

### State Needs Business Growth

Last week the state House of Representatives passed \$83 million in miscellaneous excise taxes, more commonly known as nuisance taxes (although there is the question of what tax is not a nuisance). The taxes affected cigarettes, beer, spirits, telephone and telegraph and the corporate franchise tax.

No one in the state has any illusions that the enactment of these taxes will lead to fiscal reform. They are merely a stop-gap until the state either reduces its expenditures or enacts a broad base tax. It is fairly obvious that the only broad base tax left is a state income tax.

**THE REAL ANSWER** to Michigan's problems is not, of course, new taxes but business growth. The state has hundreds of thousands of chronically unemployed people who cannot be absorbed by our present business.

Until new business comes into the state or old business is expanded, the state will have to support these people through welfare.

Once growth is achieved, these people will return to being productive citizens and their paychecks will result in more revenue for the state coffers without new taxes.

UNTIL THIS growth appears on the scene, we must make do with what we have and yet take steps necessary to encourage the seedlings of growth as they appear.

To encourage business growth we must change our approach to taxation on business. New York minimized its taxation of business and reaped a harvest of new growth. Michigan, in the meantime, has added new taxes to the privilege of doing business in our state.

We must either take steps to lower our unemployment compensation tax or change

the structure so that the company which continually lays workers off carries the substantial load of the tax.

And we must change the benefits. They are the highest in the nation and actually encourage some people to remain on unemployment rolls.

**AND WE SHOULD** repeal the business activities tax. This is actually a tax on gross income instead of net profit; businesses pay it whether they make or lose money. The irony of this tax is that employees' wages are included in the tax base. Certainly this is a poor incentive to hire more people.

The personal property tax is also a bitter pill for business to swallow. Every machine that business uses to create goods and the inventories of raw materials, including the dresses in the back room at our local dress shops, are taxed annually.

Instead of encouraging business to buy more machines we penalize them. This tax, alone, is said to be the main reason Chrysler has moved so much of its facilities from Michigan.

**WITH THESE** three changes we would encourage growth. The repeal of these taxes and fair taxes to replace them are not the flag-waving political type of fiscal reform the governor has put forward. His program was an excuse to lower taxes on "his" people. It did little for business except repeal the business activities tax.

Because an honest reform program was not available, our legislators in the House used the next best thing to take care of the growing needs of the state.

It is high time we started to formulate a tax package that will realistically help the state rise above its present difficulties. This will not be accomplished by either "negativism" or an unwise and unsound income tax program.

### Citizens Interested in Schools

Exemplifying citizen interest in school affairs, the June 11 elections in the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Southfield districts all had significant contests.

In the Birmingham district, four candidates compete for two school board seats. In the Bloomfield Hills district, six vie for the one position. Southfield has six candidates seeking election to two posts. That adds up to 12 people competing for five four-year terms in the three districts.

**THIS NUMBER** of candidates reflects a healthy citizen interest in school affairs in this locale, an interest which has prevailed in the elections of recent years.

And this, we believe, though showing a desire for change, does not necessarily reflect a lack of confidence in school officials.

That voters wish for change and yet have such confidence speaks well for the American democratic process. Change, of course, means progress.

**TO KEEP A** vital, dynamic school board—one that works harmoniously and objectively for the public good—it is necessary to maintain the highest of citizen interest in school affairs and elections at all times.

### Presidential Power Is Mighty!

President Kennedy's recent action in the steel industry alarms us (and probably millions of other Americans).

His attitude in mobilizing the punitive forces of his office against not only U.S. Steel Corp. but also to other, smaller steel companies has serious implications.

This punitive characteristic is symptomatic of an inherent danger to the causes of freedom and liberty. "Upon what meat does this, our Caesar, feed?"

To be sure, Mr. Kennedy had a right to be disappointed over steel's price increase announcement. But to use the vituperative language that he did against U.S. Steel—which can easily be interpreted as an example of his administration's antagonism toward business—was hardly befitting the office of President of the United States, in our opinion.

**PRESIDENT KENNEDY** attacked the price increase as highly inflationary. Like all price increases in any nation, it lends strength to an inflationary process. Yet this Kennedy administration, since taking office 16 months ago, has added several billions of non-defense projects (or wants to) to the federal budget.

Is not this absolute and raw inflation? And is not this type of added cost very largely the offspring of an administration (like many others) that seeks more and more political power over its "subjects"?

President Kennedy has revealed his impetuosity as he, like many others in the history of mankind, resorts to the political and economic influence and powers of government "to whip citizens into whimpering subjects."



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Questions Statement On Golfing Facilities

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
June 7, 1912

Charles Davis, an alleged "rich-quick" by-the-marriage route man of Pontiac, was arrested by Det. Brooks of Detroit, and Chief Deputy Sheriff R. Kent, of Pontiac, to answer a charge of abandonment and non-support. Davis was arrested on a warrant issued on a complaint by his wife.

Rev. C. A. Salver, of the First Baptist Church, of Birmingham, left his congregation last week to become the leader of the Baptist Church of Pine Paw, Thursday morning. Rev. Salver was married to a Birmingham girl, Miss Fannie Bortle.

While the first team was making a record for itself on the home grounds on Memorial Day, the second team met Oriah, High and Lake and the property that surrounds it for maintenance.

30 YEARS AGO  
June 2, 1932

The question of whether the village should accept the deed of the second team met Oriah, High and Lake and the property that surrounds it for maintenance.

To the Editor: I would like to take exception to your editorial statement in the May 24, 1962, "Eccentric" which says, "However, because it already has extensive golfing facilities... this type, I hope your future articles are somewhat more factual—and that we can expect a straight-forward expression from the "Eccentric."

By my knowledge, the City of Birmingham has just the one facility, Springdale, which, as you know is a short nine-hole course for use by the entire population of the City of Birmingham.

By what stretch of the imagination can you possibly call these facilities "extensive"? It appears to me that you are deliberately trying to prejudice this issue by using a statement of this type. I hope your future articles are somewhat more factual—and that we can expect a straight-forward expression from the "Eccentric."

THOMAS A. GRIFFITH  
598 Saffold  
Birmingham

The ordinance adopted by the Village Commission in 1959 requiring all business signs in Birmingham.

by IRMA N. DAVIS

### Once Over Lightly

We're all for an "open-door" policy, especially in summer. Each year as the delightful sounds again drift in from the out-of-doors, we conduct our annual cataloging of special ideas, we have brought delight for many and many a year.

The pleasant tinkle of the wind chimes on the front porch is a sound that whisks us right back to our childhood and summer holidays at Macatawa Park on Lake Michigan.

**THAT'S WHERE** we first heard the delicate music of the little glass chimes. Each summer, our family had its turn at a cottage, owned by great-hearted relatives who had converted the lower two floors into apartments, for use by sundry kith and kin.

Here, too, we first were aware of the lovely soothing sound of the wind as it whispered through the trees in the dunes nearby. It was a sad sound to us, for we never really noticed it until the approach of fall.

**THE WHEEZY GROAN** of an old-fashioned pump-organ is also reminiscent of those long-ago vacations. Back in the woods at Macatawa stood the ruins of an old church, a circular, frame building with a balcony all the way round.

Here my younger brother and I used to play hide and seek and, when we had the strength, would pick out doo-mi's on the old, broken-down instrument. Until the day that is, that some, high-spirited cousins of ours hid in the loft and uttered some ghastly groans. We thought the place was haunted.

We set some new speed records back to the cottage—afterward affirming loudly that "we knew it was you all the time."

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Webster's dictionary defines a "tip" as "a small gift of money; esp., a gratuity, as to a waiter." "Gratuity" is further defined as "a voluntary return for a favor or for service."

This is another example that the times are far ahead of the dictionary revisors. Have you noticed that a tip is no longer a reward for services well done, but is now a cost of eating or doing irrespective of the quality of the work performed?

**ON A RECENT** radio interview with the head of a local waiters union, the interviewer asked him what a proper tip was. The answer was that in a good restaurant 15-20 per cent was considered proper.

He was then asked what one should tip if the service was bad. He hemmed and hawed and said that society would still tip the waiter something to show its displeasure.

The reasoning apparently is to reward the waiter only slightly so he knows that he has not done a good job. It seems to me that other merchants are lucky to be paid the value of the goods if they do a bad job, much less be rewarded with only a little something extra.

**TIPPING TODAY** has not only outstripped its purpose, it has led to several revolutions.

Why has the motel business boomed? Some say because motels represent newer facilities than the older hotels, yet look at the number of new hotels that have been constructed in the past few years.

Many experts have come forward to say people prefer motels because there is not a doorman, bellhop, or cleaning girl to tip.

The airlines won many people away from the railroads, not only because they are faster, but also because there is no porter, waiter or redcap to tip. All of these things must be considered in the cost of travel.

(See ECCENTRICITIES, 5-B)

By KEN WEAVER  
**City Beat**

Ever stop to think about a road? Where it leads to? What lies ahead, around the bend?

Ever come to a fork in the road and wonder which branch to take, the one to the right or the one to the left? Ever stop to think just what a road is? What it could tell you if it could talk?

These questions are prompted by an inspiring poem from little Patty Walkie, a fourth grader at Valley Woods School.

One day her teacher gave the class this English assignment: "Take 20 minutes and compose a poem about a road. Any road."

Out tumbled Patty's thoughts:

A ROAD  
A road is a wonderful ancient thing.  
If one may listen closely enough, you may hear—  
A tinker's bells ring—  
Or a pioneer with a jolly song to sing;  
Yes, a road is a wonderful ancient thing.

A road is wonderful.  
It may show one many beautiful things—  
A castle as big as can be,  
Or, a little cottage made just for me.  
Yes, a road is a wonderful thing.

A road may lead anywhere, anywhere you dare go,  
To a haunted house or to a home of a field mouse,  
Or, a valley or a Lilliputian's (\*) village,  
Yes, a road may lead anywhere.

If a road could talk, what a story it would tell—  
Of tinkers with wares to sell or battles where many a soldier fell.  
If a road could talk, what a story it would tell.  
(\* People of Lilliput)

**THEN THERE'S** this poem from Jay C. Auten of 1612 E. Third, Royal Oak.

It reveals his love for his grandson and his belief in a Supreme Being.

The boy, Bruce Blackinton, died Feb. 21, nine days after he was burned in a home fire in Warwick, R.I.

**MY GRANDSON**

There was a young man  
His folk's pride and joy  
A friend to everyone;  
He was a grand boy.

Most surely it seemed  
As days came and went  
God's hand was guiding;  
His days were well spent.

No matter how young or old  
One might have been,  
The lad was ready  
To help; right then.

It seemed for sure  
He was here to stay  
Much longer than me,  
But God said nay.

I certainly feel  
There is a way  
To join this lad  
Some future day.

I loved the boy  
As would any one.  
In addition to that,  
He was my Grandson.

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