

Gov. Williams Responds Naturally

Demands upon Michigan's ever-shrinking State Treasury have caused the Republican dominated Legislature to look to beer, whiskey, and heaven-knows-what-else sources of taxation to relieve the situation.

The G.O.P. says in 1958 Michigan will have to look to a new corporation profits tax or income tax (or could it be both?) to fill the State's coffers. An income tax will require an amendment to the State's Constitution. It has been voted on twice before, and each time defeated.

If presented again, it might carry — since the preponderance of voters in Michigan appear to favor the Governor Williams economic formulae as answers to vexing tax problems. Most certainly the people will oppose an increase in sales tax — knowledge of which keeps the Legislature from upping the present three percent rate.

OF ONE THING, we think, you may be

sure: Governor Williams is dead set on a struggle to win his party's nomination in 1960 for the Presidency. He believes that the majority of voters still like the New and Fair Deal philosophy . . . and so long as he's Governor of the Wolverine State he intends to play a vigorous game of politics to achieve his ambition.

That his brand of economics eventually leads to Socialism and ultimate governmental bankruptcy will not deter him . . . driven, as he is, not only by his own fanatical urge for political place, but equally by the forces of labor, with its Reuthers and Scholles and similar unionists.

Basically, the Governor is a nice chap . . . but now he responds to the "call of the wild" . . . and it is such a call, when one assumes to hear the applauding voices of legions of American voters . . . voices crying out for succor from any source, even though it be the Source of Civic & Economic Doom!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

On a recent television show Adlai Stevenson solemnly declared he thinks an administration that tells the people "all is well in the Mid-East", and then awaits events that prove to the world that such is not the case, is a bad one for the American people. He was criticizing Ike's policy, together with those of Secretary of State Dulles. No doubt Adlai is quite right . . . but he so easily overlooked what Harry S. Truman said just a month before he sent American troops into Korea for a "police action." Both Harry and his then Secretary of State Acheson told our nation, and the world, that "We are closer to real peace than we have been for many years." Adlai, why should the pot call the kettle black?

Wisconsin's late U.S. Senator Joseph R. McCarthy was only 48 when the Grim Reaper removed him from the nation's political scene. His voice was raised against Communism in this nation, within or without official government. That was good . . . though one well may question the methods Joe pursued to win public acclaim. He did possess the basic qualities of the crusader . . . though his pattern included the demagogue within it. It was too bad for all concerned that he could not be more statesman-like as he sought to shake Commies from their real or imagined hiding wherever he went.

We must applaud the convictions uttered by the University of Michigan's president, Harlan H. Hatcher, when he

declared that dependence upon federal aid for public education will bring bureaucratic controls from Washington, D.C. The Ann Arbor educator properly argues that school monies should be raised within our State of Michigan. He reminds his audience that for every dollar Michigan receives from Washington it first had to pay about \$1.56 in taxes to Washington. These federal grants come from the people first; Washington, D.C., it should never be forgotten, doesn't produce a nickel's worth of taxable wealth itself. Oh, if only Michigan had leaders who would sound the clarion call for State self-dependence, self-reliance, when it comes to education, roads, and other basic needs!

Personally, this newspaper believes that President Eisenhower sincerely wants to do well by his people . . . regardless of political parties, too. All that Ike needs to do in order to achieve more of his sincere desires is to learn how to carry out the responsibilities of his sacred job. By this time he ought to know that nothing espoused by Democrats that he may try will please them—for it is the nature of competitive partisan politics always to discredit the opposition's words and acts. Ike, too, ought to know by this time that most Republicans in and out of Congress don't want him to turn into a New or Fair Dealer. Really, then, Ike is finding it more difficult to win world peace and world prosperity, than to win a bloody international war.

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Suburban Sidelights by Neil



'The prize? Your father probably ate it again!'



NATURE NOW

Park Dedicates Nature Center

Spring was unfolding her banners on every hand, as we journeyed to Kensington Metropolitan Park for the dedication of its new Nature Center. Orchards were set with prim bouquets of pink and white. Swallows dipped over meadows bright with new grass and flowers. Warblers sang in tree tops suddenly cloaked in the freshest of greens.

Because we worked for so many happy hours with children where a nature center is being built, we were thrilled with the possibilities of Kensington's new educational venture.

THE ATTRACTIVE building is of contemporary design situated in an oak forest association bordering a pond. The doors open to an assembly room with fireplace which serves as a meeting place for groups using the nature trails. A second room overlooking the water will house the permanent exhibits and serve as a center for field trip observations and activities. The third room, a small library and workshop, is planned for the use of leaders and teachers. An excellent opportunity for schools and clubs to implement their nature and conservation programs with first hand out-of-door experiences.

Additional features scheduled to attract both family and organization groups, will be colored movies to illustrate talks and to foster discussion on the subjects of plants and animal life which abound in the park.

The nature center is surrounded by 700-acre Wildlife Sanctuary which includes a 65-acre lake.

Use Mrs. Freese as a stop-over for thousands of waterfowl during the spring and fall migration. It is named "Wildwing Lake." Here, several years ago, your scribe saw her first American egret.

Chipmunk, squirrel, muskrat, red fox and white tailed deer are among the permanent residents. This morning the tree-tops were alive with migrating warblers which together with goldfinch, least flycatcher, woodpecker, titmouse, cuckoo and thrush lent their voices to make a woodland symphony.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
May 24, 1907
"The Buster Brown Sluggers have gained another victory, this one being over Southfield by the score of 9 to 4. A peculiar feature was that the Southfield team had two players old enough to be married and one high school player."

"More than one Birmingham merchant bewails the metropolitan mail order house. We have even heard business men object to rural delivery because of the fact that farmers are no longer obliged to come to town for their mail and have easy facilities for trading by mail. Such a position is as shameful as it is useless. The rural delivery is a great boon to a great mass of people. That keen men in Chicago have been prompt to adjust their business to meet conditions should not worry you so greatly, Mr. Birmingham Merchant, but it should teach you something. Instead of thinking about things that have been, turn your thoughts to things that are."

30 YEARS AGO
May 26, 1927
"Announcement of plans for a new United Presbyterian church in Birmingham, to cost approximately \$100,000 is made today by Rev. Henry S. Evans, pastor. As soon as the site of the present church, at Forest and Woodward avenues, which is up for sale today, is sold, a new site will be bought. Details of the plans will then be worked out."

"This wanderer is surprised by the boldness of some youngsters. After police had seized more than a hundred bicycles for lack of the 25-cent license, this Wanderer expected that those without the tags would 'lay low.' Instead, officers picked up three bikes at Quarter, three at Holy Name, three at Baldwin and six at Barnum, last Friday."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Some weeks from now, two Birmingham high school seniors will return to their respective homelands, convinced more than ever that their school year here has shown how a diplomatic career would enable them to make a personal contribution toward world peace.

Eighteen-year-old Hely Holdenstein will be returning to Luxembourg City, in the little duchy of Luxembourg, while Tomaz Fonseca, 17, will be en route to Cascais, 16 miles south of Lisbon, Portugal.

These two are in Birmingham because of the American Field Service student exchange program, and the local high school students whose money-raising efforts provided an important share in financing these two foreign visitors.

MOST LUXEMBOURGERS, Hely says, can speak four languages—German, French, English, besides Luxembourgish. "But they can write only three of them, for there is no written Luxembourgish," she explains.

One of the important differences she has noticed between her country and the United States is that at home, the state controls education.

"I like the way it is controlled by the community in America," she says.

On her way to the States, along with several hundred other ASF exchange students, she attended shipboard classes "where they told us some American slang words, and about things like hotdogs and hamburgers."

THE ENGLISH TAUGHT IN Luxembourg schools is the real stuff—Oxfordian.

"Your schools here are so friendly, so pleasant," the keen young lady points out. "Teenagers are accepted more by the United States. At home, kids are kids, and adults are adults. There is no mixing of the two."

Fonseca, who is "Tom" to his Birmingham classmates, is in the States because he wanted a weekend trip to Lisbon as a relief from schedules at the Portuguese boys' school he was attending.

HE APPLIED FOR the ASF written

examination, which he knew was only administered in Lisbon.

"When I got a letter months later that I had been accepted, I thought it was either a mistake or a joke," Tom explains. He arrived in the States with long hair and sideburns, which is quite acceptable in Portugal.

"But I found I was being mistaken for Elvis Presley so I went right away and had them cut off," he says. (Tom sports a crew cut.) "My mother probably will kill me when I get home!"

On his ship on the way over, the advisors put on a little play of "Life in America" as one way of orienting the new arrivals.

TOM TELLS ABOUT IT: "There is a father, who comes to breakfast, puts his feet on the table, starts reading his paper and shouts for coffee. Then brother comes down. He is dirty face, hair uncombed, clothes not neat. Then sister, who is looking in a small mirror all the time. Then mother, who tries to get father to have the kids eat breakfast."

"I have found this is not quite true. The father does not put his feet on the table!"

Tom wasn't here long before the presidential election campaign got into full swing.

He recalls: "I couldn't get used to Adlai Stevenson going around the country and criticizing President Eisenhower. As I sat in front of TV watching Adlai, I kept saying, 'Boy, if you were in Portugal, you'd be out of circulation real fast!'"

AND AS HE GOES HOME to begin studies that he hopes will lead him into the Portuguese foreign service, he says, "While I have been here, I have found you Americans are not like the movies portray—divorces, spoiled, criminals and such. I hope when I get home I will be a good ambassador for Uncle Sam!"

He will be. So will Hely.

And their Birmingham classmates will be good ambassadors of Luxembourg and of Portugal.

The world thus is a bit smaller. Which is to say it has become a bit closer.

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