

Freedom of the press is not just the newspaper's right to make a living, it is the right of the public to say what it thinks, George R. Averill, publisher of the Birmingham Eccentric told High Twelve club members last week.

When the press seeks information, he told the local club Monday evening, it is acting as the emissary of the public. "WHEN THE PRESS is rejected, the public is rejected," the publisher went on.

"Freedom of the press and freedom of speech are siamese twins," he pointed out. Every citizen has an obligation to be an intelligent voter he said, and this is accomplished by giving time and attention to the problems confronting government and the quality of candidates.

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Record Crowd Hears Curriculum Proposals

Changes are going into effect in Birmingham schools' curriculum—the result of recommendations made to the Board of Education this week by Director of Curriculum Daniel Nesbitt. His proposals were made at a special meeting Tuesday night, in the eighth grade room of the earlier this month by board member George W. Coombe. A record crowd of approximately 100 persons attended the meeting to hear the curriculum developments and express views on the defeated millage proposal.

Nesbitt recommended that the block period (two classes taught back-to-back by the same teacher) be continued in the seventh grade but dropped in the eighth. Nesbitt cited recommendations of a national committee of the need and advisability of the block system as a transition for the adolescent from elementary to high schools. Practical considerations of scheduling also favor the block system, he pointed out. The elective system, which poses "decisions that are difficult for the seventh graders to make" could be started to a limited area in the eighth grade, Nesbitt said.

HE RECOMMENDED that students be allowed to check out the seventh graders to make "a limited area in the eighth grade, Nesbitt said. "The introduction of modern foreign languages at the eighth grade level poses problems that will require careful study," Nesbitt went on.

He recommended also that English instruction be increased from one period to one and one-half in grades seven and eight in September, 1960.

"BUT THAT recommendation was made before we lost the millage vote," he said. Classes had been cut for financial reasons, he pointed out.

Nesbitt also submitted a curriculum committee plan, which included teachers and administrators and is more formally organized than the present system. The board then polled the audi-

Objection to "fills" was mentioned. Misinformation and a lack of information were blamed; many did not know that three and one-half of the four mills were slated for increase of salaries or teaching staff.

"Millage questions are becoming critical," George Miller, Birmingham Education association president pointed out. "The public is reacting against them." Fear of increased taxes and Michigan's financial plight had its effect, some felt. "It's the tendency of the American public to demand more and more from its government without paying for it," one teacher accused.

PEOPLE ARE tired of palaces (new schools), Robert Richards, Seaholm government instructor said. "I try to point out that the

once for possible causes of the defeat of the millage proposal at the March 22. Parents, teachers, students and interested citizens tried to mirror feelings of their fellow citizens.

Mrs. Willett
Commissioner's Job Challenges Mrs. Willett

"It's been a great and rewarding experience to have served my friends and neighbors by being on the Birmingham city commission," Mrs. Florence Willett commended this week. "I have conscientiously tried to represent the community's best interests. I would like to serve you again for another three years. Your vote for my candidacy at the April 4 city election will enable me to continue serving your interests."

RE-ELECT

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People's Column

Child's Education Worth Tax Boost To Beverly Woman

To the editor: I was disappointed to read in the Free Press this morning that the 4 mill tax increase was voted down in yesterday's school election. This will mean even more overcrowding and more pupils per teacher next year. I do not enjoy paying taxes any more than the next person, but when the education of our children is concerned, then I do not mind a tax raise.

I CAN SEE why parents of children in parochial schools, and why people with no children would vote "no" to a tax raise for public education. I do think that parents of children in public schools should pay more in taxes toward education than people with no children in the public schools.

But I do not think these people should be completely exempt from helping to support our public schools because EVERYONE benefits from better education and more learning whether they have children in school or not. I hope we don't have to wait for communism to completely overwhelm capitalism before our voters realize that they do benefit from better education.

WE CANNOT change the present method of taxation overnight. In the meantime, since the "no's" won yesterday's vote, our schools have to get along as best they can with over-crowding and shortage of teachers.

Let us not forget that the boys and girls who will attend parochial schools do attend kindergarten in our public schools, and kindergarten is one of the most important years to the child. Also, most of these parochial students finish high school in the public schools because not all parochial schools go through the twelfth grade.

If we continue to let our public schools down now while there is still a chance to remedy the over-crowding, teacher shortage and pay scale before things get worse, the kindergartens (and all other grades) will be even more crowded, and the excellent standing and reputation of our school district will no longer be excellent.

NOT ALL high schools offer "honors" courses (such as solid geometry and college algebra) to those students who are capable of taking them in high school. Capable Birmingham pupils presently have no opportunity to take these courses. But they may not have that opportunity in the future if we voters do not "get on the ball."

Some people lament the fact that all registered voters may vote in school elections, even if they are not property owners. Let's be realistic—people who pay rent are, in effect, paying the taxes on the property they rent. When property taxes go up, their rent goes up, too. I hope there will be another school election soon. I hope, too, that we vote "yes" to raise the tax millage for education.

Mrs. Donald M. Smith
17854 Beechwood
Beverly Hills

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Tax tip: If you were sick during 1959 and an employer continued to pay you wages during your absence, you may qualify to deduct a portion of those wages. If you have any questions involving a tax tip explanation, read the instructions then phone your local internal revenue service office for additional help.

Julie Candler, feature writer and township editor of The Birmingham Post-Herald, was one of two groups this week. In addition to two trophies earned from the Michigan Press Photographers contest, (see story on page one) she got a pat on the back from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police for her Jan. 27 story on the truck motor scooter accident. The Michigan Police Journal reprinted the photograph and story in its February issue. The story also carried a story on Birmingham's stand in favor of the driver training program.

When Rollie Reese, Birmingham's amiable postmaster, was a student in high school, one of his subjects was chemistry... but it should not be held against him that, when young Rollie now and then got hungry, even disobeyed the school rules on such occasions. He and some of his contemporaries attended chemistry class in a room not far from the "home economics" department. This Wanderer learned the other day. "We boys, of course, knew some of the girls taking home ec, and they would manage to make up sandwiches, now and then, when we'd slip down to their room's corridor door," admitted Rollie. "But one time when we returned, slyly, to our chemistry room with a sandwich a-piece, we crouched down behind our work table and wolfed a big bite... chewing rapidly, we began to realize that the food tasted a bit different than usual... and soon learned why as our mouths began to foam and bubbles were extruded—our 'girl friends' had included some soap in each sandwich. Maybe that was where the idea of pressurized shaving soap was born..."

Mrs. Arthur Lougee, 324 Greenwood, Birmingham, has presented a male hummingbird to Director Robert T. Hatt for the collection of Cranbrook Institute of Science. The bird crashed into the glass of a Lougee window six years ago, and has since then been a treasured bird. But the arms of the law are long and when Lougee was called on by Mrs. Lougee to give her permit for owning such a bird, she (somewhat reluctantly) gave her prized possession to the cause of science education.

Youthful exuberance being what it is, things go wrong. The how eight Derby junior high school girls happened to break a record. They were seen to break their pantomime-dance act in the school's variety show when it happened. They got another record broke that one, too. Now they find their record is "out of print" and unavailable in stores, and they're issuing a call for help. Could someone loan them 50 Stafford's Capital recording of "Temptation" (hill-billy version)? Just long enough for them to take it, please. From now on they're going to tapes. Miss Gerilee Ellenwood, 324 Park, Birmingham, is issuing the plea.

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REMEMBER THE NAME BOB AIKENS FOR CITY COMMISSIONER

Bob has been a resident of the City of Birmingham for 25 years. He graduated from Baldwin High School in 1947. He received his A.B. degree from Brown University, his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He has taken graduate courses in law at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D. C., and served three and one-half years as a Lt. (J.G.) with the United States Navy. He has practiced law in Washington, D.C., and is now an attorney in Detroit. He is active in his profession, serving on numerous committees of the Michigan, Detroit and American Bar Associations. He is also lectured extensively on legal topics and is currently an instructor at the Wayne State University Law School. He is also active in other civic organizations. Bob is concerned about the effect which the expansion of the metropolitan area will have on Birmingham as a suburban community. He is also concerned with the increasing tendency to commercialize large areas within the City limits. He feels that the preservation of residential values is important if we are to maintain our present tax revenues. In order to maintain these values, he feels that a progressive city like Birmingham should have a master zoning plan. Also, he feels that the continuing trend towards increased cost of operation will make it increasingly important to economize on expenditures.

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU VOTE FOR BOB AIKENS ON APRIL 4th
Horatio B. Lewis Ernest W. Seaholm
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