

Convention Delegates Approve Local Government Article

First to undergo the trial of second reading, the revised Article on Local Government, containing what many delegates believe to be the most significant and momentous achievement of the new Constitution, has been approved by overwhelming votes.

On eight of the nine sections, the favoring vote ranged from 112 to 121, while the nay votes never totaled more than ten. In seven hours of debate, ten amendments, mostly minor, were approved and 21 were turned down.

The vote on the well-publicized proposal for county-home rule government was a 105 for, 21 against. The compromise previously arrived at empowers the legislature to define county home-rule government.

DESPITE DEFEAT in a last ditch attempt to make home-rule self executing, Charles Folio (D-Escanaba) and Mrs. Dorothy Judd (R-Grand Rapids) agreed with Arthur G. Elliott Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Local Government, that the proposal is one of the most far-reaching of any in the Constitution.

"Why? Because it opens the door to solution of one of the most difficult, complex and tangled problems, not only in Michigan but all of the United States," they explain.

"It's the urban affliction—troubles ranging from inadequacy of such essentials as sewers, water, recreation facilities, schools, police and fire services," they added.

Opinions varied on the type of home-rule that will be approved by the legislature. While Folio charged the group never would pass enabling legislation, D. Hale Drake, leader of the rural Republicans, predicted it would act after ratification of a new Constitution. "I think the legislature will do a good job," he predicted. "I am one of several who will work to see that it does."

"I stand halfway between these opinions," said Mrs. Judd. "I believe we will get strong effective county government, but only after waiting five or ten years. If the legislature does act soon, it will give us weak home-rule because of the political power of entrenched county officials."

"But even this is a long step forward. The basic cause of urban troubles is due to all sorts of small, varied-type local governments, usually competing and quarreling, controlling tremendous single areas which have a multitude of urgent problems. These can only be solved by large-scale unified actions that reach far past narrow boundaries. With the exception of the Detroit metropolitan area which spreads over three counties, home-rule county governments could handle every urban area in the state."

THE APPROVED compromise—and all agreed it was genuine—with "everyone dissatisfied with it," settled one of the bitterest quarrels in the Convention. In a home-rule county, were the five main officials as well as the board of supervisors to be selected?

Drake and some Detroit Democrats wanted them kept elective; Mrs. Judd and Folio, who insisted independently elected officials were not conducive to efficient government, advocated writing the method of selection into the home-rule charter, which would need to be ratified by a majority of voters. All agreed the proposal was purely permissive, valuable only to urban counties and that more than 80 per cent of all Michigan counties would never change their form of government.

Of the 21 votes against the proposal, 20 were of the minority. Adelaide Hart, Democratic caucus leader, explained they felt the proposal was ineffective because the legislature would take weak action, or none at all. "We never did have a position on the subject," she said. "The whole thing was bipartisan until after the compromise when the Republicans took it over." However, of the 105 who voted in favor, 19 were Democrats.

Delegates explained the generally large favoring votes on second reading of the nine sections indicated the Convention had ironed out its differences and had accomplished solutions that were reasonable, valuable, effective and improvements on the present Constitution.

In addition, the Article broadened the taxing powers of local governments, gave them power to accomplish large projects by contract between themselves and allows them to set up multi-purpose authorities to direct specific projects.

Smoldering Leaves Start Bingham Fire

A fire which had smoldered in a pile of leaves all night ignited the barn of Albert Chick, 23500 W. 13-Mile Road, early last Friday. Franklin Firemen and the Beverly Hills Public Safety Department kept the fire from spreading but \$500 worth of damage was done. Chick told police he had burned a pile of leaves near the barn Thursday evening but had retired without checking it. The Chick land is in Bingham Farms.

An increase in terms of office torates, adjoining counties can to four years is ordered for the merge. The offices of county clerk and prosector, county clerk, treasurer, register of deeds and sheriff. By separate votes of their elec- merged.

Rochester Pupils To Visit Groves

Fifteen Rochester High art students will visit a class of Groves art students Wednesday. The purpose of the "workshop" is to stimulate the Rochester student's interest in the various art fields and to work in new areas. The idea for the workshop began when Miss Blossom Coho, Rochester High Art Teacher, contacted George Landino, art instructor at Groves.

The Rochester students will work with about 20 Groves students, the majority of whom will be 11th and 12th graders. Among the areas in which the students will be working are drawing, water colors, oils, graphics, brayer printing (block), ink sketching, charcoal, lacquer painting, and collage. Two live models will be used.

Mayor to Attend PTA Board Meeting On School Crossing

LATHRUP—Mayor Richard N. Cogger will attend the May 31 School PTA to answer questions relative to school crossing safety, should Southfield Road be widened to five lanes.

Under the proposed county-city widening program, traffic lights will be placed at Sunset and Goldengate on Southfield. A letter to

Musicales Planned

The Birmingham Optimist Club will present an evening of musical entertainment featuring the Granubons, 8:15 p.m., May 4 at the Community House. The Club's boys glee club will offer its first concert as part of the program.

Alumni to Meet

The Rev. Walter Young, chaplain for Cranbrook School will be the principal speaker for the noon meeting of the Oakland County Cranbrook Alumni Luncheon Club, Friday.

The world has over 10 million blind persons and two-thirds of them could have preserved their sight by timely use of preventative medicine and surgery, according to the World Health Organization.

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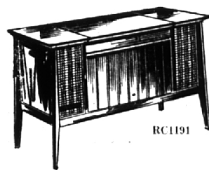
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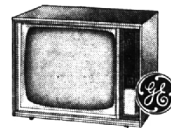
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