



### Plan for the Future

George W. Whitehead, 858 Norwich, president of the Birmingham P.F.A., and the council - sponsored Parent Committee, poses over plans for the coming year with Mrs. Edward L. Henderson, 555 N. Glen-

hurst (left) and Mrs. H. W. Palubin, 493 W. Frank, Representatives of all the schools in the Birmingham Public School system, met last week with members of the Parent Committee.

### CON-CON REPORT

# Individual Civil Rights Improved

Michigan's proposed new constitution provides numerous improvements in the vital area of individual rights. Included are changes in civil rights, the right to know, procedural rights, voting rights and property owners' rights.

Briefly outlined, these new or improved rights affecting individuals are as follows:

#### CIVIL RIGHTS

- 1. Equal protection and anti-discrimination provisions hailed as the strongest in any state constitution.
- 2. Creation of a civil rights commission with constitutional powers, subject to court appeal, to investigate and secure equal protection of all civil rights guaranteed by the constitution and laws.

#### RIGHT TO KNOW

- 1. Requirement of recorded committee votes of each legislator on bills and resolutions.
- 2. Provision for a clear statement of all subjects to be considered at every legislative committee hearing in advance of such

hearing.

- 3. Right to inspect all financial records, accountings, audit reports and other reports of public money.

#### PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

- 1. Right to obtain a civil (not criminal) jury verdict when 10 out of 12 jurors agree.
- 2. Right to "fair and just treatment" in legislative and executive investigations and hearings.

#### PROPERTY OWNERS' RIGHTS

- 1. Provision that when a vote is required only owners of tax-assessed property and their spouses may vote on the question of increasing millage limitations for a period of more than five years.
- 2. The right, after 1966, never to have your property assessed for property tax purposes at more than 50 per cent of the cash value in your new home.
- 3. Strengthening of the rights of married women with respect to their property.
- 4. Homestead debtors' exemption raised from \$2,500 to a minimum of \$3,500.
- 5. Personal property exemption raised from \$500 to a minimum of \$750.
- 6. The right to have the property of your church or school, if used exclusively for religious or educational purposes, exempt from all real and personal property taxes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS RIGHTS

- 1. The right never to have your life taken by the state is provided by prohibiting capital punishment in Michigan.
- 2. Freedom of speech is strengthened by adding the right to "ex-

press" one's "views" on all subjects.

- 3. Right of petition is broadened to make the "government" as well as "legislature" subject to such or elections.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

- 1. Protection of the integrity of your vote by authorizing the legislature to bar from voting maling incompetents and persons committed to prison or jail.
- 2. Right to vote for President

#### WHEN YOUNGSTERS

were asked to think of improvements that could be made in certain toys, two found that boys at this age would frequently refuse to offer any suggestions for improving a nurse kit and some girls similarly refused to think of ideas for improving a toy fire truck.

"Some of the more creative boys, however, first changed the nurse kit to a doctor's kit, after which it was quite legitimate and respectable to think of ideas. Thus we see that whole areas of experience become taboo, and thinking thereby inhibited."

ANOTHER inhibiting factor in young children, Dr. Torrance said, was found to be the forced stifling of fantasy. "Many children at this age (five) are inhibited in their thinking because they have been warned harshly by parents and teachers that they must eliminate fantasy.

"Although we are interested in developing a sound type of creativity, we need to keep fantasy alive until the child's mental development is such that he can engage in this sound type of realistic creative thinking."

## Children's Creativity Hampered at 'Stages'

If your creative five-year-old adolescent with its increased aptitudes and striving for approval then enters kindergarten, don't blame the teacher or the school. The cause is probably sex—his sudden awareness of sex differences and the crisis he is facing because of it.

This advice from the Michigan Education Association is based on a recent research study conducted at the University of Minnesota and reported by Dr. E. Paul Torrance, director of the university's bureau of educational research.

When children begin to notice sex differences when they learn that some activities are taboo for girls and others are not appropriate for boys—that's when their ability to think creatively takes a sharp drop.

USUALLY that's around age five, the researchers found. The kind of behavior acts in excess of a child that sex represents a crisis that affects his creative abilities, the report found. Children in other countries experience similar crises when their behavior patterns are changed, the study indicated, but the patterns are different in different cultures.

For American youngsters similar crises are reported to occur at ages nine, 13 and 17.

"It is interesting to note that each of the generalized drops occur at ages at which the transition from one development stage to another begins," says Dr. Torrance.

"THE DROP at about five occurs with the end of the childhood stage and the beginning of the juvenile stage, with its demands for social accommodation and compromise and acceptance of authorities outside him. The second drop occurs with the onset of the pre-adolescent stage with its increased need for consensual validation, peer approval, identification with peers of the same sex, and conformity to peer patterns," according to Dr. Torrance.

The third occurs at the onset of

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#### Legal Notices

Oliver H. Kirk, Atty., 207 Wabash Bldg., Birmingham, Michigan

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN

In the Matter of the Estate of BETTY ROBERTS, Deceased. All creditors and persons claiming to have claims against the estate of said decedent, are notified that administration of said estate has been granted to Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate, in and for the County of Oakland, Michigan, on the 27th day of August, A.D. 1962.

#### Legal Notices

Richard P. Caudill, Attorney, 114 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham, Michigan

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN

In the Matter of the Estate of CHARLES BRINDLEY, Deceased. All creditors and persons claiming to have claims against the estate of said decedent, are notified that administration of said estate has been granted to Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate, in and for the County of Oakland, Michigan, on the 27th day of August, A.D. 1962.

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#### Legal Notices

Clarence W. Blinnman, Attorney, 207 Wabash Bldg., Birmingham, Michigan

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In the Matter of the Estate of LILLIAN BRANTLEY, HIGGINS, known as LILLIAN BROSTEDT, Deceased. All creditors and persons claiming to have claims against the estate of said decedent, are notified that administration of said estate has been granted to Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate, in and for the County of Oakland, Michigan, on the 27th day of August, A.D. 1962.

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