Lack of Patronage Puzzles Politicians, Increases Power of Pressure Groups Says Correspondent at State Capital

By GENE ALLEMAN
Michigan Press Association

STATE CAPITOL, Lansing—Michigan's "invisible government," comprising organized minority pressure groups, is an unforseen beneficiary of the 1940 civil service amendment.

Where administration and legislative leaders once traded jobs for political support, the merit system has ruled arbitrarily that employment shall be on the sole basis of qualifications, determined accordingly by competitive examinations.

Accordingly, both Democratic and Republican leaders find themselves utterly helpless to sweeten their machines with patronage.

It is an astonishing situation—to a politician, at least.

The alternative is a legislative deal, in lieu of patronage.

For that reason veteran lobbyists are frankly concerned. They don't know what to expect!

"Third Chamber"

Pressure groups, or organized minority blocs, have been said to constitute a "third chamber" of modern government.

They have made political two-party rule somewhat of a myth.

William Allen White, Emporia (Kansas) editor, referred to them as follows:

"The constitution has been supplanted and we have two kinds of government—our political government which is supposed to be in the hands of a majority of the people; and a group of organized minorities, making an uncontrolled but tremendously powerful, invisible government—the government of minorities."

Whereas the traditional weapons of legislative persuasion once were booze and bribery, today's chief guns are pressure and propaganda.

If you have a pet idea to develop at Lansing, form an organization, raise a jackpot of money, by assessments, hire an "executive secretary, set up weighty committees, hold meetings by districts and towns, and release pompous press articles—all for the purpose of influencing public opinion and, what is more important, influencing the legislature.

Whether your cause is good or bad, this formula eventually will get results.

Appeasement

The Democrats' state convention at Grand Rapids revealed the sorry plight of administration officials who have no patronage pap to appease political workers.

Polish delegates from the first congressional district, Detroit, went on a strike. They refused to vote on any question. They even threatened to nominate an opponent against G. Donald Kennedy for highway commissioner—all because of a hunger for "more" patronage.

Paul T. Anderson, acting civil service director, recently disclosed that only 34 out of 18,000 employees were dismissed in the first seven weeks of 1941. One year ago the dismissals totaled 216, while two years ago the job turnover was delayed until May when the legislature revised the civil service bill.

Because civil service has "jelled" nearly all employees into their jobs, Republicans have benefitted far more than the Democrats. This prompted the Republican majority in the House of Legislature, in a mood of righteousness, to ask an investigation of the legality of dismissals since Jan. 1 in "certain departments."

The liquor control commission was one target of this inquiry. Among deserving Democrats who have been appointed to jobs recently is former Senator Henry O'Shea, now a prohibition lecturer—if you please.

Labor Pains

Governor Van Wagoner, an individual who is inclined by disposition to be forthright, frank and outspoken, is having labor troubles.

When 3,000 Motor Wheel Corp. employees (A. F. of L.) went on a strike at Lansing for a closed union shop, production ceased on a $4,000,000 national defense contract. Another "bottleneck" came into being.

Spencer Miller, Jr., New York City, director of the American Federation of Labor workers education bureau, had pleaded at the state A. F. of L. convention for workers to forfeit their right to strike during the nation's present armament production crisis.

Governor Van Wagoner promptly condemned the union for having "broken" its word, and he urged employees to return to work, pledging state police protection.

But the next day when a labor committee visited the executive offices and registered an angry protest, the governor talked in glittering generalities about "law and order" and assured the committee that state police would be summoned only, and if, local officials asked for them—an entirely different thing.

At the Grand Rapids convention the state C. I. O. declined flatly to participate. Wise to bargaining advantages, Richard Frankensteen, international vice-president of U. A. W. - C. I. O., explained that labor leaders were going to wait until both parties had shown their cards with regard to labor legislation.

Organized labor does not want a 30-day strike notice, such as was given in the Motor Wheel tie-up. They favor a wage-hour law with a 50-cent per hour minimum and 40-hour per week maximum for all intrastate commerce — all stores, example, coming in this classification.

Miscellany

Both industrial and labor leaders are said to be cool towards the Brake "anti-sabotage" bill which was drafted at Washington, D. C., by the department of justice as a model for state legislation. Reason: "Hysteria" legislation is seldom sound.

Thrift-minded Vernon J. Brown, state auditor general, recently advocated the establishment of a state insurance fund to save taxpayers many millions of dollars annually. During the past three years the state paid to politically-favored agents a total amount of $10,395,638 in surety bond premiums, while losses recovered totaled only $2,898,166.

Conservationists insist that the Knox bill for redemption of tax-reverted lands in Northern Michigan would deprive the state of valuable mineral rights; would restore these to mining and lumber companies.

House Bill 177, advocated by union painters, would prohibit a business man from utilizing unproductive time of his employees for the purpose of painting and decorating his shop or store. An exemption for communities under 5,000 population is for one year only. Furthermore, the bill would deprive hardware dealers of paint sales—all, of course, in the interest of the "public welfare."

Opponents to the prepaid sales tax plan are quietly spreading the word that a gross income tax may be an unwelcome result of legislative tinkering—jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

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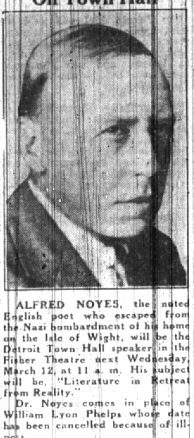
On Town Hall



ALFRED NOYES, the noted English poet who escaped from the Nazi bombardment of his home on the Isle of Wight, will be the Detroit Town Hall speaker in the Fisher Theatre next Wednesday, March 12, at 11 a. m. His subject will be, "Literature in Retreat from Reality."

Dr. Noyes comes in place of William Lyon Phelps whose date has been cancelled because of illness.

Stamp Clubs Plan 4th Annual Bourse

The fourth annual exhibition and bourse of the Oakland County Philatelic Association will be held at the Birmingham Community House on Sunday, March 30. This event is sponsored by the four stamp clubs in the county, the Pontiac, Birmingham, Royal Oak and Ferndale stamp clubs. This organization was formed in 1938 and is directed by Maurice F. Cole of Ferndale, president.

There will be a fine exhibit of approximately 100 frames of postage stamps from many countries. Members will be competing for the Cole Trophy, donated by Maurice F. Cole, and the Howell Plaque, donated by Dr. J. H. Howell, of the Birmingham stamp club.

A banquet will be held in the Community House at six o'clock. Tickets may be secured from any member of the four stamp clubs. Anyone interested in postage stamps as a hobby is cordially invited to attend. To secure further details regarding exhibiting stamps at the show, get in touch with Donald MacGregor, 1002 Houstonia Ave., Royal Oak. There will be no charge for admission.

Car Drives Over Hose Ferndale Man Held

One man was arrested and one juvenile was reprimanded for driving over a fire hose during a blaze Saturday morning at the L. H. Oyer home, 608 East Lincoln.

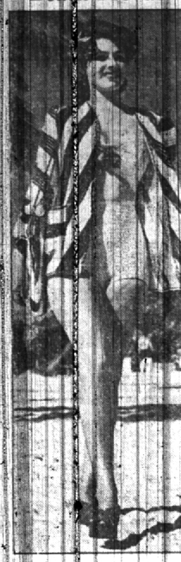
Leonard Boughner, 20 years old, of 1115 LeRoy street, Ferndale, was fined $5 by Justice Forbes S. Hascall. Tom Tullius, 16 years old, of 428 George street, visited Police Chief J. P. Hackett in the company of his father and made amends. The youth said he followed the other car across. The fire hose was not damaged.

Civil Service Cook Job Reported As Available

The Birmingham Civil Service secretary at the Post Office has announcement of a new U. S. Civil Service job open in Detroit. It is for a cook, and it pays $1,800. Closes March 15.

Eccentric classifieds pay!

Beach Prevue



Here's a prevue of the bathing suits you'll see this summer. Irene Brown is wearing this tufted "cord-roy" suit in blue and white at Miami's Tahiti Beach.

ENGINEERS' REUNION

ANN ARBOR—Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner, President Alexander G. Ruthven, and Dean Ivan C. Crawford, of the University's College of Engineering, will be the featured speakers at a reunion of engineering alumni of the University of Michigan to be held here March 29.

Challenges Dictum That Youth are Less Healthy

ANN ARBOR—Popular indictments that American young men are "soft" and that they are less capable than their fathers were for national defense are loose and uncritical generalizations that should be challenged by thinking people, according to Dr. Warren E. Forsythe, director of the University of Michigan Health Service.

Writing in the March issue of the magazine, the Nation's Schools, Dr. Forsythe asserts that the burden of proof must rest with those who make these charges. In the first place, he says, we must decide whether "softness" means lack of training, lack of mental "toughness," or actual physical deficiencies.

The questions of lack of training and lack of mental "toughness," he asserts, are ones that need answers. In regard to actual physical capacities, however, he continues there are grounds for the belief that the health of our present young men is superior to that of their fathers at the same age.

Improved health for today's youth, Dr. Forsythe says, is indicated by the following observations: increased average height and weight, generally considered valid indices of health improvement; reduction in the frequency of contagious diseases; higher small-pox vaccination rates; increased use of glasses and more removed tonsils, both of which are examples of better attention to physical defectiveness; decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis and underweight which were among the leading causes for army rejection in 1917-18; and greatly improved control of pneumonia.

Factors that might reduce slightly the defense effectiveness of today's youth, Dr. Forsythe says, are: the greatly increased automobile accident rate which might be expected to produce more cripples; a probable small increase in diabetes; and a large increase in "ringworm" infection of the skin which, however, would rarely disqualify for more than short periods at the most.

Cass Town Hall Closes March 14

Detroit Town Hall, at the Cass Theatre, will close its twelfth season, Friday morning, March 14, at 11 o'clock, presenting in a double program, two American women, Vyvyan Donner, motion picture director and producer for the past ten years of the popular Fox Movietone fashion newsreels, and Elsie Mae Gordon, radio's most versatile actress and creator of radio roles, revealing secrets of the studios.

A second of carelessness may destroy a lifetime of carefulness.

P.-T. A. Theatre Review

(The film comments herewith are supplied by the Birmingham Council, Parent-Teacher Associations.)

LAND OF LIBERTY. A remarkable pictorial history of the U. S. made up of sequences from 112 feature pictures with additions from news reels. Invaluable to students of American history and interesting to all. Credit is due the entire motion picture industry, for all contributed to it. Music is stirring and continuity is excellent. An outstanding picture, rated by all organizations as excellent for all ages.

WESTERN UNION. A fast-moving Western showing the hardships and dangers encountered by the men who built Western Union from Omaha west. Beautiful scenery in technicolor. Rated: 8 to 14—tense. 14 to 18 and adults—excellent. (California P.-T. A.)

SO ENDS OUR NIGHT. Grim, absorbing tragedy of war-torn Europe, vividly setting forth the persecution of the non-Aryans and refugees without passports. Excellent acting and directing. Rated: 8 to 14—no. 14 to 18—harrowing. Adults—excellent. (Calif. P.-T. A.)

Wisdom

That circulating library no longer urges patrons to "treat this book as though it were your own." Too many did so.—Buffalo Evening News.

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

POPULAR RETURN SHOWING
James Cagney
Pat O'Brien
Gloria Stuart in
'Here Comes the Navy'
—PLUS—
JANE WITHERS in
'YOUTH WILL BE SERVED'

Thurs., Fri.: "Navy" at 7:05 & 10:05; "Youth" at 8:45 only
Saturday: "Navy" at 2-4:50-7:30 & 10:20; "Youth" at 3:35-6:25 & 9:10

Starts Sunday for 4 Days
The 1941 Academy Award Star Winner
GINGER ROGERS
DENNIS MORGAN in
'KITTY FOYLE'
—PLUS—
WENDY BARRIE and
GEORGE SANDERS in
'THE SAINT IN PALM SPRINGS'

Sunday: "Saint" at 2:20-5:35 & 8:55; "Kitty" at 3:30-6:45 & 10:00
Mon., Tue., Wed.: "Kitty" at 7:00 & 10:05; "Saint" at 8:50 only

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REGISTRATION NOTICE

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS

for

Biennial Spring and City Election

April 7, 1941

Notice is hereby given that any person wishing to vote at this election must be registered on or before TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1941, at 8:00 P. M.

Any person who is a Citizen of the United States, 21 years of age, will have resided in the City of Bloomfield Hills 20 days and in the State of Michigan 6 months prior to the date of election may register by calling at the City Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., except that on TUESDAY, MARCH 18, the Clerk's Office will be open from 8:00 A. M. to 8:00 P. M.

Those persons who have already registered under the permanent registration system do not have to re-register.

GEORGE C. BOOTH
City Clerk

NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern:

Please to Take Notice that on Monday the 17th day of March, 1941, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the office of the Judge of Probate at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, County of Oakland, Michigan, I will make application to the Honorable Judge of Probate in and for said County, to change my name and the name of my wife and children from Marvin Joel Haight, Jennie Haight, Barbara Jane Haight, and Mary Lou Haight to Marvin Joel Burden, Jennie Burden, Barbara Jane Burden, and Mary Lou Burden.

Signed MARVIN JOEL HAIGHT
Pontiac, Michigan, February 11, 1941.
LEON H. HUBBARD,
Attorney at Law,
435 Bagley Street,
Pontiac, Michigan.

NOTICE OF HEARING

The City Commission of the City of Birmingham will meet Monday, March 10th, 1941, at 8:00 P. M., in the Commission Room in the Municipal Building to consider any objections to the construction of certain improvements described herein and to the creation of a special assessment district, created to defray the cost of construction of curb and gutter and oil aggregate surface roadway on Hazel Street between Elm and Adams.

The Commission proposes to create a special assessment district to defray the cost of the construction and said special assessment district shall consist of the following described property:

Lots 15 to 46 inclusive of Snow Subdivision No. 1, and Lots 4, 5 and 6 of Blk 8 and Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 9 of Campbell's Subdivision, all in the City of Birmingham.

Plans and estimate of cost of this project are filed with the City Clerk of the City of Birmingham for examination by the public.

IRENE E. HANLEY,
City Clerk.

February 27, 1941.

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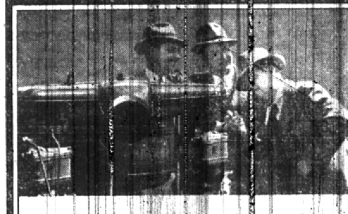

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THERE you sit, watching the long road ahead as it dips and rises.

Under your feet there's a quiet whispering, to let you know that all eight able Buick cylinders are happily on the job.

You're giving not a single thought to what's happening under that long bonnet nosing out in front, but here's what's going on:

Instead of the single, compromise-size carburetor you find on most cars, this Buick FIREBALL eight with Compound Carburetion* has *two* good mixers on the job.

A single one of them—the front one—handles all your normal carburetion needs in frugal fashion—keeps you rolling smoothly, easily, quietly, on the very minimum rationing of gasoline.

But the other carburetor is alert and ready for any sudden need. Just tramp down on that accelerator pedal—it goes into instant action.

What for? To give you more fuel and more power for any emergency purpose!

To swing you up a tough hill without slacking pace—to swoop you around slow trucks with sudden power—to let you take advantage of long, open stretches where timesaving is possible.

It's almost like having *two* engines—one to handle normal requirements thriftily, another to team up with the first for extra oomph and wallop when you want it.

That kind of teamwork pays.

Owners by the thousand will tell you *it's more economical too*—as much as 10% to 15% more economical.

If you haven't experienced what it feels like to have that under the bonnet of your automobile, better go have that Buick demonstration now.

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