

The Birmingham Eccentric

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State Income Tax Coming

Michigan is less than an inch away from having a state income tax this year.

The only real roadblocks are the legislators who feel that the people selected a sales tax over an income tax in the 1960 election, and who do not want to put the burden on the people until they have a chance to go to the polls again.

The big question going through everyone's mind is why the state needs additional revenues.

The answer seems to be that the state has many "built-in" demands for revenue that grow each year without anyone being able to control them.

FOR EXAMPLE, many people believe that their property tax is the only source of revenue for our local school districts.

Up to this point the state has not found any way to limit the population explosion which is adding thousands of new students a year to the school systems at approximately \$205 each.

Even with state aid the poorer school districts can't get along and want an 8% increase this year (cost—approximately 22 million).

SCHOOL AID to local school districts is only one of these "built-in" needs. Higher education institutions receive approximately \$1,000 per in-state student, and every year the enrollments grow.

With the war babies in high school now, we are told that the demand for higher education is just starting.

Welfare is another uncontrollable factor. Even last year it increased when we had the best employment picture since the recession of 1958.

With long waiting lists we can't forget the mental health department in the increasing need for funds. The state has come a long way in its programs, but more dollars are needed to assure proper care for the mentally disturbed.

THE LEGISLATURE has tried to meet these needs by small taxes here and there. But it is running out of small taxes.

If the people of the state said "hold the budget and forget about the education, welfare and mental health problems," the idea of an income tax would die on the vine.

Since the people of the state are not willing to do this, it is just a matter of time before its enactment.

Staunch conservative Republicans in the legislature are now saying among themselves, "If we are going to have it next year why not pass it this year and avoid the bickering of deciding what small taxes to enact?"

Last time they were faced with this decision was in 1959 when the legislative session lasted 12 months instead of the usual three months.

So, don't be surprised if they weaken in the next few weeks.

U.S., Russia Space Cooperation?

An article in the current issue of Science Today by Prof. James A. Coleman of the American International College, Springfield, Mass., struck us as such an illuminating discussion that we wish to pass it on to our readers.

The article, "Russian and U.S. Cooperation in Space," follows:

NOW THAT John Glenn's orbiting of our planet is an accomplished fact the future of space travel is more clear than ever. And with this feat comes the realization that both the United States and Russia are each capable of making tremendous progress in space exploration separately.

The main impetus for the first accomplishments in space was their propaganda value. This has been exploited without limit by both powers.

But we are now entering a new era. Both the United States and Russia are seriously considering cooperating in future space exploration and sharing all technical data obtained.

It is beginning to look as though the main goal for space exploration is to obtain knowledge of our universe, with competition between the two nations on the propaganda front a subsidiary force.

UNFORTUNATELY, the past history of ideological conflict between the two countries will prevent full cooperation for some time. The path from mutual suspicion and antagonism to complete harmony is a long one with many pitfalls and reversals. We should not, then, expect success too soon.

It is ironic that the conflict is almost entirely at the high administrative levels of both countries and not between the scientists themselves. When Russian and United States scientists do unite in a scientific meeting of common interest, the artificial barriers generated by political infighting tend to diminish.

In their place is the same eager interest in scientific problems common to all scientists everywhere. The scientific problem

itself is the main interest and not a fiercely competitive battle to see who can produce spectaculars to show off their knowledge to the rest of the world.

The scientific question itself produces the greatest challenge, not the answer. Indeed, after the answer is known the scientific interest fades and the true scientist goes on to other tantalizing scientific problems.

THIS IS UNFORTUNATE in many respects because the high and noble purpose which originally generated the interest in the problem often disappears completely. The solution is often blatantly heralded as proof of a particular country's supposed superiority in all phases of its endeavor.

It remains to be seen whether the expressed desire of both countries to cooperate in space research and exploration is really generated by an interest in advancing knowledge at the fastest possible pace or for a completely different reason. It may very well be that both countries are afraid not to team up together for fear that the other will produce space spectaculars.

In the world today where the prestige of a major power is considered so important the spectacular success of one can spell a resounding defeat for another on the political front.

WE PREFER to believe that regardless of the original underlying motive the combined facilities of all major powers concentrated on space research will produce the greatest benefit in the shortest time with the least total cost.

And when it is found, however long it may take, that major powers can join forces for the common good in space exploration we shall then realize the tremendous value in working together on many other of the world's problems.

And with these continued developments will come a mutual respect and maximum progress in the advancement of civilization as a whole.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Ike Attend West Point To Become Candidate?

To the Editor: I would like to reply to my friend's (Marilyn Cochran's) letter which appeared in your March 1 issue. As chairman of Citizens for Michigan, George Romney was one of the moving forces in obtaining the convention. Certainly, Mrs. Cochran would have criticized him for being a candidate for the convention, if he had stopped there. Does Mrs. Cochran mean to say that every convention delegate should not enter politics lest he be accused of using the convention as a springboard? Probably she does not mean this.

Therefore, how can Mr. Romney be criticized for later announcing his candidacy for governor, unless one has a crystal ball which discloses Mr. Romney's motives.

TO MY WAY of thinking, the accusation that Mr. Romney used the constitutional convention as the launching platform for his gubernatorial candidacy has about the same basis in fact as to say Dwight Eisenhower attended West Point so he could be a presidential candidate.

DAVID F. BRECK Birmingham

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO March 15, 1912

Monday was a very quiet election day in Birmingham, there being only one ticket for village officers for the coming year. The revision of the charter of the village did pull out a few votes. We now have home rule in Birmingham. President James, Clerk Kemp and Treasurer Baxter were re-elected. New aldermen are E. R. Smith, Samuel C. Mills and William H. Hoge.

Charles Shain, druggist and grocer, has added developing and printing to his camera and kodak department at the usual prices. Developing per roll will be 20 cents; small prints will cost three cents each, larger prints will be four cents.

A large bible has recently been donated to the library. In it are written the date of the birth of the Ladies' Literary Association, followed by a list of the charter members. Also the date of death of the Ladies' Library Association and birthdate of the Public Library.

30 YEARS AGO March 17, 1922

With slightly less than \$1,000 raised to date, only two days remain in the current YMCA emergency campaign in which the goal is \$2,000. The drive was to have closed last Monday but was extended to 6:30 p.m. Friday in order to give campaign workers an opportunity to interview all prospective donors.

Two new faces will appear at the Village Commission table Monday night when the six members and village president elected last week in the most heated campaign in five years, will convene for their first session. They are E. W. Osborne and Theron B. Smith. Returned to office were Harry Allen and incumbent village president, Walter L. Connelly.

The Birmingham Community House will open its doors to the public today with an invitation to join in festivities planned in observance of the second birthday anniversary of its new home. The logic and good reason are that it will report the facts.

Recent facts and developments in the above case seem to indicate that the People of Pontiac have neither.

Keep up the good work, there are a multitude of readers in northern Oakland County who are eagerly reading every word. MARCELLA FORTIER (Mrs. John R.)

(MORE PEOPLE'S COLUMN LETTERS, 5-B)

Calls Letter in Eccentric 'Birch-Type Propaganda'

To the Editor: I was greatly shocked to see the columns of your newspaper being used for John Birch-type of propaganda by a correspondent from 'upstarts' who signed his letter "H. E. Bradley" in your March 1 issue. May I suggest that you re-examine this letter and determine if you really should have printed it, particularly when it came from a man outside the Birmingham area? At best, when you print such a letter it should be accompanied by an editor's note. This man and others who spread the same kind of divisive rot in this country usually send their letters to hundreds of newspapers, and, fortunately, they get beyond the waste paper basket of only a few naive editors.

WHAT this man is attempting to say, but doesn't say very well, is that our churches are infuriated with communists. This has been disproved so many times that the charge is about as ridiculous as the Birch society's branding of former President Eisenhower as a "conscious tool of the communists."

In his letter, Mr. Bradley misquotes several people, including Lenin himself, and is led to believe that Mr. Bradley is, indeed, making up most of the quotes he attributes to others in his communication.

He has even taken it upon himself to put words in former UN Secretary General Trygve Lie's mouth, which any intelligent person knows he never uttered. All good Americans are opposed to communism in any form but intelligent men fight communism with the truth; not with distortions, falsehoods and John Birch propaganda. Please re-read Mr. Bradley's letter and advise your readers whether you really believe it is a kind of

correspondence which has a place in your fine newspaper.

JAMES P. CHAPMAN 1624 Apple Lane Bloomfield Hills

EDITOR'S NOTE: We edit our "People's Column" for taste, libel, slander and good English. We permit expressions of ideologies in the belief that our readers can determine for themselves any soundness or validity of thought the letters might possess.

Praises B'ham Mayor, Press on Airport Stand

To the Editor: The people of Birmingham have every reason to be extremely proud of their mayor and their city. And I sincerely hope they appreciate you.

I am referring specifically to the logic and good reason you have used on the Oakland County jet airport issue, and that wonderful editorial on Feb. 21, 1962, called a "Reminder to Supervisors."

IT IS SO encouraging to know that there is a mayor who can think and reason, and a press that will report the facts. Recent facts and developments in the above case seem to indicate that the People of Pontiac have neither.

Keep up the good work, there are a multitude of readers in northern Oakland County who are eagerly reading every word. MARCELLA FORTIER (Mrs. John R.)

Talk of the Towns

The eventful Monday is over now. Everybody in Beverly, Bingham, Franklin and Wood Creek knows where to go when they hear the "take me to your leader" bit.

There was one candidate in that crew of hopefuls who was the epitome of optimism. Replying to a request for a photograph, the not-so-candid candidate sent two pictures to The Eccentric's towns editor.

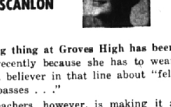
One was a standard studio portrait. This was the second—obviously meant to be run with the story on how he successfully earned the last burrah—little and big—and he replied that "when our family is away from home I just put a nice active baby shark in the pool. It stands guard."

A pretty young thing at Groves Hall has been a bit unhappy recently because she has to wear glasses. She's a believer in that line about "felas don't make passes."

One of her teachers, however, is making it a point to see that she does wear those specs. "Put on your glasses, Miss Brown." It did no good.

Finally he took another approach. "You'll be a doll with a white cane to go with that creamy complexion." It worked. She's wearing her glasses. At least at school.

By DENI SCANLON



A seven-year-old Bloomfield Village youngster was taken to the family doctor this week. He had an awful cold. The sniffles, however, didn't hamper his keen perception. Eying a rather large hypodermic needle, he exclaimed, "oh boy! Look at that shotter!"

Suburban Sidelights By HANK HOGAN

The most popular bills before the legislature this year in terms of mail received from constituents are the Sunday closing bills. Basically, the bills provide that stores, other than drug and a few other necessity type establishments, must close their doors at least once a week.

In researching the background of the bills, Sunday laws of other states were uncovered which might make you glad you live in Michigan.

IN MASSACHUSETTS it is illegal to eat peanuts in church.

Nebraska law forbids you to quarrel with your wife on Sunday.

Pennsylvania does not allow you to shoot frogs on Sunday within the state's boundaries.

Alabama law states that it is illegal to wear a false moustache to church and cause laughter.

Those who like to eat snakes should avoid Kansas on Sunday, or you might be subject to arrest.

No one may whistle in Maine on the first day of the week, nor may they listen to radio variety shows.

Georgia makes it a misdemeanor if you go bathing in a stream or pond on Sunday so that you can be seen from any road leading to a church.

Connecticut forbids men to shake on Sunday.

LOCAL LAWS are just as bad. In Boston, Mass., an old law forbids anyone from taking a bath on Sunday.

Homaker, Va., law specifically states that you may not ride a mule to church.

A clergyman who tells a funny story from the pulpit in Nicholas County, W. Va., has violated a local ordinance.

No lawn cutting is allowed in Santa Fe, N. M., nor sneezing in West Virginia on Sunday.

Fredericksturg, W. Va., ordinances forbid you to read the papers out on the front porch while others are attending church.

The town of Charlestown, R. I., makes it illegal to play marbles on Sunday.

Rumping during church services is "agin the law" in Omaha, Neb.

Humming on the public streets in Cicero, Ill., on Sunday is cause for arrest, as are journeys in Maine on the first day of the week except for "charity or necessity."

If you are in the habit of playing cards on Sunday, give Fort Smith, Ariz., a wide berth.

ALL OF THESE amusing statutes or ordinances are still in effect. Michigan probably has some which we haven't uncovered yet. Will the proposed Sunday closing laws be included with this group in the year 2000 A.D.?

If you have friends in any one of these localities, you might chide them into having their legislative bodies clean up their laws.

City Beat By KEN WEAVER

At last I can lay some claim to fame. I have something in common with Con-Con vice president, gubernatorial candidate, ex-auto corporation president George W. Romney.

On the day he was listed as one of the country's 10 best dressed men, Romney arrived for work at Lansing with a hole in his trousers. Putting his foot across a chair, he exposed a slit several inches long across one knee.

That same day, I arrived at work wearing my historical dark blue suit; it dates back to my wedding date, June 15, 1957.

As I sat down at the desk, my right knee protruded through a several-fractions-of-an-inch long hole. A worn spot in the trousers had finally given way.

Whereas Romney got wide attention from the press for his incident, I got squeals of "let me see" from the girls in our office.

Seven-year-old Dana Rowan has a prized souvenir from Astronaut John H. Glenn Jr. Dana is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rowan of Byram, Conn., and the grandson of Mrs. George W. Rounds of 677 W. Bingham.

Dana, whose father is a managing editor of Life magazine, witnessed the launching of Glenn's rocket into orbit. Assigned by his second grade teacher to write an article for his school paper, Dana kept a diary of his trip to Cape Canaveral and the launching.

Feb. 19, 1962, I went on a jet called Eastern Airlines. There were lights from New York and they were pretty lights. And the cars looked like bugs saying hello to each other on the highway.

"Feb. 20, 1962—I got up at 7 o'clock and put my clothes on and went down to the beach to see how it looked." "It was cloudy but way down the ocean it was nice. At 7:30 we went to the beach and listened to the countdown all the way."

First it (the rocket, Friendship Seven) went through a cloud and came out and then I couldn't see it, but just then I turned my head and looked up and there was the rocket and then I couldn't see it. "I thought it would be cancelled to another day but it went and I was surprised and boy was I happy."

Feb. 23—I saw a parade and we were standing on a awfully long time in line and then finally Col. John Glenn came down the main street and everybody was pushing to see John Glenn. I saw Alan Shepard, too."

Dana has been given an autographed post card from Glenn, which read: "My very best personal regards to the New Lebanon School, (where Dana is in the second grade) and I assure you that Dana has been doing a lot of studying while waiting through our delays here at Cape Canaveral." Dana's mother is the former Helen Rodens. Before her marriage, she resided in Birmingham and was graduated from Baldwin High School.

The dropping away of Syria and Yemen has ended the United Arab States. There are plenty of Arab states, but no good cement to hold them together.

Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick says something should be done about "peppin up the game." He's right. If the club owners and rules committee stand pat they may stand alone, with everyone else watching football.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Elizabeth Taylor, movie actress, wife of Debbie Reynolds' former spouse Eddie Fisher, gets \$50,000 per week for lending her talents to make a movie titled "Cleopatra." This gives you an idea of the values American people, who pay the freight, place on that type of culture. (Can you blame many U. S. youth who, when applying for jobs, want to know about basic salary, fringe benefits, paid vacations, etc.?)

Better get off some of those many postponed letters you've procrastinated writing and sending every letter now sent will bring you penance