Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

Who's going to get some badly needed pairs of shoes in the taxpayers' family—the state's own "children," the educational institutions and mental and tuberculosis hospitals or the local governments' "children," such as the municipalities, townships and villages?

That is the issue at Lansing where the state legislature is now in special session.

At stake is an estimated biennium surplus by June 30, 1947—one year from next June 30—of $27,600,000.

Let's take a look at what it is all about.

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It is the recommendation of Governor Harry F. Kelly, supported by leading committees of the state legislature and by elected state officials, that the bulk of this surplus should go to meet the long neglected needs of the state's own responsibilities.

These include the University of Michigan and Michigan State College as well as other schools throughout the state. No state appropriation has been made since 1927 for an educational building at the university; 61 per cent of the university's present building facilities were financed by private donors or through self-liquidating student dormitories. The plight of Michigan State College is equally as great.

Mental and tuberculosis hospitals are unable to admit patients because of limited building facilities. From 1950 to 1945 the mental hospital population increased from approximately 15,000 to more than 26,000 for an average gain of 750 persons a year. The department of mental health estimates its building needs alone to be $20,296,000.

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Who benefits from state hospitals, anyway?

A check-up of the hospital patients, as of Dec. 1, 1945, reveals that Wayne county (Detroit) benefited to the extent of more than 40 per cent of the total—10,989 out of 26,219. Kent county (Grand Rapids) had 1,180 citizens in hospitals; Oakland (Pontiac), 865; Genesee (Flint), 865; Ingham (Lansing), 577, and so on down the list. Fifteen municipalities benefited to the extent of 13,267 patients out of 26,219—nearly 50 per cent!

Who benefits most from the educational services of state colleges and schools?

The facts are equally revealing, and again it is the metropolitan areas which derive the greatest benefit by number of students at state supported colleges. Enrollment at the schools totals 20,197, and more than half of these come from cities of 10,000 population and over.

Thus it appears logical—and the logic has received support from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State Grange, American Federation of Labor, just to mention a few—that Governor Kelly's case for giving priority to the state's own "children" is founded on the fact that the entire state, cities as well as rural areas, will benefit from the 1946 state building program now before the legislature. Certainly the cities will get their fair share, Mayor Edward F. Jeffries of Detroit notwithstanding.

Furthermore, none of these "children" possess the power to levy taxes. And the local governments—cities, counties and villages—do have this right. As C. Phillips, executive secretary of the Michigan Educational association, has conceded that "any solution for the problem of school finances must come from local governments through raising their valuations or increasing their millage or both."

The schools' plight, admittedly great, is a by-product in part of the gradual breakdown of the state sales tax and elimination of the state property tax.

Local governments look to Lansing increasingly for a solution of their financial problems. The state's own "children"—colleges, hospitals and others—have been crowded out for years in the pressure group scramble of local governments to get more money at Lansing.

* * *

It is the conviction of Governor Kelly, whose courage in meeting the issue has elevated him in the esteem of many people, that if the state can't and doesn't look out for the interests of its own "children" when times are good and when there is money available in the Treasury, then it never will do so when times are bad and the treasury deficits prevail.

Building contractors and representatives of organized labor have assured legislators that the state's building program can be completed by September, 1947, and that adequate materials and labor can be obtained.

A product of the Catholic Parochial schools and of the University of Notre Dame, Governor Kelly has become a leading exponent for public schools. This is unusual. It does emphasize the devotion of a man to what he considers to be his obligations as governor of Michigan. Not running for office, Kelly is outspoken. Veterans' needs are close to his heart.

* * *

The outcome of the tug-of-war to see who is going to get $27,600,000—the state's own "children" or those of local governments—is going to depend largely on the willingness of legislators to support the administrative program, as drafted by the house ways and means committee and the senate finance committee.

The Michigan Conference of Mayors has been telegraphing mayors of cities, large and small, to bring pressure on members of the house and senate at Lansing.

Rep. David E. Young of Saginaw, retiring president of the Michigan Association of Supervisors, is co-sponsor of a bill to divert one-sixth of the state sales tax to local governments—cities, villages and townships—all of whom have payrolls and numerous employees right in the legislators' home territory.

It's a real showdown and the outcome is none too certain.

If the big-town mayors and supervisors succeed in raiding the state surplus now, it's a cinch that the state never will have such a favorable opportunity to help its own neglected children—the state-supported schools and hospitals which serve the entire people of Michigan and which have no taxing powers themselves.

Succeeds De Gaulle

Felix Gouin, Socialist, is the new three-party coalition president of France, succeeding Gen. Charles De Gaulle.

Dad Butler Tells Exchange Club Of Old Prize Fighters

M. H. "Dad" Butler, for many years director of athletics of the University of Detroit, and for the past few years connected with the Naval Training School at Dearborn, was the speaker at the regular noon meeting of the Exchange Club at the Community House on Tuesday of last week. "Dad" spoke on "Prize Fighters, Yesterday and Today," and gave interesting highlights about fighters from John L. Sullivan to Joe Louis. He was a personal friend of the great John L. and knew many of the old-timers such as Jeffries, Corbet, Fitzsimmons, Willard, Johnson and others. He told of some of the old-time fights and also told of the more recent contests, tracing the Dempsey era from his fight with Willard to his loss of the title to Tunney.

Of the coming Louis Conn fight he said, "Both of these boys have a lot of work to do to get back into shape. Whether Conn can take off his excess weight and still have his old speed and skill remains to be seen. In the last fight between these two, Conn had the fight won on points only to lose by a knockout. Anything can happen and the outcome will probably depend on which of the men steps into the ring in the better physical shape. It is too early now to tell just which that will be."

#2-169

STATE OF MICHIGAN. — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 1st day of February, A.D. 1946.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Fred R. Otey, Deceased.

Alice Otey, administratrix of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying the, the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, That two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, That the 6th day of May, 1946, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

OLIVER H. KIRK, Attorney at Law, Wabeek Bldg., Birmingham, Mich. 46-47-48.

IN THREE YEARS

Sgt. Andrew Spiegel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Spiegel, 637 Vinewood avenue, received his discharge Saturday, Feb. 8, at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and is home with his parents after more than three years of service. He spent one year overseas in China and in the Marianas.

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STORE-GAZING IN BIRMINGHAM

The prettiest, gayest raincoats we've seen in ages are at the R B SHOP! They're practical as well . . . being made of a wonderful, new plastic material, coquettishly called "Plassie!" . . . which will not crack or rot; and is impervious to grease, acid, and of course, water! The coats are very smoothly tailored, with roomy raglan sleeves . . . and they may be folded into a small packet, easy to carry with you. In really gorgeous shades of red, yellow, aqua, blue, and white . . . sizes small, medium, and large . . . it's 7.50 for a coat and matching, good-sized triangle for your hair.

Here's a thought for Valentine parties . . . or to add a holiday motif to your weekend entertaining. MACHUS'S have an inspiring assortment of tea wafers and tarts . . . gaily shaped and colored in the Valentine spirit. There are tiny, heart-shaped cookies in red or white . . . heart-shaped macaroons . . . red and white pinwheels . . . wafers with fudge piping forming a heart . . . and tiny macaroon soufflés topped with a cherry. They're all delicious; made with the fine ingredients and imagination we've come to expect of this shop. 1.00 to 2.00 a pound . . . and gift boxes with a two-layer assortment, 2.00.

We ran across a collection of perfectly charming picture frames at LA BELLE'S. They're the daguerreotype kind . . . ideal for lending character and individuality to small photographs. Some have black enamel frames and wide, embossed, gold mats with an oval or square space. These range from 1.50 for the two-inch size to 2.50 for a 4x5-inch. Others with gold-painted frames have curly maple and gold mats . . . about 5x6 inches . . . 5.00. Deep gold frames with velvet mats are 4.00. They also have some delightful, gaily designed boxes of Rytex stationery at 50c for 50 sheets and 25 envelopes.

It's decidedly the rubber boot season . . . and likely to become more so when spring rains and mud close in. At BURR'S . . . in their new location on North Woodward . . . you'll find some really nice ones. They're the kind you slip on over your shoes . . . and they come up high enough to give complete protection . . . yet are light-weight and comfortable to wear. You can get the whole family here . . . preserving health and dispositions. In sizes 9 to 12 . . . 2.70 . . . sizes 12½ to 3, 2.85 . . . 4 to 9, 3.00.

For a long time it's been almost impossible to buy oilcloth . . . and those of you who have been searching for it will be glad to know that BIRMINGHAM PAINT, GLASS, AND MIRROR now has some! Not only that; but it's a very fine quality they have . . . and it comes in several good-looking patterns. The excellent Wall-Tex oilcloth is a good, heavy type . . . long-lasting, and easy to clean. You may have an attractive, floral pattern . . . plain, full or shiny white . . . or a tile design, white with silver lines, and black and floral borders. This is very nice for a dado around the kitchen walls. It's all 75c a yard.

Another household item that is back with us is the room heater. At STERNAL'S you'll find a splendid one . . . the KM Reflex . . . a new kind of bowl heater. It's ashless heater. It has an 11-inch reflector, a chrome-plated element shield, and a heavy wire safety guard. These are especially useful in changeable spring weather. 5.95. There's another good idea here, too . . . a folding, metal camp stool that collapses into a small, compact unit you can carry in a coat pocket . . . yet it's strong and durable . . . perfect for hunting, fishing, or waiting for trains. 1.29.

It's about the period when an entrancing, new hat will carry you happily into spring . . . or give a needed lift to between-season wardrobes. At the BESSIE KORBY MILLINERY SHOP there are lots of the flattering, new bonnet shapes . . . in straws and felt. We loved one small bonnet of shiny straw . . . heaped with flowers . . . and with wide streamers to tie it on. She has some lovely toques, too . . . made of softly gathered net, topped with a posie . . . and many one-of-a-kind, high fashion hats that are extremely smart. Besides these, she'll design and make for you the perfect hat to complement your face and ensemble.

Have you heard about the amazing, new Reynolds Pen? SHAIN'S have it, and it is a sensational development . . . as it will write for two years without refilling! As if that weren't enough . . . it will also write clearly through as many as six carbons . . . works at high altitudes without leaking, and won't leak in a purse or pocket . . . and you can use it on cloth and other materials as well as paper. It writes very smoothly, and its Satinflo ink will not wash off. Streamlined, and good-looking, it comes in a stand you can use on your desk, but has a cap, too. 12.50.

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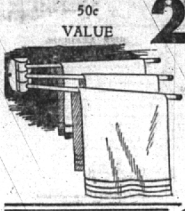

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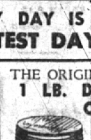

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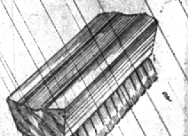

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