

Regarding Next Year's City Budget

At Monday night public hearing on the city's proposed 1949-50 budget, city commissioners indicated that it would require \$725,310 to provide city services for the coming fiscal year, beginning this July first. The budget will be adopted formally next Monday evening.

The new budget will be \$109,734.40 more than that required last year, which was \$615,575.60. Taxpayers will be asked for \$116,605 more in taxes for next year than for this.

A careful analysis of the proposed budget will show that five items account primarily for the budget increase, and the resulting added tax load:

- 1) The city's special assessment account has been increased to \$103,170.18 for next year, compared to \$24,022.77 for this year, a difference of \$79,147.41. This is a result of the huge volume of special assessment projects (streets, sewers, water mains, etc.) now accumulated over the past several years, and on which the city must pay its share according to city charter. In the past this share was borrowed from the city's capital fund account. The commission this year decided that these funds must be largely repaid to keep the city in enough funds to meet current payrolls and expenses.
- 2) The capital improvement account was boosted to \$35,000 from its \$10,000 as budgeted last year, an increase of \$25,000. This money will be used for such capital improvements as new traffic signals on Hunter Blvd., improvement of the DPW yard, any equipment or improvement for the Municipal Bldg., etc.
- 3) To show a truer picture of costs, the city general fund will pay for fire hydrant rental from the Water Department. This accounts for a city budget increase from \$2,000 this year to \$10,000 for next year. Previously, the water department stood the difference, and water users paid for this element of fire protection to unimproved property.
- 4) An item appearing in city budget for the first time is \$4,500 to be used by the city plan commission in carrying out its responsibilities.
- 5) The city anticipates \$6,800 less in miscellaneous revenue next year over last year.

These five items, when totalled, equal more than \$113,500 of the anticipated \$116,605 added load to the city taxpayers. The other \$3,000 reflects the added optional capital budget for next year.

It can be stated that the city commission, in its special committee meetings in recent weeks when it examined in detail the various city departmental budgets, pared off many thousands of dollars in city departmental requests that the latter felt could be used by the city next year.

But knowing that the local tax load was about all the residents felt like bearing, the commission "cut" most of the fat from the budget. The commission, we feel, is to be highly commended for

"holding the line" on city expenses and not including anything not absolutely necessary to the city's general welfare.

Frugally-minded commissioners are the type to be encouraged for our city commission. But that frugal commissioner—at least those which Birmingham has had—often give way to a majority desire on the part of residents for a particular city service, either new or increased. Thus residents should be encouraged to keep their demands to a minimum or realize that if the city does it for them, it will be reflected in their annual taxes.

Against Inflation

The Federal Reserve Board has acted again to thwart the current deflationary trend. Its latest action was to reduce the reserve requirements of the 7,000 member banks of the Federal Reserve System, thus making available additional money for lending.

It may interest those who cling to the theory that economic affairs continue to be governed by the law of supply and demand to learn that the nation is under a managed currency. There is no supply and demand law working in the case of money and credit in the United States today. Both are under the control of the Government and are manipulated for the purposes of the administration which happens to be in power.

Spies Buried Alive

General Ma Hung-chi holds the Moslem stronghold of Ning-shia in North-west China against the Communist hordes. His troops are regarded as among the best in China, well-trained and fairly well-armed.

The Chinese Moslem leader is outspoken against the Communists and proudly claims that no Red agents dare penetrate his camp. The explanation, he asserts, is the fact that the last two caught shortly after V-J Day, "were buried alive."

It will be interesting to watch developments in China, where the Communist armies seem to be continuing their sweep southward at will, in order to discover what will happen in this Moslem leader and his Province.

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By Gene Alleman

Since 67 per cent of state-collected revenues are automatically returned to local governments for spending, the big question before the legislature this week—as solons raved for final adjournment—was this:

How much can we reduce the state deficit next year without economy cuts in appropriations for state institutions and state agencies?

Governor G. Mennen Williams is impending despite legislative efforts to trim state operating expenses.

After cutting off crippled children, slashing the state college and university, reducing the staffs of our mental hospitals and making other cuts," he said "the appropriations bill would still leave us about \$50 million short after using up the expected \$10 million surplus."

The governor's solution: Tax corporation profits 4 or 5 per cent.

The Republican-dominated legislature has chosen, as its policy, a program of economy for state agencies (financing 42 per cent of state-collected revenues) and no new taxes or increase of existing taxes. The outcome will be a net revenue loss of \$20 million a year. The only way to avoid a \$100 million deficit, of course, is to "cut."

That the Republican legislature has given the governor a ready-made plan to observe is a tribute to the corporation profits and thus avert a total budget-already indicated by Governor Williams' strategy.

The Republicans' answer will probably be in the affirmative.

Michigan's bi-partisan government, so called at least, was brought without by the switch to approximately one-half million voters from the Kim Sigler banner—all in two years.

Although Republican leaders feel that the election of a Democratic governor was a by-product of a protest vote against the Republican governor-nominee, Governor Williams has accepted the verdict as a mandate for social causes he advocated.

thing he needs to win. He is confident, say the least.

Bills adopted by the legislature include the following:

- Fishermen can catch panfish of any size. The conservation director may designate which waters may be fished for rainbows in the fall.
- Campers on state land must get free permits and must clean up the grounds before leaving.
- Old age welfare (assistance) maximum benefits are increased from \$50 to \$60 monthly.
- Salaries of circuit court judges increased \$2,000 year.
- Agricultural inspection fees transferred to general fund.
- Adjustment in fees and salaries for probate judges, jurors, township officers and magistrates.
- Workmen's compensation payments raised.
- "Loopholes" in state sales tax act are plugged for better revenue collection.
- Graduates the qualifications for teachers.

Several automobile parties from Birmingham could be seen at Anchor Bay, Lake St. Clair, Sunday, enjoying the early fishing season and the lovely weather. We regret to report, however, that the fishing was good the catching was something else again.

Jean Messing, ninth grade student from Grand Rapids walked off with the championship at the junior state tennis meet held at Kingswood school Saturday. She captured the title by defeating Hamtramck's Stephanie Pzychtko 6-1 and 6-4.

A plastic coating has been developed that prolongs the life of flowers, vegetables or trees for days, hours, or even weeks after cutting.

the director of the department of mental health.

Redeveloped school districts to include third class districts. Provide sabbatical leave for teachers.

In May

Today I tried to do my tasks, but Spring begged me to come outdoors and play awhile, Spring with her gay and captivating smile. We set out in the old green orchards swing. And watched a flock of sparrows eating corn. The parsley bed was green, the iris too. White clouds were sailing in a sky of blue. The old brown earth was streaked with gold. The moon Spied past. A silent house stood furled its dust. Dishes unwashed and unmade beds contended. That was it some my carefree hours were ended. "Goodbye!" I said to Spring. "I really must go right indoors." But Spring just made me stay. Outdoors to play with her the livelong day.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

While workers were dynamiting a stone along the electric line right-way Tuesday, a section of the line collapsed with great force into the air, instantly cutting off eight electric lines.

The Arthur Jessup Wagner Memorial association of Troy will install in the Crooks cemetery on Decoration Day, at 2:30 p.m., a suitable monument dedicated to their hero.

W. B. Ewing and family expect to take up their abode in Delray this week. Miss Eva, advance agent for the family has already removed heretofore to that place. We all regret losing the estimable family from our midst.

Mrs. Frank Benedict, formerly of Royal Oak, now of Detroit, who used to visit here, one day recently while riding her wheel, fell and broke her limb. At this writing she is doing nicely.

The Oakland Journal is the latest paper to appear in Pontiac. It is owned and published by Turner brothers. The type is set by one of the latest improved machines and it is printed on a new press.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Only a few minutes after Sgt. Delton had left his Birmingham Hill police department in a car loaded with heavy iron cages tipped over, before destroying the car. The driver of the truck, Joseph Schoums, was arrested for reckless driving.

Police arrested a thief on a tip given by unnamed parties and returned several watches stolen from Roy McAlpine, where the man had been employed, before the owner had missed them.

Directors of the Birmingham Y last night agreed to pay the \$7,500 share of the proposed camp site on Lake about 160 miles north of here. It is expected that Royal Oak and Pontiac will be given the cost and use of the camp.

A general plan for the village will be submitted in about a month by Arthur C. Conroy. He has been selected to continue their sweep southward at will, in order to discover what will happen in this Moslem leader and his Province.

Harmony should rule in the local election being held in the coming year. Mr. and Mrs. Warren F. Gibson have been elected presiding of the Rotary and Mrs. Ann respectively.

FIVE YEARS AGO

The new dog quarantine imposed on Oakland county by the state department will become effective here very soon. This 30-day restriction is placed on all dogs entering the county because of the rapid rise in rabies cases.

Police Chief John Hackett has announced that the local fire will sound for 30 seconds as official word of D Day is received. This will be to notify all residents that the big European invasion has gotten under way.

William W. Arches of Detroit has been named the new manager for the Bloomfield Theatre, to succeed the late Dennis Glick. He will assume his duties here on May 20, after serving as manager of Detroit's Riviera theatre for several months.

Otherwise He'll Be as Free as the Air



Capitol Itself Is Scheduled for a Needed, Long Delayed Face Lifting

(Special Staff Report From Our Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—Your congressman may be home early this summer. Reason: The Capitol is slated for a long delayed face lifting. Thus the legislators have an additional incentive to finish work on time. A special session in two summer might force them to meet in makeshift quarters—not air conditioned.

In the case of the House, this would be a real problem. Its 425 members would easily fill any temporary meeting room to overflowing.

Temporarily Expedient

While public attention has been centered on scheduled White House renovations, Congress has been worrying about the roof over its head. More than ten years ago it was discovered the skylight roof over the House and Senate chambers was obsolete and in danger of caving in. As a temporary expedient, heavy supports were installed under the ceilings of both chambers in 1940.

Then came the war and a long series of delays. Now the roof repair job has been expanded into a general face lifting which will cost about \$4.5 million. This is about a million less than the estimated cost of White House repairs.

In Two Stages

Naturally, congressmen want this work done while they're not around. So the job is to be accomplished in two stages—half this summer, half next.

When it's completed, congressmen will have new and more comfortable seats, a concealed public address system, remodeled cloak rooms. The skylight roof will be replaced with specially designed noiseless seats, the press gallery will be done over, and paintings and sculpture will be relocated.

Most congressmen say it's high time the 156-year old Capitol was overhauled. And they hope Democratic leader Senator Scott Lucas is just adding when he dartsly hints at a summer session. Even a filibuster would be forced to give way to a pneumatic hammer.

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess
International Market Analyst

A friend of the writer of these lines has just returned from Shanghai, China. He would not dare to forecast on things to come in the Far East. However, he knows from his own 20 years of business experience that China can not exist without western products, for which she can and will pay in her products, such as tungsten, tea and tung oil.

It is typical, our friend observed, that his freighter, an American boat, loaded the first thousand tons of Chinese products within the communicative sphere, bound for the United States. Let us hope that this is a good omen.

Exchanges Pick Convention Delegates

Walter Morgan, president, and Henry Sellers, secretary of the Birmingham Exchange Club, will attend the state conference at Battle Creek on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 12, 13 and 14.

State plans for the coming year will be discussed by the club officers who will come before the meeting.

20 Communists, If Elected to Congress, Could Kill All Congressional Activity

(Special Story From Our Washington Bureau)

By Joseph A. Dear

WASHINGTON—If the American Communist party were strong enough to elect 20 congressmen, its House of Representatives would be strong enough to stop all legislative work of Congress.

Rep. Emmanuel Celler, who is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, says that if 20 Communists would need even 20 members to stall the legislature. "It would be enough," he said, "to stop all legislative work of Congress."

Rep. Earl Michener, of Michigan, a Republican, said the Judiciary Committee last session, found five too low an estimate. "It could come with 40 men," said Michener.

Somehow Between Clifford Case, a New Jersey congressman also serving on the Judiciary Committee, suspects the Communists between these two estimates.

"Five Communists in Congress could probably stop things for awhile," said Case, "but they would have to work awfully hard to do it." He added, however, Case conceded it did not matter. "The three legislators all admit the House of Communists could jam up the works so badly only because of the archaic rules under which Congress operates."

Of course, if anything like that occurred," Case observed, "Congress would avoid 20 congressmen in a hurry." But in the process, said Case, "its domestic facility."

Under the congressional rules now in effect a congressman who wants to delay legislative process has numerous dilatory tactics from which to choose.

Only Two of the Tactics.

For example, he could insist on a quorum. Seldom is there a quorum on the floor largely because of the committee hearings necessary must attend. Only when votes are taken is there, usually, a majority on the floor.

Or the delaying members could waste endless hours by amending the journal, which records the proceedings of the previous day. "These are but two of the delaying and blocking tactics that could be employed. There are many, many more."

Case, Michener, and Celler all cited Rep. Vito Marcantonio, Democrat, of New York, as an adept practitioner of dilatory maneuvers. Marcantonio has, for example, succeeded in tying the House in knots all by himself on more than 20 occasions.

Strangely enough, proponents of a law to ban the Communist party have never spelled out the means by which they would handle "Red" congressmen would constitute.

Area Rent Director Gives Answers to 13 Main Questions of Local Landlords

Area Rent Director William C. Haines yesterday answered 13 questions which landlords and tenants in Birmingham and its suburbs have asked in the new "fair net operating income" adjustment provision, together with questions asked by the local rent office staff.

More than 1000 persons have already petitioned for increases in rent in Detroit for details about the new adjustment provision since the first adjustment was made on May 2, according to Haines' estimate.

Following are the principal questions and answers:

Q. Will the fair net operating income adjustment apply to the landlord's entire income from rental property or the income from the structure?

A. A landlord may submit a petition for a rent increase, but he, however, but a separate adjustment will be determined for each building.

Q. What was the basis for determining what constitutes a fair net operating income?

A. An exhaustive analysis was made of cost studies over an eight-year period (1935 to 1944). This information was obtained from landlord's account books in 95 cities through a representative population of 30,000,000 people and constituted a broad sample of all types of rental properties in large metropolitan areas, medium cities and small towns.

Q. Is this the only basis for getting a rent increase?

A. Adjustments will be granted as in previous years, for major capital improvements; substantial increase in services, furniture, furnishings, etc.; and for increased occupancy, and certain other grounds. The provision retroactively covers the earlier operating-at-a-loss adjustment and the so-called "hardship" adjustment.

Q. What is the basis for getting a rent increase?

A. Adjustments will be granted as in previous years, for major capital improvements; substantial increase in services, furniture, furnishings, etc.; and for increased occupancy, and certain other grounds. The provision retroactively covers the earlier operating-at-a-loss adjustment and the so-called "hardship" adjustment.

Q. What is the amount left after deducting operating expenses and depreciation from gross income?

Q. Who is entitled to a rent increase to obtain a "fair net operating income?"

A. Any owner whose net operating income from a building containing four or less dwelling units is less than 25 per cent of his gross income, or whose net operating income from a building containing five or more dwelling units is less than 20 per cent of his gross income.

Q. Can interest and payments on mortgage be counted as operating expenses in applying for fair net operating income?

A. No, because these are properly chargeable to the cost of acquiring property, rather than operating the structure.

Q. One Adjustment Per Year.

Q. After receiving one adjustment for fair net operating income, can a landlord ask for another adjustment on the same building?

A. Generally, landlords will be limited to one adjustment a year. A landlord may apply for an adjustment on any grounds provided in the rent regulations if circumstances warrant.

Q. What about operating expenses shown in the landlord's petition for fair net operating income?

A. If they have increased since the last adjustment, they may be included, but they must be supported by a verified statement from the tax official showing the amount of the increase. This is in effect for the building on the date his petition for adjustment is filed.

Q. How long does it take to get a new rate and the new rate will be higher?

A. If taxes have increased since the last adjustment, the new rate will be higher. Do not have to show the last year's tax bill will be higher. Do not have to show the last year's tax bill will be higher.

Q. How much does it cost to get a new rate and the new rate will be higher?

A. If taxes have increased since the last adjustment, the new rate will be higher. Do not have to show the last year's tax bill will be higher. Do not have to show the last year's tax bill will be higher.

People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for editorial consideration. Letters are signed, unless they will be confidential upon request. Letters are not returned.

To the Editor:

One may wonder after observing Birmingham traffic, if the same rules which apply to the ordinary citizen also apply to taxicabs and buses.

The city customarily takes risks when it comes to traffic laws which good drivers are trained not to take. They violate not only the laws and regulations but also the respect for regulations and good sense, when such operations by licensed drivers are conducted.

It might be added that other licensed carriers—the interstate bus lines—also are subject to these rules. Entering and leaving Birmingham on Woodward, between Maple and the 1000's limits, there are large buses of various sizes and speeds which are trained not to take. They violate not only the laws and regulations but also the respect for regulations and good sense, when such operations by licensed drivers are conducted.

The Birmingham police department, courteous and efficient as it is in many ways, is not formulating its duty in guarding against such violations by the cabs and buses.

It is particularly difficult to teach the young people who are learning to drive, how to formulating its duty in guarding against such violations by the cabs and buses.

OBSEVANT.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



For Better Baby Pictures

PROBABLY nothing arouses the urge to take pictures more than an addition to the family. The father with a wall full of snapshots is a familiar figure. And snapshots of surveys have shown that babies and children are by far the favorite picture subject of most people.

Fortunately, too, few subjects are more photogenic than youngsters. Almost everything they do has natural appeal. Because of this, the picture taker only need catch them at the right moment to make a charming snapshot. In many ways, a small baby is among the easiest subjects to picture.

As for the third rule, it's only natural for you to want a shot of a child which shows his features clearly. And children are small people. Shooting from too far away you're likely to lose the child against the background. So it's a good idea to make closeups from five or six feet away. Most fixed-focus cameras can be used with good results at six feet and you can hold your camera close to the subject. Shooting from too far away you're likely to lose the child against the background. So it's a good idea to make closeups from five or six feet away. Most fixed-focus cameras can be used with good results at six feet and you can hold your camera close to the subject.

Granted the fundamentals of correct exposure and accurate focus, you'll find three simple rules will help you to improve your pictures of babies. First, let them pretty much pose themselves. Second, shoot from the child's level. And third, shoot fairly close up to the subject.

The first of these rules merely takes advantage of the fact we've mentioned—that almost everything a child does has natural appeal. All that the picture taker need do is

give the youngster a toy of some sort and let the child take over. Once you've done this the baby will pose himself, in effect, as he plays.

The second rule, to shoot from the child's level, is illustrated by the picture that appears here. By placing the camera close to the floor you lessen the chance of any distortion.

As for the third rule, it's only natural for you to want a shot of a child which shows his features clearly. And children are small people. Shooting from too far away you're likely to lose the child against the background. So it's a good idea to make closeups from five or six feet away. Most fixed-focus cameras can be used with good results at six feet and you can hold your camera close to the subject.

In any event, try these simple things next time you snap a small child. Chances are you'll be surprised at how much they will improve your pictures. For good picture making is always easy with a little care.

—John van Gulder