

Romney's 'CFM' Needs To Continue

George Romney, president of American Motors and holding a similar, non-paying voluntary job as head of Citizens for Michigan, is a good citizen. His personal character is beyond any tinge of assassination; his executive ability, too, is on a par with above the usual course record.

Recently, he has joined his Citizens for Michigan (CFM) to the League of Women Voters and the Michigan Junior Chambers of Commerce, in their own efforts to obtain 300,000 signatures on petitions to get the proposition of holding a State Constitutional Convention on the November ballot.

"If the petition fails," says Romney, "it will be the death of Citizens for Michigan." That statement, of course, is under-

standably made . . . but CFM's virtue and value still remains as state citizens responsibilities, and always will.

We regret that George Romney has thus academically placed the problem in the limbo of the unattainable. Surely, his own achievements argue that he can, given time and talent, achieve great things.

We hope that the petitions will total up to more than the required 300,000. However, if they are not, we urge Romney to re-think and reconsider his ". . . death . . ." statement—and that he recall what a letter write once indited on the envelope he entrusted to the U.S. Mails: "If not delivered in five days, try like II—on the sixth!"

Lincoln Is Often Misquoted

The following quotation is often attributed to Abraham Lincoln. It sounds like him, but the true author was a retired clergyman in Erie, Pa., the Rev. William J. H. Boetcker, who wrote:

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot help the brotherhood of men by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could do for themselves."

Lincoln did say, "Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another,

but let him labor diligently and build one himself."

LINCOLN IS OFTEN said to have supported the notion that "human rights are superior to property rights," as if property has any rights. Only people have rights.

Lincoln said that "labor is prior to . . . and the superior of capital." But he was speaking about slavery. He said no man had a right to own another man, or to keep another perpetually indentured to him.

If property had rights, everybody would agree that human rights come first. Fire men hack down a building to save a life, rather than let a man die to save the building.

However, to imply that human rights do not include property rights is to say that human beings do not labor for the possession of property, real or personal—when they do so labor, of course.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

As human life is extended and, at the same time, the retirement age (also often the enforced idleness of older people occurs) takes millions of men and women from earning a living, the problem of health becomes most important to them. To aid the needy aged people to receive health help when they cannot afford to pay for it, various plans are presented to solve the problem. Some of them come from, for example, insurance and similar privately operated organizations, while some believe that government should finance the entire cost. There's no question but what a certain segment of the aged, without sufficient finances, should receive aid from government—preferably on state levels. But to fasten upon the federal government the responsibility of paying the entire cost of ALL aged persons is to create a bureaucratic situation that can endanger national financial solvency—not to overlook the collateral tax load. This problem can best be met only after honest, non-political research is completed.

In defense of life and property of its citizens, Detroit police officers daily face personal danger. Proof of this again was made history when a young officer, trying to capture a burglar-handit two weeks ago, was killed. The brave policeman left a wife and children—and his name will be placed next to 128 former fellow-officers who also lost their lives in line of duty. A policeman's lot often receives the acrimonious criticism and scorn of some citizens . . . but did you ever stop to realize, as you see a man in blue, that he is YOUR best defense in an emergency when your life and/or property is in danger?

A California nutritionist currently has affirmed his belief that the trouble with most of the 25 million overweight Americans is that they don't eat enough. When you don't eat enough in the first place, says the nut, your body takes on more water than is needed to float your scanty food intake; add to this the fact that you eat stuff containing too many calories, and you sit too much, walk too little—well, that's why lots of Americans are called Fatty. (Our own suggestion for reduction of avoirdupois is to outlaw the manufacture and use of all bathroom and similar types of scales . . . then we won't be able to count our pounds.)

By the way, have you had the opportunity to observe Texas' U.S. Senator Lyndon Johnson over TV? Have you read some of his ideas, as they relate to Congress, the Chief Executive, and to political campaigns? We have . . . and we must admit that the Senate's Democratic leader reveals himself as quite an American. He speaks slowly, carefully, and with the thought of being decent in his reference to others, including Republicans. He will bear watching during future weeks. He may be his Party's nominee for President, too.

At a recent board of education meeting three distinct techniques were used by members, as they courted the aroma of Lady Nicotine. Members Barnard, Coombe and Lovell puffed away on cigars. Root appeared quite satisfied with his pipe. Mory Beier seemed to enjoy a cigarette. Bill Spence and Kathryn Loomis gave no evidence of being wedded to the weed in any form.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bowers Street Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

A good poker player attributes his success to being a wizard of odds.

To be parted from your money these days, you don't have to be a fool. Just a taxpayer.

Sampson wasn't the only one whose strength lay in the hair of his head. A good head of hair is so strong it can support more than 2,000 pounds of weight.

The only thing some people do religiously is avoid work.

Handshake or Indian Wrestling?



Nature Now Is on Page 5-B

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Verse of a Taxpayer Answers School Critic

EDITOR'S NOTE: In last week's issue of The Birmingham Eccentric, a "People's Column" letter raised burials over the resignation of Birmingham School Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland and called for lower instead of higher pay for teachers. The letter criticizing the Birmingham school system for lack of "originality," inspired the following poetic reply from another reader.

To the Editor:
I noticed, in this column, a letter just last week, A'poppin' with suggestions that would leave us up the creek. And when a few have waited for ten years or more, we can. And submit some nutty notions that I have thought of, too.

In general:
Her plan has many merits, pertaining to the schools. And I like the way she mentions the use of business rules. So let's look for a factory that will use our school tax dollars. Production lines can then turn out facemasks of scholars.

As for the superintendent:
Instead of trying Ireland, why not see Peru. Or, for a superintendent, try the nearest zoo. An ostrich always stays in his own allotted sphere. And never studies anything but the sand up to his ears.

About the teachers:
We could quickly speed our educators along their merry way. If we would dock for overtime and hold back on their pay. And when a few have waited for ten years or more, we can. Increase their dot for year-round work, according to your plan.

As for the students:
If instructed by a locksmith or a farm administrator. Our students could fix their lockers and cultivate potatoes. They could spend time tending hedges instead of growing minds. And take turns driving buses before their daily grind.

To Sum up:
Let's conform; down with all these new approaches. Let's listen to the water boys and never to the coaches. Down with Ireland and taxes while we're at it. Let's move into the jungle—for we surely will have had it! Safari Bound

Parents Flip: Must Boys Strip for Dip?

To the Editor:
You may find this letter very confusing and may wonder why I am bringing my problem to you. Well, after thinking over the pros and cons of asking this one or that one to help me, I have decided that you are really the only one in this city that carries enough on the ball to get it rolling especially since it concerns a school problem.

Don't you see this letter as being a case—you may think of the words "school problem" as too hot to handle. It is really not the problem of the school but the worry and headaches of dozens of "It's boys who are about to enter Barnum junior high.

Perhaps you don't know that Barnum junior high is the only school in this district that makes swimming in the nude compulsory. At the meeting of the old grade parents at Barnum last Thursday evening, this subject was not discussed but when my boys came home after his visit at Barnum school, he informed me quite emphatically that he would not attend

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Happenings of Long Ago
Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 3, 1910
"And now the Oakland county saloons, cafes, buffets and third parties are enjoying a strictly male ordinary business."

"There is a lamb on the Daventport farm in Troy with five feet."

"Last Saturday Mrs. Francis Smit and family spent the day at Belle Isle."

30 YEARS AGO
June 5, 1930
"Another group of seniors, the largest in the history of Baldwin high school, will receive their diplomas June 12." The class has 60 members.

15 YEARS AGO
May 31, 1945
"Members of the Birmingham school district board of education in a special meeting Tuesday evening began the exploration of the future growth and development of education in Birmingham and especially of the future building needs of the school district. The board had before it a report by Dr. T. C. Holy which recommends a new high school building on property on Lincoln and Cranbrook roads."

STRICTLY FRESH

Diplomacy is the art of guessing what the other fellow's guessing about the other fellow.

Lipstick lives up to its name when it comes in contact with an Oxford collar.

(COME BACK TOMORROW)

The biggest relief from a toothache is supplied when the dentist tells you to come back tomorrow.

Giving a guy a hand, to some people, means waving as you pass a stalled car.

Incidental intelligence: "Otto" spelled sideways is "To-To."