

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 command the excellent articles appearing consistent in the Observer columns; All of the writers should be justly proud of their high quality as well as wide readership. It is to the paper that it pertains to each other.

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

Having said I hastily, may I be permitted to ask Power to be more understanding politically while he is privately 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. C. Monroe Williams and presently for Romney. I plead on behalf of those of us in the lower echelons who have no particular reason to grint, save that of following a true leader.

Williams was returned to office again and again by the people because he is honest, a man of great character, a man who believes in serving all of the people faithfully.

So, Mr. H. Power, won't you please, Sir, in your good conscience, try not to knock down George, just because he has identified himself with the Republican Party. You know he stands for the people, freedom and fair. Let's all just support George and be honest on the side of TRUTH.

PAUL RASTOFF

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 news.

A recent edition carried a Letter Box contribution written by a president of Lake Pointe Village in a township signed by Dennis M. Jones. He deserves credit for the article as it must have taken time and effort and very few of us are willing to devote our time to analyzing our problems much less publishing them.

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

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

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

He fails 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 15 per cent of township tax. 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.

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 or three cars plus 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 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's only a question of whether you have tired blood or not.

6. "Fire insurance rates in the city are the highest in Michigan due to the nature of the 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: The cost of fire, insurance in Lake Pointe is exactly the same as in the city for homeowners. Call your insurance agent for confirmation.

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 of the people, by the people, for the people. On the Town 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 the Board.

10. "Poor mail delivery."

ANSWER: Call Uncle Sam.

The township is not to blame.

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

ANSWER: One area where this has happened, is a known fact that township government is a 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 this.

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 appointments, your representatives must approve all of these.

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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 North Farmington.

This is not the first time that N. Farmington has been score-changed 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 Gabahan
Sophomore
North Farmington High

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reader Gabahan 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.

F. MILLINGTON

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Not at Farmington