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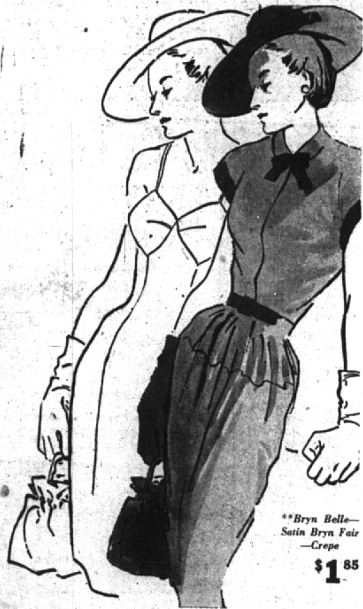
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By GENE ALLEMAN

The controversial sales tax diversion amendment, sponsored originally by mayors of Michigan big cities and now supported by public school teachers, is due for a showdown in about 30 days.

On Nov. 4 the registered citizens of Michigan—those who qualify by registration laws to cast a ballot—will make a fateful decision.

This problem has presented both sides of the issue pertaining to diversion of one-third of the state sales tax revenue to local governments, plus treating of a state aid formula into the state constitution that would remove public school appropriations from the legislature.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that public school teachers, caught in the postwar inflation, are badly underpaid and are in need of better salaries. Kim Siger and Murray D. Van Wagener will not dispute this fact.

It is also becoming more and more apparent that something has got to be done if Michigan voters authorize a \$270,000,000 bonus for Michigan war veterans and also authorize a hamper state aid formula for schools and cities. How both of these proposals can be put into effect without badly disrupting state services, which for the most part involve people in home-town consumption, has been a subject of considerable concern with administrative officials at Lansing.

Democratic nominee Van Wagener has referred recently to the likelihood of the two proposals being approved by the voters on November 5. This likelihood, he claims, increases the need of Michigan having an experienced state administrator in the governor's chair who knows how to handle the new problem.

State Treasurer D. Hale Brake, who is a nominee for the same office on the G.O.P. ticket, has sharpened his pencils recently and arrived at an estimate that the \$270,000,000 veterans bonus would require additional expenditures from the state general fund of approximately \$17,500,000 a year for many years to come. This amount, significantly enough, is a little more than the surplus accrued in the general fund during the 1944-46 fiscal year after all disbursements had been made.

Latest figures from the office of John D. Morrison, State Auditor General, indicate a year's surplus of approximately \$16,300,000. Had the veterans' bonus been in effect during the past year there would have been no surplus at all!

It is generally conceded that the veterans' bonus (Ballot Proposal No. 3) has a much better chance of being approved by the voters than the sales tax diversion amendment (Ballot Proposal No. 2).

We have noted little if any attack on the bonus proposal. We have noted considerable controversy—pro and con—about the projected school aid and big city amendment to secure state money.

Therefore, when the latter issue is being considered on its merits it seems logical to take for granted that the bonus will be approved. Personally, we believe that such is the case.

If such is done you arrive automatically at a point where the much talked about surplus becomes non-existent, as the above reasoning indicates. Retail department store sales are currently running about 60 per cent over the same period one year ago—an astonishing fact, but nevertheless quite true. How much longer the postwar inflation boom will continue is anybody's guess, although government economists have been warning in consistent unison that a readjustment or recession is due sometime in 1947 and that we should get ready to see supply and demand more in normal balance.

It was actually not so long ago—during the Frank Murphy administration in fact—when the auditor general's office was buying red ink by the gallon. A treasury deficit grew into the millions. Welfare demands were high, and people could not be left to starve. A deficiency was created by the Democrats were running the state into debt and that it was high time the voters turned to Republicans to do something about it. Sure, it's right on the record.

While state payrolls have increased steadily administration after administration, the record also shows unmistakably that state aid to local governments has gone up steadily. It is not easy to point the other fellow's kettle black. For example, State payments returned to and benefiting local governments grew from \$39,000,000 in 1937 to \$178,000,000 in 1946—a ten-year

period. The total of operating expenditures and reserves for all purposes climbed from \$160,000,000 to \$281,000,000. Read this paragraph again. Who's taking advantage of whom?

Republican Nominee Siger has declared repeatedly that legislators should get more money; that legislators as well as school teachers, are "underpaid." Democratic nominee Van Wagener has his own proposals calling for more state financing, one of them being for veteran homes at low interest rate and at a nominal down payment of around \$500.00 each.

With the veterans' bonus added to the state expenditures, it seems unlikely that the state government will reduce its spending in the next administration. In fact, the chances are that new taxes will be imposed—especially if the sales tax amendment is added to the bonus as additional drains on public funds.

The above facts do not take into consideration other interesting factors. The University of Michigan and Michigan State College, by legislative authorization, have already run up overdrafts (deficiencies if you please) of around \$6,400,000 to cover cost of veteran educational demands. The state welfare department has a deficiency at present of around \$3,500,000.00 due to higher living costs. On top of this there are operating deficiencies in sight.

The much talked about surplus at Lansing is largely an illusion, if prudent citizens take into consideration an impending veterans' state funds. The discouraging bonus and existing deficiencies in thing about the entire problem is the indifference of many people. Lansing has too much money," they say. Here's a chance to get some of it back home." We wonder.

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Baldwin Band Boasts 48 Members This Fall

The Baldwin band has an enrollment of 48 this fall, almost half of its members being new students from Barrum and other schools. The clarinet and drum sections especially are much larger than last year's.

The band's main activity this fall will be playing at football games. It is also sponsoring a contest in students' ideas for band formations between halves of games. The contest winner will receive two free tickets to the Thanksgiving Day game with Royal Oak.

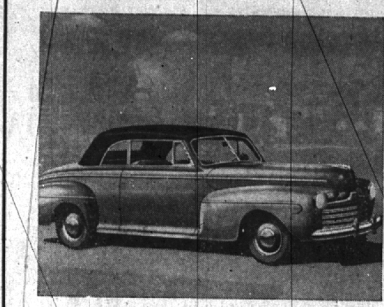
One purpose of the contest is to stimulate interest in formations at the half.

But It'll Be Spent

When Holy Name P-TA had its first meeting of the year a week ago, children in the classrooms held a contest to see which room could get the most parents to attend. The fifth and sixth grades won the contest, and the \$3 prize. No decision has been made concerning where all that money will be spent, but something for their room will be purchased.

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ORDINANCE NO. 322
City of Birmingham
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION OF ARTICLE 10 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, TO THE EFFECT OF A SECTION TO BE KNOWN AS SECTION 31.
The City of Birmingham Ordinance No. 322, as amended by Ordinance Number 321, be amended by adding thereto a section 31, to read as follows:
Section 31.
(a) Property on the North East corner of Frank and Ann Streets, also described as Lots 23 and 24 Block 10 Addition, shall be changed from its present classification of Multiple Family Residence District to Business B District.
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication after the passage thereof.
This Ordinance made and passed by the Commission of the City of Birmingham this 27th day of September, 1946.
MILTON F. MALLENDER, Mayor.
IRENE E. HANLEY, Clerk.