B'ham, Hills Dems To Hear Staebler

Birmingham and Bloomfield Democratic Clubs will hear Neil Staebler, former state Democratic chairman, at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Kingsley Inn.

Staebler will address the clubs on the spring election and "what a person may do in between campaigns to further the progress of his political party.

Mrs. John McVay is chairman of the Birmingham Club and William J. Cochran is chairman of the Bloomfield Club. The clubs have been expanded to include Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin and Bloomfield Township.

The meeting is open to the public.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

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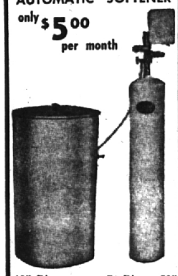

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Broomfield Disagrees With Magee's Letter

See related letter 7-B

John Magee, who wrote a letter to The Eccentric criticizing Cong. Broomfield's recent letter on the House Rules Committee enlargement plan, sent the congressman a copy of his letter. Cong. Broomfield has now sent The Eccentric a copy of his reply to Mr. Magee:

Dear Mr. Magee:

May I thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to the editor in regard to my vote on the House Rules Committee.

As you probably surmised, I disagree wholeheartedly with a great many of your observations. You state that the "central question involved . . . was whether the members of the House were to delegate their powers and authority to a few men."

WOULD THAT this question was brought before the House. It was not permitted to come before the House because a group of a few men wanted to take away the powers and authority of another group of a few men and keep it for themselves.

It may well be that this issue was partisan. But it wasn't a struggle between the Republicans and the Democrats.

It was a struggle between the two wings of the Democratic Party, and the Republicans as neutrals were the ones who were forced to bear the burden of a so-called "compromise" so that President Kennedy would not lose the support of certain Southern Members of Congress.

THE PACKING plan served no other purpose and, to put it mildly, I thought it was the worst case of power politics I have ever witnessed, and I've been in government for a long time despite my rather tender years.

You do not see "closed rule" procedures as a danger. I do. If, for instance, only one hour of debate is permitted on a controversial issue such as federal aid to education and all points of order and amendments are banned, then I believe we are in a terrible situation.

The House of Representatives then has only the power to approve or veto the bill drafted by the executive branch of the government.

IT CANNOT legislate. It cannot correct mistakes. It cannot change a comma in the way the bill is sent to the floor by committee.

Now if we have bills drafted by the executive and vetoed by the legislative, then I believe we have reversed the roles outlined for these two branches of government under our Constitution.

The President is supposed to have the power to veto—not Congress. The Congress is supposed to have the power to draft legislation—not the President.

YOU STATE that "closed rule" procedures were not invoked in the past by the so-called "old" Rules Committee. I agree.

But what assurance do we have that it won't be invoked in the future on major legislation?

I say we have none. There is no law which says that the limiting of debate and the bannings of amendments only should apply to tax and revenue bills.

And from the pressures brought to bear on many congressmen to go along with the administration "or else," I have no doubt that the closed rule will be used as often as it can be gotten away with.

YOU STATE THAT I seem to have some reluctance to vote on issues before Congress. I consider that statement at complete dispute with the facts.

If you will examine my voting record, you will find that I voted on more issues in roll call votes than better than 95 per cent of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

My record on just straight attendance at quorum calls is also one of the best in Congress.

Also, I have gone to great pains and personal expense in getting my stand before those I represent. As for positive action, I admit that there has been a dirth of it—particularly so far this year.

BUT PERHAPS we can change that situation by electing a few more Republicans to Congress so that inter - party head - hunting among the Democrats in the House would not absorb all of our time and energies.

WILLIAM S. BROOMFIELD

Camp Oakland, Inc. Newsletter Released

The Camp Oakland, Inc. newsletter outlining camp activities and programs has been published.

Last year's summer camp program operated with a $1,250 deficit.

The program requires $18,500 per year. To date $1,100 has been raised in contributions for the 1961 summer camping program. The program still needs $17,400.

Aboard Flagship

Navy Ens. Jere J. Sweeney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Sweeney of Birmingham, serving with the Staff of Commander, Amphibious Squadron Five aboard the flagship USS Calvert operating in the Western Pacific took part in ceremonies, marking the 19th anniversary of the Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force.

If taxes and year end bills have you spinning, scour your basement or attic for unwanted household items. Then call MI 4-1100 and place a result bringing classified with our friendly ad taker.

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