

## People's Column

(Continued from Page 8-B)

### Millage Vote Is Expression Of Common Sense

To the Editor:  
May I add a few comments to those which have been written concerning the school situation in Birmingham?

Two weeks ago the extreme dedication of the superintendent over the past 18 years was emphasized in your paper. There is no doubt in anyone's mind, I am sure, of his dedication.

The doubt that arises is exactly to what that dedication been directed? To making the Birmingham schools the best in the country is the claim.

It is very true that awards have been named for the buildings, and many other honors, no doubt, have been announced for their achievement.

HOWEVER, along with this the superior quality of the schools has prominently figured, and rightly so. It might be that throughout the years it is this same man, who cannot very well endure criticism, with his unusual gift of persuasiveness and ability to make each one of his listeners sympathize with his problems and his cause, has been able without opposition to go along with vast sums of the taxpayers' money, building more and more costly schools because that was the way he saw it should be.

APPARENTLY, AT THIS TIME AND BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, A MORE COMMON SENSE VIEW OF BIRMINGHAM.

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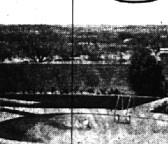
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## HAM'S NEEDS IS BEING VOICED.

WHEN THE presently named Seaholm high school was built, O.K.'s were given for impractical, poorly arranged and unnecessarily extravagant facilities.

At the same time, teachers needs were not considered. Equipment by teachers, which would have improved teaching was not permitted to be placed in the room because of concern with decor rather than educational functioning.

As plans were never available to the community, contemplating working amid the surroundings, there was very little that could be done to correct some of the planning mistakes.

HOWEVER, WHEN plans were shown in the paper for the new school to be built on Thirteenth Mile Road, people dared to voice their protest and alarm over the extravagance being displayed.

FROM A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER heard at this time suggesting that some economies should be enacted. It was voted to go ahead with plans because it was too late.

AS I DRIVE BY the Wythe Groves high school on an evening and see the light burning in every room in the school, I realize that, even though my opinion is that some economies should be enacted, it is too late to do so. FIVE TIMES since joining Dr. Ireland's "empire," I would hazard the guess that I do not even pay for the lighting in that school for one night, while the custodial crew goes on polishing the floors to mirror-like proportions.

WHY TAXPAYERS SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO GO TO THE POLLS AND VOTE MORE AND MORE RAISES FOR THE OPERATION OF SUCH EXTRAVAGANT IS CHILD-LIKE AND TRUSTING!

I feel that the members of the school board who are introducing new thinking into the group are to be highly commended.

I WOULD LIKE to point out that the \$32 plus given in a Detroit paper as Birmingham's low tax rate does not seem to correspond with the \$24 plus figure which was the tax bill for 1959.

It is not that anyone in Birmingham wants inferior schools for their children. Those who wish the ultra ultra have the privilege of using the private schools in the area. Many would like sensibly planned buildings which could be maintained at sensible figures, then the just and fair proportion of the dollar could be spent on well-qualified and dedicated teachers. And we all know that superior teachers are more important than buildings.

An interested taxpayer.

### We Seek More Status Than We'll Admit?

To the Editor:  
As an "outsider" in the Birmingham area, I read with interest the article in the Sunday Free Press (April 10) and the editorial regarding it in last week's (April 14) Eccentric.

As you say, there may be a goodly number of "hard-working, live-within-their-income" kind of folks in Birmingham, but they do not have the influence, attract the attention or contribute to Birmingham's reputation as do the "status-seeking" class.

THE ARTICLE by Julie Candler in "Talk of the Towns" makes me feel that Birmingham is more conscious of social position than they would like to admit. Her column

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seemed obviously biased and personal.

True, perhaps junior high students should not be required to take shop and home ec. But at this age children need to explore as many different fields as possible. Therefore home ec. and shop should have standing with other non-academic subjects.

I am sure Julie would find, if she investigated, more is taught than putting on lipstick, and perhaps it is not all a waste of time.

BUT ON THE other hand, she could be teaching her daughter to operate and respect for educators by going along with the school program. This to my mind, is as important to learn as the subjects taught in school.

Can we truthfully say that Birmingham is not "status seeking"? MRS. RUSSELL PICKERING

### Changed Views on Home Ec

To the Editor:

This is a response to Julie Candler's comment in her April 14 "Talk of the Towns" column.

When my daughter reached the seventh grade, my opinion toward home economics was exactly the same as yours. Since then we have

experienced a more careful analysis of educating the individual as a whole human being.

MY DAUGHTER and I are completely different types of personalities. Sewing frustrates me and she loves it, and benefits a feeling of self-creativity and deep satisfaction from it. I couldn't begin to teach her here at home the basic fundamentals of making a dress, because I was schooled in the big city where this type of education was called unnecessary.

According to a statement issued by the F.B.I., "these young people will do what they know in their spare time. And that has a lot to do with this delinquency problem." This takes place in every family, no matter how much or how little income there is.

I KNOW some of these college students come home during their vacation period, having been through the Birmingham school system, have made some new clothes to take back with them. If these teachers can show our girls how to apply their lipstick, their faces might look a lot better.

It isn't that Dr. Ireland is so far ahead in his thinking. We're just behind in ours. Let's not have three fast-talking lawyers believing they're the educators. I would like to see more education done in the form of tennis-

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court etiquette. This foul language would disqualify anyone from the courts in many other communities. Let's keep educating these young people as people. AMEN.

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**FOR BUSINESS MEN!**

Will thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away. Proverbs 23:5

If a man should labor to be rich after the African fashion, and should accumulate a large store of shells and beads, when he came home to England he would have nothing; even though he had a whole load of such rubbish, he who gives his heart and soul to the cultivation of soul, and living only in the spiritual realm, where such round objects are reckoned as mere forms of gold, his harvest is heaven, and of less value than the least of spiritual blessings.

Share the blessing of this message with your friends.

**All men are invited to attend:**  
Prayer and breakfast every Monday 6:30 A.M. in the conference room  
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Noon day luncheon held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Carrie Lee's, 12 to 1 sharp.  
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