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The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, June 21, 1962

EDITORIAL SECTION B

Let's Support Tax Vigilance Group

With the gathering in Birmingham Saturday morning of the Vigilance Tax Committee, our area is now waist deep in the controversy of whether the City of Detroit can tax non-residents.

Shortly after his election as mayor of Detroit, Jerome P. Cavanagh told his people that the answer to Detroit's financial woes was an income tax.

To sweeten the blow to the voters, he proposed that such a tax be extended to include non-residents working in the City of Detroit.

TO HEAD him off at the pass, a state legislator named John Bowman from Macomb County introduced in the legislature, a bill, which if passed, would prohibit municipalities from assessing an income tax against non-residents.

The bill passed both Houses and was placed on the governor's desk. In the meantime, the Detroit Common Council enacted the tax as proposed by the new mayor.

The last hope of the residents of suburbia, who supports his home community, from not having to support Detroit as well, rested with the governor.

THE GOVERNOR apparently counted the votes in the Big City and then in the suburbs and vetoed the non-resident prohibition.

This left the tax in force and ready to be collected July 1.

In the meantime, the mayors of the suburban communities got together and formed what is known as the Vigilance Tax Committee. Its purpose was, in one way or another, to stop the taxation of their citizens by the City of Detroit.

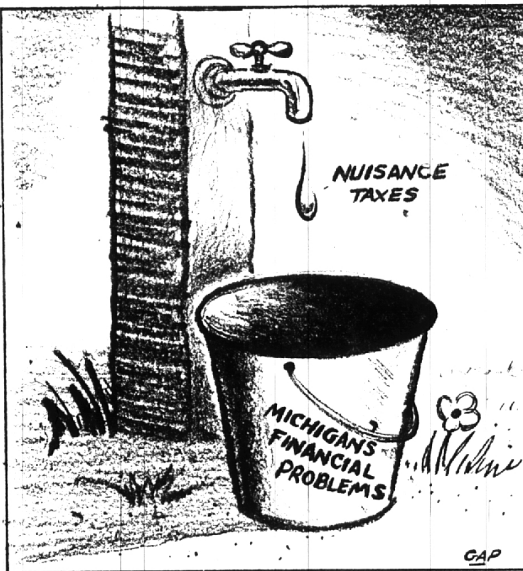
The only recourse left to this group now is to go to court to see if under the Constitution a city has the power to tax non-residents.

OUR AREA, although probably more affected by the tax because of the large number of residents who work in Detroit than most others, passed resolutions opposing the tax but took little leadership effort. Finally, the Birmingham City Commission last week voted to contribute to the Vigilance Committee's cause. Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield townships and Bloomfield Hills also chipped in.

The committee, apparently to show its appreciation, scheduled its weekly meeting at the Community House.

We encourage the committee to keep up the good work, but are not optimistic about the outcome of its lawsuit, since this matter has been adjudicated by courts in other states in favor of the taxing municipality.

Nevertheless, we'd like to add our support to the cause.



Citizens Can Help Expand BCH

A Birmingham landmark that could have drifted into oblivion has been infused with dynamic new blood over the last nine months.

The landmark is that white brick house on the corner of Bates and Townsend streets commonly known as the Birmingham Community House and the new blood is P. Ward Ouradnik, its executive director.

With organizations like the Bloomfield Art Association and the Village Woman's Club moving their facilities away from the downtown area, and these and other organizations offering courses to residents in similar fields as offered by the Community House, the interest in the House could have waned.

RECOGNIZING THE problem, the board of directors of the Community House raised their goal for their annual fund drive so that the House could give increased services and bring back errant users.

While officially this year's drive is over, checks are still coming in; and the goal is not far from sight. The amount collected to date is far ahead of last year. This can only be attributed to increased interest.

The Eccentric is happy to see the strong support of this community project, and is greatly impressed by the foresighted plans for the future.

Mr. Ouradnik feels that the future of a cultural center lies in the downtown area where parking is available for shoppers during the day and could be used profitably by a cultural gathering in the evening.

Further, he feels that if the center is downtown, it will make the business district stronger, and more beautiful.

NATURALLY IN putting such a center downtown, Mr. Ouradnik starts at the corner of Bates and Townsend. He feels the present building could be expanded to include space for the various organizations in town to have offices.

With increased space he feels the state institutions of higher learning would use it as an extension center for adult classes.

He would cap the expansion with a 2,000-seat auditorium and a multi-level parking structure. Such an auditorium would permit the community to attract plays and concerts to be performed in the type of surroundings for which they were designed.

He is not critical of our high school gyms, but he feels that they are still high school gyms, serving primarily high school purposes.

WHETHER THESE plans ever come into being or not, it is refreshing to see the energy and sincerity Mr. Ouradnik brings to his position. Birmingham has talked about this type of activity for many years and has had this individual can get the project going.

We hope the community in the next few weeks sends an extra gift to the Community House Association, and that the funds they receive over their operational budget will be used to expand their ambitious program.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Surrounding President Kennedy in positions of great importance are some men who have had little, if any, practical experience in business affairs. Such people generally are theorists; they put together various ideas to solve economic, political and social problems—too many of which fail to include allowances for the caprices and vagaries of human behaviorism. That's why Socialism appears to such people as a desired goal—even though the actual record of applied socialism has proved to be a deteriorating influence wherever it has been used. Socialism's time-worn slogan goes: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." (With government calling the tunes, making the decisions.) All of which adds up to the loss of true democracy's liberties and freedoms. Do you like such policies?

Rail management's yelps after a wage boost had been won by non-operating unions sounded as though there had been some operating—and without an anesthetic.

Michigan's Legislature has given birth to an increase of \$83 million in new taxes, labeled "nuisance, or sinners, taxation." Cause much

of it derives from taxes on cigars, liquor and beer, plus more on telephones, telegraph and more on corporations. Gov. Swainson has criticized the predominant Republicans for this form of taxation—he'd rather have a graduated income tax. Once such a tax is legalized, you may be sure it will never cease going higher ... higher ... and, of course, higher!

The stock market went down and up like a yo-yo. Her nobody seems able to figure out who's jerking the string.

Children's growing pains distress parents, says a psychologist. This may be news, but not to parents.

A 37-year-old Texas chap, by name Billie Sol Estes, is being investigated for alleged swindling of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, numerous financial companies, plus loose handling of money with certain U.S. officials. Swindle said to run into millions. Kennedy & Kennedy, et al, promise "to investigate." President, possesses "great integrity." Oville Freeman, says his secretary of a big or little business ... one must also have executive ability—not just mere ability to capture votes.

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

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Woodward-Long Lake Corner Prompts Letter

To the Editor:
Driving east on Long Lake Road one morning, I stopped for the red light at Woodward.

As my thoughts dwelled on the man who was killed there (going to his job near this corner) by a truck which couldn't slip in time zooming down the incline, what should occur right before my eyes but another truck, coming far too fast and caught by the amber light—slammed on his brakes, wavered, slid, shook and came to a halt. His truck was almost sideways in the road.

IF HE HAD not been able to stop, he would have hit our car right in the middle since we were the first to go through. And my little girl, who had been peeked up from Vaughan five minutes before

in order to take her to a dentist to check her braces.

She wouldn't have had any need for braces on her teeth; she wouldn't have had, if that truck had hit us, any teeth, or even maybe her life!

ONE DOES wonder how often this happens daily. Even though a big sign has been erected back a ways saying that a light is at the bottom of the hill, how many trucks, or others, read these signs?

Our names could have been printed in your death notices this week.

The ones left might sigh: "Too bad. Someone's gotta do something about this situation ... someday."

Writing this two hours later, that's exactly my aim.

MRS. R. E. V.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 11, 1912

For sale: House and lot on Willis Street, north side \$2,800 for quick sale. Also eight room house and barn, two lots, for \$1,750. Inquire at the Exchange Bank.

FOR SALE: paper baler with money in it. Good as new, at one-third off. Big money can be made by any industrious boy with a horse. Tons of paper right now waiting to be called for. Buy and get rich quick. See Ieth or Mitchell. Best to be held.

MORNING SERVICE at the Baptist Church will be held at 10 a.m. There will be no evening service. See the Reverend for address at the United Presbyterian Church.

30 YEARS AGO
June 16, 1932

Hundreds of Birmingham housewives today are eagerly awaiting the opening of the first annual free cooking school, sponsored by the Birmingham Eccentric. The school will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Community House today, Friday and Saturday.

Dr. William Lloyd Kemp, Village health officer, yesterday confirmed the rumors that he had received this, the Birmingham area's first health nurse, a position she had held since 1929.

At their final activity of the season, the Boy Scouts of Birmingham will attend a baseball game at Navin Field Monday. The game is (See HAPPENINGS, 1-B)

Writer Asks Where Missing Voters Were

To the Editor:
You may or may not wish to publish this letter since it may lose a few readers, but I feel obligated to put a few of my thoughts on paper even though my ability as a writer is of questionable value. If I were to attach a title to these observations, it would be "The Missing Two Thousand."

Today, June 11, 1962, the City of Birmingham, Michigan, held its annual primary election for the school district. Precinct 10 has approximately 2,200 eligible voters but a mere 200 took the time, or

felt it worth while to exercise the previous night we once cherished so deeply. Where were the Missing Two Thousand?

LET'S TAKE the case of Joe and Betty. He gets home at six and wants to relax, have a cool one, read the paper, and watch his favorite TV program. Betty says that

she was called earlier in the day by the League of Women Voters and asked to go to the school election.

What is Joe's reaction to this comment. (See WRITER, 1-B)

Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

June is for brides and rice.

After the wedding is over and the rice swept up the day is sure to arrive when the little woman has to face up to cooking a box of the stuff.

You know the rest. There's enough left (after she finishes scraping it off the stove) for a dozen rice dishes, provided she knows how to cook them.

Practically every new wife inaugurates her wedded life with some such domestic faux pas, usually something which reduces her husband to jeers and her to tears.

ON THE LOCAL scene, for instance, there is The Eccentric's arts editor, Robin Bahr. She has a dismal recollection of her then new husband's reaction when he donned a pair of trousers, fresh out of the ironing board. They were quite trim-looking, with creases in front—and also down the sides, giving a sort of all-around pleated effect.

A friend of hers, who prefers to leave her name out of this, knew how much her spouse looked forward to reading his evening paper. One day, however, the newboy left it in the rain. This dew-eyed bride was not the least bit disconcerted—she simply popped the paper into the oven, and forgot it. Since then, her husband has been taking his news raw, rather than a crisp, deep brown.

LARRY EVOE, our city editor, says their wed-

ding presents included an electric can opener. This led to a real crisis in their household after leaving his ever-loving completely non-plussed at the prospect of opening a can of B.V. BRAND.

Birmingham resident, Julie Candler baked her first loaf in a pie pan which adds up to quite a bit of slicing. Still another resident tried her hand at French toast by cracking the eggs into the skillet and then dropping in a slice of bread, for something new in built-ins.

THEN THERE WAS the bright and shiny new cook, who will admit to nothing more than a local residence. She substituted granulated sugar for confectioner's in making a cake frosting—then watched, and listened, as the visiting minister crunched his way through dessert.

And how about the budding kitchen mechanic who figured out a perfect way to remove a stubborn electric socket adapter from a wall outlet. She simply inserted her eyebrow tweezers in the little holes and twisted—shocking her husband into apoplexy in the process.

THAT'S HOW it was in the beginning in some Birmingham area homes. And, lest you think it was only the brides who bungled, there's one local husband who is still trying to convince his wife that a war souvenir—a dagger—is a dandy pancake turner.

He says, "She just flipped."

Eccentricities



By HANK HOGAN
More correspondence ...
Hon. John F. Kennedy
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:
I noticed that on your recent 45th birthday some three or four million dollars were distributed to you from a trust fund created by your father. Apparently, your father did not feel you were capable of handling all of your own money until this age, yet the people of this nation entrusted to you the entire budget of the United States a year and a half ago.

This raises the question of who knows you better, your father, or the people.

Very truly yours,
A. Suburbanite

Hon. August Scholle
Governor's Office
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Gov:
I noticed in my favorite newspaper (Michigan AFL-CIO News) that you said that our neighbor, George Romney, is engaged in a campaign to "buy or lie" his way into the governorship.

Don't you have enough faith in the electorate to know that this can be done, or is it because of your vast experience in running campaigns that you know that this can be?

Very truly yours,
A. Suburbanite

Hon. Jerome D. Cavanagh
City of Detroit Building
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Jerry:
Now that the Bowman Bill has been vetoed, you have really split the suburbs up with your income tax on Detroiters and non-Detroiters. Those suburbanites who plan to remain working in Detroit for a while are upset, but those suburbanites who make their living in the suburbs are looking forward with great expectations to the tremendous growth suburbia will experience by former Detroit businesses moving out to an area where they are wanted.

Very truly yours,
One of these latter Suburbanites

Hon. George Romney
Constitution Hall
Lansing, Michigan
(please forward)

Dear George:
I have noticed in your campaign talks that you are against "big" labor and "big" business. While both of these segments are bad if they are "too big", they have both contributed to the growth and prosperity of our state.

Why don't you campaign against "big" John, the present incumbent? There are many Michigan voters who don't feel he has contributed to the growth and prosperity of the state.

Very truly yours,
A. Suburbanite

City Beat



Ford Motor Co. has come up with a completely new, self-contained mobile home.

That's for me!

What better way to take your children on a vacation than in a mobile home—especially one that is all one unit? It is built on a modified Ford truck chassis.

Ford says it's new mobile home, the Conдор, has a complete kitchen, bathroom and dining and sleeping facilities for six people. (And there are only four of us.)

IT HAS A four-burner gas stove with glass oven door and broiler, a four-cubic-foot refrigerator, double sinks, formica counter tops, cupboard and drawer space, bathroom shower, steel floor, 30-gallon water and septic tanks.

Powered by a V-8 engine with automatic transmission, the Conдор has a 178-inch wheelbase and is 26 feet long. It is completely insulated and has a furnace for heating in the winter.

IT LOOKS LIKE a bus, but it amounts to a house trailer that doesn't have to be pulled.

And that's for me, the family man who loves to travel. Well, a man can dream, can't he?