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The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, August 23, 1962

EDITORIAL
SECTION B

Where's the School Bus Law?

Now that we are in the last throes of summer and our children are back from camp, it's time again to think about school and school children.

Last fall the Eccentric brought to the attention of its readers the fact that Birmingham had never enacted the state school bus law.

This law provides that motorists must stop for school buses when they are taking on or discharging passengers.

In order to effect this within the city limits the city commission must adopt a conforming ordinance. Without this local ordinance motorists do not have to stop for school buses, no matter what it says on the back of the bus.

THE PURPOSE of the law is clear. When a school bus stops to unload children, there is always a possibility that a child might dart across the street and be injured by a passing car.

The city commission may have many good reasons for not enacting the ordinance

but we have not heard them discussed in open forum.

The Eccentric worked hard for the original passage of the state law and is characterized that its home community has chosen to ignore it.

If the excuse for not adopting it is that it interferes with the steady flow of traffic, then we counter with the contention that one life is more important than the flow of traffic.

IF THE EXCUSE for non-passures is that that of the Birmingham School District pick-ups are outside the city limits, we are putting our head in the sand. There are many private school buses that pass over our streets each day, and the child going to one of our private institutions is entitled to protection, too.

It would be unfortunate if one of our children were injured because a car didn't stop. Let's not wait till that happens before we act.

An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure.

Public Agree With President?

Just as a cat may look at a queen, so an ordinary citizen may presume to differ with the President of the United States when he sets out to make broad economic pronouncements. Thus, rather wide public agreement with President Kennedy's feelings against an immediate tax cut seem to be indicated by the relative lack of protest.

This is interesting because one might ordinarily expect the general public to favor, at any given time, a prompt reduction in taxes. Perhaps Americans have outgrown that rudimentary view of the matter.

There seems to be popular understanding that the only justification for a tax cut now would be to stimulate consumer spending and business spending and thus pep up a sagging economy.

APPARENTLY THE President's recital of economic indices showing that the economy is not crisis-bound was persuasive to the American people. Apparently they are

content to go along, for the time being, with the administration claim that no recession—and consequently no need for a revitalizing tax cut—is in sight.

There is no doubt that the business community, generally speaking, agrees with the view that present conditions do not warrant a reduction in personal income taxes.

There is powerful dissent from this view. The AFL-CIO remains insistent on an immediate tax cut. Its executive council has called for a special session of Congress to enact a reduction if the national economy does not improve.

THAT IS FAIR enough, so long as the operative "if" is kept in mind. Right now there does not seem to be pressing need for a tax reduction. If the economy moves ahead as the President thinks it will, no tax cut "there-apy" will be required. If the economy fails to improve satisfactorily, then there will still be time to consider the matter again in the light of a changed situation.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

No democracy can survive the depredation of labor, in time and in the other fields. Freedom, in time and in the other fields, is the only way to the cause of liberty. Freedom, in time and in the other fields, is the only way to the cause of liberty. Freedom, in time and in the other fields, is the only way to the cause of liberty.

With all the alleged wrongdoings of Billie Sol Estes and his money surplus storage conditions, plus the currently gross disappearance of about a billion dollars in various areas of the nation... well, to keep more people honest the Federal Congress might do well to consider the elimination of the grain storage idea. This, at least, would help to cut down the quantity of apparent dishonesty among certain beneficiaries of the Agriculture Act.

"Miss Universe Wants to See World," says a headline. Well, that's as good a place as any to start in peering her territory.

At this point it's not so much a question of whether the budget can take a tax cut as whether the public can stand to hear more debate about a tax cut.

A study shows that half the country's adult population did not travel at all in 1961. They missed a big thrill, too—the thrill of getting home.

They're looking for two scientists to be AEC members. Science is so much in the ascendancy these days that ordinary folk are getting hard to find.

Transatlantic television is becoming a reality. Lots more of a reality, one might add, than some of the plots in TV dramas.

"Major Setback" popped up in headlines about House defeat of the farm bill. The major makes his appearance every year at about this time.

The civic, viewing his favorite picnic grounds, opined that it's too bad there isn't some variant of DDT that will take care of litterbugs.

Phoani Nosavani yields, and it looks as though the coalition regime in Laos is all set—for a week or so, anyway.

The Russians report progress in rainmaking via man-made thunder. Coming from Russia this is not a surprising development; for years the Kremlin thunder has been throwing cold water on Western hopes for peace.

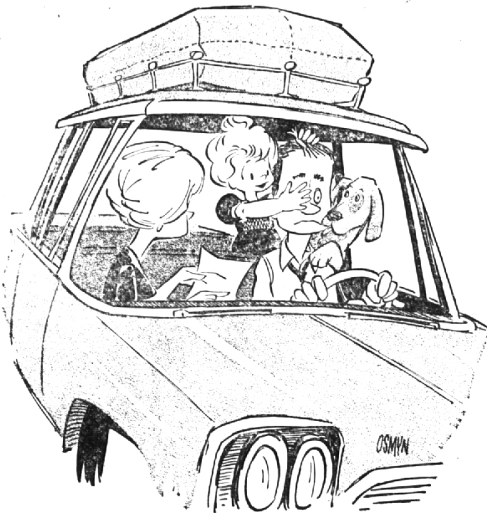
• A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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Safety Begins IN the Car



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

His Point: Safeguarding Rights of Minorities

PJM's letter of Aug. 9 contains so many untruths and insinuations concerning the writer that it necessitates a reply.

In my letter of July 26, I did not advocate any of the measures charged to me, directly or indirectly, by PJM. The only point I attempted to make in my letter was the importance and rightness of safeguarding the rights of minorities, in this instance, in matters of religion.

THAT PJM is confused in his facts, or his thinking, is obvious from his reference to "atheists" and their friends shutting away our religious liberties.

By "friends" he must be including six members of the U. S. Supreme Court. The effect of the latter's recent decision on school prayer will be precisely the opposite: it will uphold and extend to

ridiculous liberties, for minorities. As this paper pointed out in an Editor's Note, the court decision does not rule out prayer in the public schools; it does rule out "officially" established prayers.

SINCE THE DAYS of the late Senator McCarthy, through a complete twisting of history, it has become an American in the eyes of some Americans for anyone to hold the views held by the founders of this country.

I take humble pride in the fact that my ancestors came to America shortly after the first settlers and subsequently joined Thomas Hooker's colony in Connecticut.

I take further pride in the fact that my views on religious liberty would appear to anticipate his.

ONE OF THE tragedies of our time is the growing fear of being out of step with the majority, in private as well as public life. From long experience I have learned that individuals, with the courage of their convictions are not afraid to have their names accompany their printed words. The next time PJM sees fit to take his pen to hand, I urge this big step forward.

WILLIAM LYMAN

Don't Abandon Animals, Please

To the Editor: This is an appeal to vacationers returning from summer homes.

Please do not abandon an animal if unable to care for the pet. You have enjoyed all summer take it to the nearest animal shelter or veterinarian and have it mercifully destroyed.

The golden rule, even applies to animals and they should be treated as we would wish to be treated: just or both.

The penalty for abandoning an animal could be upon conviction one hundred dollars or ninety days in jail or both.

HELEN G. FERGUSON
955 S. Bates
Birmingham

Repudiation Of CFR Asked

To the Editor: To promote the harmony of the Republican Party, Richard Durant resigned from the conservative John Birch Society; considered by some as controversial.

To bring about a better cohesion and greater harmony within the rank and file of the Republican Party, I request that you repudiate Mr. Durant.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Aug. 23, 1912

My Dear Sir: I noticed in my last Eccentric, your ad of Birmingham Heights, Ala., too late for me. I tried to buy one (1) acre two years ago, but Mr. W. wanted to sell all. To my notion it is the best location in the town and to see restrictions. I see you have a "Let-Well-Enough-Along-That" there. You won't be able to find a man that belongs to it after election. TAFT IS NOT IN IT!

Dear Rachelle, Illinois an Indian word to sleep on a railroad track and was killed by the fast express. He died for his carelessness with his life. Often it is that way when people neglect roads and culverts. Don't let your life when prompted by one of Dr. King's New Discovery will cure them and so prevent a dangerous throat or lung trouble. It completely cured me of a terrible cough, that followed a severe case of grip," writes J. R. Watts, of Texas, and I regained 15 pounds in weight that I had lost.

30 YEARS AGO
Aug. 25, 1932

Possibility that the speed limit on Woodward Avenue through Birmingham, now considered the "loveless" portion of Woodward between the northern limit of Detroit and South Boulevard, Pontiac, might be raised within the near future was seen at the Village Commission meeting Monday night.

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(See REPUDIATION, 8-4)

(See HAPPENINGS, 4-B)

Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

Our city editor, Larry Eves, is passing out cigars and accepting dinner invitations while his wife takes it easy in the maternity ward.

It's their first, it's a girl and oh, baby, are they excited.

Little Dawn Kathleen arrived Tuesday, several weeks late, amid a flurry of predictions that she'd be a "lazy boy." Those few prophets who predicted correctly got an extra cigar, wrapped in newspaper.

Papa is mighty proud of both of his girls, naturally, and survived his ordeal with flying colors. With masterful self-control, he has managed to retain all the buttons on the chest region of his shirt although it is rumored that the nap on the rug in the hospital waiting room will never be the same again.

THE BABY was mighty considerate about the whole business, arriving in true newspaper style, the day before the paper went to press.

Like a seasoned reporter, she promptly dipped her fingers into some ink and left her prints in the delivery room—an in-lia of a byline.

YOU SEE, we'd help him sweat out the long weeks of waiting, (according to us). We went through with all kinds of helpful advice. We warned him about night feedings. We even offered him a free physical fitness course to prepare him for walking the floor.

Arts Editor Evie Oen promised to introduce him to the Japanese art of paper-folding which might come in handy in pleating a diaper, she said.

Managing Editor Ken Weaver, whose two-year-old daughter knows a thing or two about managing daddies, passed on some useful know-how which Larry might find helpful, provided his wife had a daughter and provided the baby was two years old when she was born.

THE GIRLS in the office gave their word to the sports editor that he could smoke HIS cigar when the day before the paper went to press.

It has to be clever, cute, sentimental, sweet, pretty, pink and white and good humored.

You see, it has to match a very special baby.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



With the state conventions for both parties being held this weekend, politics is slowly pushing summer into fall. Time goes very quickly in an election year and before we know it, the November election will be upon us.

When the party regulars gather for their conventions, with the excitement of parades and colorful posters, I always feel a little sorry for the independent voter.

NORMALLY THE independent voter feels that better government comes from the election of better men, and that he is in a position to look over all candidates and go to the polls and select the best man regardless of his party's affiliation.

What he forgets is that, not belonging to a party, he has foregone the selection of candidates which was done by the party regulars either in the primary or at the state convention.

HE IS ALSO putting upon himself the tremendous burden of investigating each and every candidate to find out who really is the best man. If he fails to investigate just one candidate, he is doing a poorer job than voting a straight party ticket because at least everyone on the straight ticket stands for essentially the same political philosophy.

THE CANDIDATE himself has a political philosophy and has elected the party which comes closest to this philosophy. A voter may feel a candidate is highly qualified or unqualified, but shouldn't expect any candidate to espouse things that are contrary to his party principles. He has selected this party as the closest to his views.

The independent voter must have a political philosophy and be voting for people in two parties; one way or another, he is frustrating the accomplishment of this philosophy. Candidates of different political parties can't have the same philosophy.

Also, by not espousing either party the independent is giving up the opportunity of going into either party and trying to mold the party's philosophy to coincide with his own.

SO AS NOT to only pick on the independent voter, I might remind everyone that belonging to a party is not enough. If you don't work for and within that party it may not represent you. After all, how can a party reflect your views if they don't know what they are.

If you have never been to a state convention, you might find it very educational, even if you are an independent. Why don't you select one and attend this weekend?



City Beat

It was just a box lunch. But George Romney's campaign workers made quite a "to-do" over it.

"The whole thing 'bugged' me as strictly a political gesture. And caused a ripple of disappointment at Romney's part in it."

The incident occurred at Romney's press conference with the Oakland County press.

Before the conference began, comments were made that while newsmen would be eating a hot meal in the fancy restaurant Romney would be eating a box lunch in his car en route to his next stop.

Then, as we sat down to the conference table formal announcement was made of this fact.

And to make sure that we all got the message, someone from the back of the room quipped:

"You'll have to eat in your car, George."

To which George replied: "Oh, that's all right; I'm used to it." The tone of his voice and the wave of his hand that accompanied the remark suggested to me that Romney himself wanted to portray this image of "I'm a hearty, one-of-the-fellows type of guy."

Would that image be portrayed through actions other than such obviously politically-motivated ones.

AT THE LUNCHEON that did follow for newsmen, a Republican candidate for county office was asked what he thought of Romney's chances for election.

His reply: "He's the best we've had to offer since Harry F. Kelly." (Kelly was governor in 1943-46. He is now a state supreme court justice.)

REMARKS ROMNEY made at that news conference concerning the responsibility incumbent upon a governor brought to mind President Eisenhower and the U-2 affair.

Just recently, Ike was criticized anew for accepting full responsibility for that famous incident, which caused a new serious break in American-Russian relations. "A real leader," said Romney, "accepts primary responsibility for the purpose of the organization he heads." I buy this all the way.

It seems to me that the long-range moral obligation and value is much more significant and beneficial to mankind than any lesser move to meet the political or diplomatic expediency of the moment.

Anyway, the thought's worth digesting. Anybody hungry?