



Your Congressman —What Do You Know About Him?

YOUR spokesmen in Congress—YOUR representatives—are the two Senators from your state and the Representative from your Congressional district. This is true regardless of whether the incumbent office holders represent the political party to which you belong or an opposing political party.

Once Senators or Representatives have been elected, they represent all the people of their state or their district no matter which party they are affiliated with.

Your spokesmen in the national government cannot do a good job of representing you unless they know and understand your views and you, in turn understand their problems. They need and want the opinions of all their constituents—if they can get them—regardless of party affiliations.

What to Write About

It must be remembered that a Congressman's first obligation is to his constituents. His big problem is to get reelected, and much of his time is taken up with satisfying the demands of those who have sent him to Washington. Their views are always given first place in his thoughts.

Accurate and useful information sent to him by a voter in his district is always appreciated. He welcomes hearing from "back home" because it shows him the people know he is alive and are interested in what he is doing.

Until we realize our representatives in Congress want and welcome our views and we take the trouble to communicate frequently, our relations in Washington will

not be what they should—or ought to be. Remember, you don't have to wait until you have a complaint to write to your Senators and Representatives. They're human too, and a pat on the back is appreciated by them as it is by you, and a slap in the face arouses their anger as readily as yours. Don't gripe—WRITE!

10 Tips on Writing Your Congressman

(Who Are: Senator Philip A. Hart and Senator Patrick V. McNamara; c/o Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. Rep. William S. Broomfield, c/o House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.)

1. Keep your letters brief.
2. Tell the essentials about yourself or your business.
3. Be forthright: If you're for something say so. Don't beat around the bush.
4. Avoid emotion: Prove your case with facts and figures.
5. Be reasonable: Seek only possible things.
6. Speak for yourself: Use your own stationery and letter style.
7. Be courteous: Compliment him on a good speech, thank him for a good vote and recognize his staff, too.
8. Request action: Your man is elected to do something.
9. Ask for an answer: You've told him where you stand. Ask him where he stands.
10. Don't stop with one letter. Keep your Congressman informed on your views on all important legislation.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

If one Fidel Castro were a citizen of the U.S.A., a member of Congress, and he made the same statements about Cuba that he does about our nation, he'd be hooted, booed, laughed at, and someone would suggest that he be examined for even a tiny evidence of sanity. That bearded young chap who led a revolution against tyrant, Battista, himself shows every evidence of a nasty, evil mentality. Apparently, he is so confused, so inept in his new role, that he must divert his countrymen's thoughts by lambasting Uncle Sam. Well, it really won't be much longer, say the experts, before Fidel will be given the same treatment that he gave Battista.

Let it be recorded herein that March, and most of this April, have not been harbingers of a pleasant spring. With all their boastful promises, not a single campaigning politician has gone on record as promising to improve the weather! (Even though most of 'em promise everything else that's un-promisable.)

A member of the Detroit City Council, Blanche Parent Wise, has been elected chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. A woman, Florence (Twink) Willet, already a Birmingham city commissioner, has just been elected Mayor by her commissioner colleagues. (Remember: "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.")

It must have required a stalwart quantity and quality of characterful courage for Gen. Mark W. Clark, U.S.A., retired, to declare his belief that England's Gen. Harold R. L. G. Alexander is World War II's "greatest General." Especially since Clark served under Dwight D. Eisenhower. Clark also served in Italy directly under Alexander. It is interesting to learn, too, that Gen. Clark holds no hopes that the United Nations will ever achieve enduring peace.

Very few garrulous politicians are without headgear... else how could they be talking through their hats?

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Didja hear the one about the husband who was on his way out the front door, golf bag hanging from his shoulder?

"Golf, golf, golf," wailed his wife. "I really believe I'd drop dead if you spent one Sunday at home."

"Now, Dear," he answered, "there's no use talking like that. You know you can't bribe me."

If a dollar had cents, it wouldn't be so inflated.

They say a wife is a five-in-one woman—a sweetheart, a valet, a cook, an audience, a nurse.

So that should make every husband a

five-in-one man—romantic playboy, intellectual genius, financial wizard, muscular toiler, and handyman.

Any company has a boss who doesn't know what everybody else knows. On the other hand, there's always something the boss knows that the others don't!

If we could harness and use the heat under all the collars in the world, we could melt all the ice of the Arctic.

It used to be that any success you achieved you owed to yourself. Today you owe everything to others.

"Does Anyone Feel Itchy?"



Nature Now Is on Page 8-D

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Resident's Latest View On Beverly Retirements

To the Editor:

In reply to Mr. Shurtleff's reply to my comment, I had the feeling that to question the actions of the Council right or wrong was out of order and a slap on the wrist was the penalty.

S'field Fem Philosophizes About 'Mud'

To the Editor:

"Southfield, thy name is mud, but I love you just the same." Unpleasant, isn't it, to find you have to park the car near the highway and walk a couple of three blocks to get home. But isn't it nice to feel the fresh morning air as you start out the next day?

You begin to loosen up as you start breathing deeper and you remember what your doctor told you one time, "That a mile a day's walk will normalize the blood pressure." You decide to do it regularly, even after this mud dries up.

AND ITS SO nice to see your neighbors from the kitchen window, as people instead of as cars full of strange faces driving by. One of them has a sense of humor. I saw him stop, get out of his car, and with a shovel, which he probably keeps handy these days, started to level off a few bad ruts in the road which he considered would get him into trouble.

While he was doing this, however, his cat started rolling backwards and into the side of the road and there he was, stuck, but good. If there hadn't been a fence there he would have gone into a field. He probably decided to put the brakes on next time he left his car in the road.

WE NEED THESE disruptions in our daily habits sometimes to give us a new perspective—like having no mail delivered and meeting friends and countrymen at the local post office where we pick up our own and our neighbors letters.

OF COURSE I was very glad when they finally got around to picking up the rubbish, and not that we don't look forward to getting our Southfield roads paved, but in the meantime it's a wonderful time of year to take a walk. My, that evening stillness in the air, and the birds twittering just

Editor's Note:

Moorecraft is answering a letter written by Ted Shurtleff, chairman of the public safety commission of the Village of Beverly Hills in the April 14 issue of The Birmingham Eccentric. Shurtleff stated facts and views on the proposed pension plan in answer to Moorecraft's initial letter on the program.

I realized when I wrote the original letter that I did not have all the facts only those that had been reported to your paper. Now it appears that we do not have a force of 4 men and chief, but 11 men and the possibility of 17 or more if the area becomes more commercial.

THERE IS NO question of the value of adequate protection, however, there is a question of how the fringe Retirement cost will eventually reach for this protection.

Mr. Shurtleff states that the Retirement income beginning at age 65 is only \$200.00 a month for 10 years, and then continues at \$125.00 a month for life. To put this another way, the income for life is \$125.00 a month beginning at age 65 plus \$78.00 a month from age 65 to 65.

Add to this the possibility of the employee being eligible for full Social Security benefits by being employed from 65 to 65, the employee would then receive starting at age 65 \$200.00 a month and at 65 receive \$125.00 a month from the pension plus \$191.00 a month for husband and spouse from Social Security = \$516.00 a month "take home pay" without deductions.

MANY TIMES in suburban areas these seemingly small fringe benefits have a habit of becoming a big financial headache and larger taxes are the end result.

JAMES H. MOORECRAFT
makes a person feel relaxed and happy.

PATRICIA ANDERSON
25380 Evergreen, S'field
(See PEOPLE'S COLN., Page 7-B)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1910

"The Woman's Literary club met at the home of Mrs. George Ferguson, Woodward avenue, Birmingham. Roll call 'My favorite time and why.' The aim seemed the favorite for its grace and beauty."

"A Maxwell 30 for T. G. McKinney, a Brush roadster for W. J. McKinney and a great big five-seated Buick for the whole family of J. Bert Peabody will cause us Birmingham pedestrians to watch out or be killed this summer."

"J. M. H. H. has gone into the horse-clipping business."

30 YEARS AGO

May 1, 1930

"Characterized by Wilbur M. Brucker, attorney-general of Michigan, as 'the physical evidence of the attainment of an ideal,' the Birmingham Community House was dedicated Monday night with appropriate ceremonies."

"Jack Miner, whose bird sanctuary at Kingsville, Ont., is the harbor of thousands of wild geese each year, will lecture at the new Community House next Tuesday under the auspices of the Bloomfield Hills and district horticultural society."

15 YEARS AGO

April 26, 1945

"A group of 19 Birmingham retail merchants today announced a

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