

Bagwell Accentuates the Positive for Michigan

Positive thinking and positive unified action are necessary for the future well-being of Michigan, Paul D. Bagwell told the Birmingham Real Estate board last week.

Bagwell, Republican standard-bearer in Michigan, is expected to announce his candidacy for governor within the next few weeks.

On-to make a determination of specific difficulties—and on the basis of facts to proceed positively with constructive action. When we do this, we turn our problems into opportunities for public services which benefit all the people.

"One of our major problems is that too many people seek to point the finger of blame and suspicion at someone else when the facts point out a specific problem.

"OUR PROBLEM today is to stabilize our tax structure not only at the state level but through all levels of government so that we provide adequately for necessary public services in an equitable manner.

"This is not easy to achieve. It will take an intelligent approach, a good deal of convincing, cooperation on the part of all our citizens and it will take time.

"The protests by Michigan citizens about their tax bills are not ill-founded.

"WHAT STEPS should we take to bridge the resentment of the people against their tax burdens and the need for revenue to finance necessary public services—not expensive frills, but the essential obligations of government to the people?"

"First, I believe we must adopt a different attitude toward the taxpayer.

"We are all taxpayers, and we don't regard ourselves as little bits and pieces for various governments

—for the townships, the counties, the school districts, the cities or villages, the state, the federal government, the general fund, the highway fund, or in the case of business such as the unemployment compensation levy and workmen's compensation insurance premiums.

"WE REGARD ourselves as a whole. We're paying the taxes—it's all coming out of the same pocket-book.

"There has been an exaggerated tendency on the part of some government officials to atomize the taxpayer—to break him up into little segments for specific tax purposes.

"They hope the taxpayer will forget about the 6 cents a pack on cigarettes and vent his ire on the local property tax.

"SECONDLY, we must move to stabilize our state tax picture as rapidly as possible. The present instability and the uncertainty over the future is a tremendous deterrent to future industrial development in Michigan.

"There are two methods of aiding the situation in regard to local real and personal property taxes: Either the state enacts a major new levy and shares the proceeds with other governmental subdivisions in Michigan; or the school districts, counties, cities, villages and townships are given clear authority to broaden their tax base and levy taxes other than on property to finance their services and put through a real reduction in the taxes paid on a home, a business enterprise and on a farm.

"We must recognize realistically that property no longer can bear

the full burden of the demands made upon it for tax dollars. And I think it is a blow to our American way of life when a homeowner has to buy back his home from the government over a 25 or 30-year period of tax payments, or that the levies on a manufacturing concern's equipment are so high that replacement of obsolete machines becomes a serious economic factor.

"I AM ALARMED at the trend of local governments looking to the state and the state to the Federal government for assistance in meeting problems, with the result that the tax dollar goes through one administrative channel after another with each siphoning off a portion until finally what is left is dribbled back to the place where it should be spent.

"I believe the people of a community have not only the responsibility but the duty to fix the level of public service that they desire and to raise and spend tax dollars in accordance with their own standards.

"I believe they will act intelligently and effectively if given the opportunity to do so. Therefore, with an increase in the sales tax on the state level, I would favor broader taxing powers for local

units of government.

"Many states have taken this route to relieve property tax burdens.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THIS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE CITY OF TROY, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Commission has described its intention to make the following described improvement in the City of Troy, County of Oakland, Michigan:

Construction of sanitary sewers and necessary appurtenances in the following districts and streets, to-wit:

District No. 30: Chestnut Hill from Adams to Wiggins, Walnut Hill from Adams to Wiggins, Butterfield Hill from Pine Hill to Wiggins, Pine Hill from Adams to Wiggins, Rouge Circle from Pine Hill to Wiggins, Rouge Circle from West Adams Road from Hyland to Wiggins, Wiggins Road from Adams to Wiggins, Wiggins Road from Rouge Circle to North Line-Meadowlane Sub.

The intent being to provide sanitary sewers throughout Pine Hill Subdivision and Meadowlane Subdivisions to defray all the cost thereof by Special Assessment against the following described lots and parcels of land:

Pine Hill Subdivision: Lots 56 to 89 Meadowlane Subdivision: Lots 1 to 22 Inclusive; and Outlot 'A'.

The City Commission has caused to be prepared a plan showing the improvement and the location thereof, and an estimate of the cost thereof, and also

maps and plans of the work, and the same are on file in the office of the City Clerk and are available for public inspection.

Please take Further Notice that the City Commission will meet at the City Hall in said City on April 11, 1960, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing and considering any objections to said improvement.

1. LAWSON LOCKHART, City Clerk

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