

Lent D. Upson Cites Need of County Home Rule Amendment

Present Set-Up Archaic, Detroit Man Tells League

A county home-rule amendment to the State Constitution is the first step to be achieved in modernizing county government, Dr. Lent D. Upson told the "Town Meeting" of the Oakland Citizens' League held last Friday evening in the Board of Education auditorium, Pontiac. Dr. Upson is director of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research. A number from Birmingham attended the meeting.

Speaking on the subject, "Is County Government a Hodge-podge?" Dr. Upson answered it by declaring that "County organization is the 'dark continent' of American government" and added that it is the most loosely-knit system in the United States.

Official Independent

Too many officials independent of each other are elected, he declared; there are too many boards and commissions which are not coordinated—there is no real supervision and control. He pointed out that Oakland County has a three-man Board of Auditors while one similar official is considered enough for Detroit.

The township-county system is an anachronism, he declared. New England separated townships and Virginia had county government predominant, leading to a compromise to use both in the North-west Territory was established.

"And the boards of supervisors—they are the strange legislative bodies in America," Dr. Upson pointed out. Membership of the county boards is made up of one supervisor from each township and several from each city, depending on their size, but they do not truly represent the people. One supervisor in Grant County represents 73 people, while one in Grosse Pointe Township represents 212.

Cites Bunker Hill

"And our ancestors fought at Bunker Hill about a matter of representation on taxes," he said with a scathing commentary.

A great unification of services is needed because of modern conditions, the speaker averred.

"A burglar or germ has no respect for boundary lines," he declared, and gave as an example the confusion over the police raiding of Highland Park and Detroit.

Unification can be accomplished in two ways, he said: (1) simplification under existing laws, such as the merging of the county clerk and the register of deeds offices; or (2) passage of a home rule amendment to the State Constitution which would permit counties to organize as they desire.

Asked why it has been difficult to secure passage of a home rule amendment, Dr. Upson said it was the rural areas which are against it.

A 'Bad Example'

"Apparently, if one county modernizes its government, it might be a 'bad example' for people in some other county," he said.

He made several references to Melville B. McPherson and the State Association of Supervisors as being opposed to such changes. Dr. Upson began his talk by pointing out how vastly the United States had changed in the last 20 years, and how great were the

Christmas Migration, 1939

During the week before Christmas a strange and wholly modern nomadic population will move through the skies. You will probably not notice the yearly migration, for it is so high that little more than the beat of their flight will reach you in the streets below. No one is not speaking of a migration of strange insects or wild fowl, but of the air-minded people, recently become a vast army, who each year fly home for Christmas.

On every day of the week preceding Christmas, right up to the moment when the last electric candle winks on in the latest Christmas tree, the skies will be alive with the hum of motors and the whisper of high airs against giant wing and fuselage. The main roads of the sky will be thronged with thousands of Christmas nomads, from every part of the country, home for the yearly reunion at Yuletide.

According to officials of the Air Transport Association, approximately 400 passenger planes will fly daily, 2,000 planes per week—

plane leaving the ground every three and six-tenths minutes! It is estimated that the vast aerial holiday migration will exceed in numbers the total populations of cities like Flint, Mich.; New Haven, Conn.; Fort Worth, Texas; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Youngstown, Ohio; Hollywood, Calif.; or Nashville, Tenn. From two cities alone, 122 planes fly daily in all directions—70 from New York, City and 52 from Chicago.

Before the development of air travel most people working far from home could not afford the time required for the long journey there and back, to spend the holiday with their families. Still farther back, in the days of horse-drawn coaches, when a 200-mile trip meant a week on the road, few were the fortunate who could go back home, even to an adjacent state for the Christmas holiday.

Thus, the industrial era, sometimes charged with the weakening of family and home ties, has provided, through the development and perfection of air transport, one of the greatest factors in the reunion of hosts of widely separated families at Christmastide.

Symphony to Offer Oratorio, 'Elijah' Saturday, Dec. 23

One of the greatest of all oratorios, "Elijah," by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, will be offered by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the third program in the "pop" series Saturday night, Dec. 23, in Masonic Auditorium.

Assisting the orchestra, which will be under the direction of Victor Kolar, will be the augmented Central High School Concert Choir of 150 mixed voices, Harry Seitz, conductor. An imposing list of vocalists will be presented as soloists: Frederick Muser, boy soprano; Thelma von Eisenhauer, soprano; Frances Bremer, contralto; Joseph Victor Laderoute, tenor; and Syver Thinstad, baritone.

The English text to be used is by William Bartholomew, authority, who has endeavored to present it as nearly in accordance with the Scriptural Texts as the music to which it is adapted will admit. The Biblical references which the program will contain therefore are to be considered rather as authorities than quotations.

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Scout News

When last seen, outstanding Scout Glenn Watson was busy growing a beard! Yes, he said a beard, whiskers, no less! If there is any Scout in town more qualified for the job, we have yet to see him; and yet it does seem a bit queer, doesn't it? Maybe by next Court of Honor, Birmingham will have the only bearded Outstanding Eagle Scout in existence. If he lets the beard grow long enough it ought to result in a great saving of neckties.

We suppose that you noticed the picture of Jerry Wright on the front page of this paper. Jerry and his dad are only a few of the dozen or more Scouts and Scouters who have long labored on the tops at the Community House.

Den Chiefs Appointed

When seven Scouts from troop B-5 have been appointed Den Chiefs in Cub Pack 1 of Birmingham.

ham. They (anonymous) say that Den Chief Tom Allen is so proud of his Den Chief shoulder cord that he wears it to bed with him. Needless to say these reports are exaggerated, but not much.

Pole Game

Boy Scouts of Birmingham are invited to attend a pole game at the State Fair Coliseum next Thursday, Dec. 21, at eight o'clock. The game, a real event, by the way, in your young lives, is really two games, one between Flint and Detroit teams, and another between Cornell University and Grosse Pointe Hunt Club teams. Scouts must come in uniform to be admitted free.

City Truck Collides With Passing Car

A City DPW truck was involved in a collision Tuesday afternoon at East Maple and St. Andrews avenue. According to statements made to police C. F. Burkholder, of 18360 Devonshire, Southfield Township, was driving east on East Maple when he collided with the truck. The City vehicle turned left and the crash resulted. His driver, Arthur Kinney, 26, of 772 Smith street, said he did not see Burkholder. The damage was minor.

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SLICED BACON lb. 17c SMOKED PICNICS lb. 13c Porterhouse or T-Bone Steaks lb. 31c	PORK LOIN Rib Half Lb. 11c PORK CHOPS Center Cuts lb. 23c LEG OF LAMB lb. 18c Round, Sirloin Steak lb. 21c	NEW PACK GRAPEFRUIT JUICE 4 No. 2 cans 25c FRESH ROLL BUTTER 2 lbs. 59c EGGS—Medium Size "C" 2 doz. 99c Wisconsin Cheese 1 lb. 19c Loaf Cheese—Am., Brick 2 lb. 43c PURE LARD 2 lb. ctn. 15c Gold Shortening 3 lb. can 39c Deli-N-Rich Cheese 1 lb. 37c SWISS CHEESE 1 lb. 27c	IONA CORN No. 2 can 3 for 19c DEL MONTE PEAS No. 2 2 for 27c Mixed VEGETABLES No. 2 can 5c A & P PUMPKIN No. 2 3 for 25c Ann Page Beans 1 lb. 4 for 21c Camp TOM. SOUP 3 for 20c String Beans No. 2 can 4 for 25c Lima Beans Webster, No. 2 4 for 25c IONA TOMATOES 4 No. 2 cans 23c CUT GREEN ASPARAGUS 2 No. 2 cans 25c SUNNYFIELD FLOUR 5 lb. 13c PILLSBURY FLOUR 5 lb. 23c Pancake Flour Sunnyfield, 20 oz. 5c MOTHER'S OATS large 16c Corn Flakes—Kellogg 2 large 17c WHEATIES pkg. 10c Wheat Puffs or Rice s. f. pkg. 5c Rolls Oats s. f. 3 lb. pkg. 13c
BEEF ROAST ANY CHUCK CUT lb. 17c PORK ROAST PICNIC CUT lb. 10c OYSTERS STANDARDS pt. 19c Stewing Chickens lb. 18c SWISS STEAK Lb. 23c	BOLOGNA lb. 10c SAUSAGE lb. 12c PEA MEAL BACON lb. 23c VEAL STEW lb. 11c SPARE RIBS lb. 11c SLAB BACON lb. 13c Pig Hocks—Smoked lb. 10c BACON SQUARES lb. 9c PERCH lb. 11c Fresh SCALLOPS lb. 25c	CAKE FLOUR 2 1/2 lb. pkg. 2 for 27c MACARONI, Spaghetti 3 lb. 19c Baby Foods Clapp-Gerber 6 for 39c Or. Show You Sauce bot. 15c Strongheart Dog Food can 5c Herb, Ouz, Bouillon Cube ea. 9c RAISINS 1 lb. pkg. 23c MIXED PEEL lb. 27c MIXED NUTS lb. 17c	PALMOLIVE SOAP 3 cakes 16c SWEETHEART SOAP 4 cakes 21c CRYSTAL WHITE SOAP 3 for 11c LUX TOILET SOAP 4 cakes 23c Salad Dressing—Ann Page qt. 27c Preserves Ann Page 2 lb. 27c OUR OWN TEA lb. 35c Ann Page Ketchup 14 oz. 10c

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