

# editorial opinion

## Dan McCosh's Column



### Viewing Nixon from Canada

There is an old wooden pier which sticks out from a swampy area along the shore in Stokes Bay, Ontario.

About six of us were huddled around a marine-band radio which some guy was holding in his hand, the volume fading in and out while he tried to point the antenna towards the station, a couple of hundred miles south.

Nixon was just finishing his resignation speech. A couple of years of national anguish was being wrapped up in the only action possible, a stiff-upper-lip kind of withdrawal from national life.

Something a friend of mine who flew a small, overweight fighter plane in WW II used to say stuck in my mind. "They can kill you, but they can't eat you."

For an hour or so I felt like the black guest at a Brotherhood Day dinner. Questions usually prefaced with "What do you people think..." from the group of Canadians at the dock apparently satisfied some need for a personal reaction to this kind of history making.

Somebody else mentioned Canada went without a government for three months while Trudeau was busy with an election which changed nothing.

There was the unstated complaint that nobody cared much, because it was only the Canadian government.

A more forthright statement of bitterness came from somebody trying to find out who was in the new cabinet. "All you can read about is Nixon," he said.

SO THE BIG day came and it was like it was through the wrong end of a telescope.

Three or four years ago, the government lowered the old wooden pier about four feet in Stokes Bay. The general store was for sale and four miles west, in a woody meadow, a youngish couple recently opened a bakery.

To get beer, you talk to Harold, who runs the dock. He gets in touch with the postman, who picks up a case in Lions Head, 10 miles away, and it arrives on a red truck late in the afternoon.

A couple of hundred miles north, in Sudbury, a dusty desert, carved out of the north woods by fumes from a copper smelter, gives testimony to how vulnerable this kind of a quiet place is when there is a buck to be made.

But mainly people are insulated from the kinds of things small men do when they come in contact with large amounts of money.

Strung off south of here, down the shore of Lake Huron, are a number of small towns which mainly live off tourists, farming and the shipment of grain. A new atomic power plant created a lot of jobs around Douglas Point, and the people who live there seem to appreciate that.

National purpose, urban crisis, the strife raging around a definition of constitutional powers are all values dwarfed by distance, a sense of community and a lack of population.

FOR AN HOUR or so, until someone offered another bottle of the best beer in North America, you try to communicate a little of how it feels to live with the high-level madness which was Watergate.

How could a nation go through that, or better yet, why?

One felt a small twing of national pride that a government even while the country suffered for lack of purpose.

And wondered whether the distance from this small dock was a distance many Americans felt too, and that was part of both the why and the how.

## From our readers

### Need public hearings

To the Editor,  
The new Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct, proposed by the Michigan Supreme Court to replace existing Canons of Judicial Ethics, is a rather mixed bag. While it has some very good provisions, several of its canons are so inadequate that they may constitute a step backwards.

Unfortunately, the proposed Code.

- 1) was drafted without public input and apparently will be adopted without public hearings;
  - 2) does not set any limit on the amount which an individual lawyer may contribute to (or raise for) a judicial candidate;
  - 3) fails to disqualify judges from hearing cases involving lawyers or litigants who have been large campaign contributors;
  - 4) does not require adequate public disclosure by judges of personal financial holdings and business interests which could result in conflicts of interest;
  - 5) would permit judges to run for non-judicial offices without resigning from the bench;
  - 6) fails to prohibit nepotism, favoritism, and patronage by judges in appointing court aides.
- The Michigan Supreme Court can do better.

ALTHOUGH ADOPTION of the proposed code is in the nature of a legislative action, rather than a decision in a case, the court has refused to hold public hearings on its proposal. As a result, the public has not had a chance to be informed of the issues it raises or to express opinions regarding the merits of its content.

This letter is written out of our concern to inform people of some of the important issues related to the proposed code. We hope that readers will be encouraged to respond to the court's proposals before they are given final form.

Thus, we ask all citizens who share our concern about the content of the proposed judicial code to write to the

Michigan Supreme Court and request that public hearings be scheduled. Judicial ethics is too important a matter to be left solely to judges.  
Aug. 16, 1974

Susan Rennels  
State Chairperson  
Common Cause Michigan  
Farmington

### Sidewalks need backing

Well, well, here it is nearly the end of summer and still no new sidewalks or bike paths along any Southfield roads.

We biked on the highways all summer and now we'll send the children back to school walking in the street.

Not one inch of sidewalk or bike path has been built this summer and that's the official word from Roger Smith, city traffic engineer.

Smith said costs were so high and supplies so limited that even the signing for an already existing bike path could not be obtained and posted as originally planned for, and that would have been on existing sidewalks and roads.

I find that all a bit on the poppycock side.  
I know it's expensive, but then so is everything else in the country and anyway, how much does one child killed and 25 injured cost? That's Southfield's bike accident rate for the year so far.

WE'RE ABOUT 75,000 people living in a city that has by actual count 600,000 cars crossing in and out of its borders on any given work day. That doesn't mean that they all work here. They may be passing through from West Bloomfield to downtown Detroit via the expressway, but they also may be going down Southfield or Greenfield on their way to Northland.

They go across Telegraph to Tel-12 or cutting up and down the mile roads passing at the edges of the high schools where no sidewalks exist.

Often the same car goes one way in the morning and back through our city in the evening and that gets it clocked as two cars passing our borders. But to the kid on a bike, one car passing twice or two different cars is all the same thing.

What's it going to take to make us protect our children? Have you ever walked or biked along Evergreen?

Start at the corner of Eleven and Evergreen and go to the library, the city pool, or the skating rink. After all, they're only about a half mile away and most of the park area around those buildings is paved. Right? Right. But do it.

You're in for a frightening experience. First you have to walk about a quarter of a mile at the edge of Evergreen with cars whizzing by at, at least 45 miles an hour and there is very little shoulder. (There's no shoulder at the southeast corner of the Eleven Mile-Evergreen intersection).

It's bad enough for an adult, but how do you suppose it is for a 10 year old on a bike?

You say he doesn't belong there? It's too dangerous. So why did we build a library, a pool and a skating rink?

NEITHER OF OUR high schools have sidewalks approaching them. The kids walk in the street. The streets are called Nine Mile Road, Lahser, and Twelve Mile Road.

We didn't protect the bikers this summer. Are we going to do it this winter? There's a fuel shortage (Yes there is, wait till you see the price of fuel this winter). We will be asking more children to walk or ride their bikes than we did in years past and frankly, the exercise will do them good. That is, if they don't get killed by cars on the way.

And you know, they don't have to if we'd make sidewalks a priority.

Nancy Stein  
Southfield  
Aug. 20, 1974

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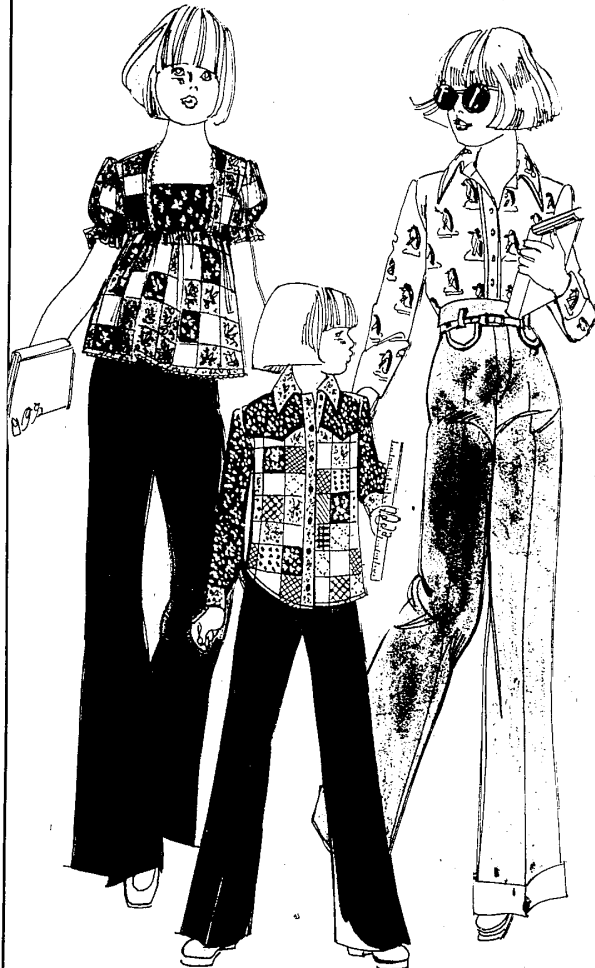
# CROWLEY'S

## SCHOOL TIME

is a fashion lesson in long divisions

Talk about the new math! We've come up with some fashion equations that will put school pants and tops in a whole new text. Left: short-sleeved smock top that gathers and flares. Brown or navy print, lace-trimmed, 6 to 14, \$11. Camel or navy pants in polyester/cotton, 6 to 14, \$13. Center: bright calico patchwork western shirt, 7 to 14. Polyester/cotton pants in navy, 7 to 14, together \$17. Right: penguins strut their stuff on a blue or pink nylon jersey shirt, 6 to 14, \$10. Tucks into navy or berry belted pants in crisp polyester/cotton, 6 to 14, \$13.

Junior High (#64), Girls' Wear (#58) at Crowley's stores



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