be at the scene in three to five minutes, if warranted, in cases such as prowlers, accidents, etc.

4. "Haggerty Rd. in bad condition."

Answer: This is a county road. It is a county responsibility. The same would apply if it were in a city.

5. "Water rates really high in township."

Answer: The cost of water is the same in the city as in the township, namely 53 cents per thousand gallons and not 55 cents. Both governments include in the water bill charges for debt and sewers. Actually the township charge is 2 cents less, but this 2 cents is car-

ried on the regular tax bill. So, it is only a question of whether you have tired blood or not.

6. "Fire insurance rates in the township highest in Michigan due to a volunteer fire department."

Answer: The cost of fire insurance in Lake Pointe is exactly the same as in the city for homeowners. Call your insurance agent for confirmation.

7. "Garbage dump adjacent to his area."

Answer: This dump was there in February 1967 when Lauren moved in. It is a rubbish dump for township residents (not garbage). In case of a merger, twice as much rubbish would be hauled there. The city would be glad to have one this close. They must have their's many miles west of the city.

8. "Traffic signals needed."

Answer: These are under the Wayne County Road Commission and not the township.

9. "Has no voice in township government; Would get better representation on governing bodies if both merged; Would have a representative on the Plymouth City Council."

Answer: Government officials of both are elected by the people. On the Township Board of Trustees, which must approve all action by the supervisor, the eastern half of the township has no less than five very capable members on that board. Two are from the Lake Pointe area. Five of the appointed members of the Planning Commission are from the eastern area with two from Lake Pointe. Is not this a voice in your government? As to political appointments, your representatives must approve all of these.

10. "Poor mail delivery."

Answer: Call Uncle Sam. The township is not to blame.

11. "Merger of the two areas will reduce taxes."

Answer: Name one area where this has happened. It is a known fact that township government is the most economical of all. Actually, taxes

go up with size. Take a look at Detroit, the state or the Federal Government whose costs go up year after year. Living in the township or the city requires one to adjust their thinking to it.

The Citizens Research Council of Michigan is currently studying the feasibility of a merger, including the financial aspects. When this report is available, it will enable all of us to decide our future status. In the meantime, let all of us appreciate the fact that we live in any part of the area. Political aspects should be secondary.

F. MILLINGTON

However in your headline, you gave the impression that South Farmington won, when you should have known that North Farmington won. If any of your staff was at the game, he would also have noticed that the spirit of N.F. far surpassed that of Farmington.

This is not the first time that N. Farmington has been shortchanged by your newspaper. I know that your newspaper covers a lot of territory, but for some reason that territory seldom includes North Farmington.

I'm sure the whole school is disturbed by this lack of objective reporting, and I wish to state a complaint.

Sarah Gahagan

Suphmore North Farmington High

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reader Gahagan is correct that the headline was wrong. The story, however, correctly points out that the North won, and the "lack of objective reporting" charge is off-base.

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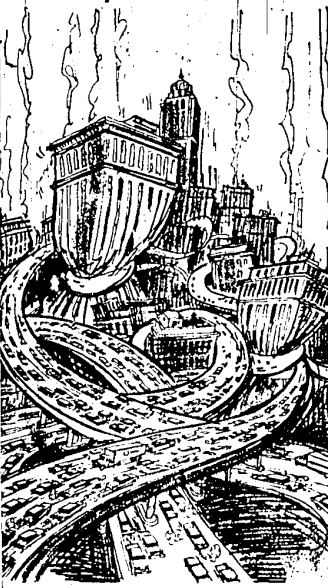
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