

Pay for Ability or Seniority?

The Michigan Education Association is in the process of circulating petitions to put compulsory teacher tenure on the ballot.

They have not been too successful with the state legislature in accomplishing this goal, so now they are taking it to the people directly.

Teacher tenure is a system whereby a teacher who has served a probationary period of two years is locked in as a teacher forever, unless the school board can find a "reasonable and just cause" to demote or dismiss him.

This reasonable and just cause is appealable to a state tenure commission, and history shows that incompetence is not a just and reasonable cause.

THE PURPOSE OF teacher tenure is to give teachers security and protection from being fired on the whim and caprice of a school board or superintendent.

Whether one supports this proposed referendum or not should really be gauged in whether this is good for the education of our children. Will our children be better educated under the plan?

In 1937 the state passed an optional tenure law. Some school districts enacted it. Neither Birmingham nor Bloomfield Hills districts felt that they wanted it.

If it had worked with overwhelming success, there would be no problem in getting statewide support for the present proposal at this time.

THE FACT that it hasn't should make us wary.

The biggest single thing tenure has done for the school districts that enacted it is to guarantee a locking-in of mediocre or below-average teachers.

Good teachers do not need this artificial

security. They are able to move to other districts and receive higher pay if they don't like the political climate of their own school district.

Under present law they don't even lose pension rights if they change districts because teachers' pensions come under a state retirement fund which covers all state public schools.

TENURE TO US also flies in the face of the teachers' desires for higher pay.

During the last decade on the strength of the allegation that teachers were professional people and should be paid accordingly, our school districts have embarked on salary plans that would have made teachers of 15 years ago speechless in amazement.

Rightly so, the public is now aware of the plight of the male teacher who is trying to raise a family on the compensation which was primarily designed to keep single women teachers happy.

But if a teacher wants tenure, he is taking himself out of the realm of professional people and putting himself in a class of civil servants who are protected from wanton dismissal and are assured of being taken care of for the rest of their living days, but are poorly compensated in return.

WHICH ADDS UP to the question, do teachers want to be paid well for ability or poorly for seniority?

With the experiences of school districts who have had tenure in mind, our position on this matter must again be weighed in terms of the kids.

Will our children be better educated if compulsory tenure is enacted?

If it has a tendency to make the jobs of mediocre teachers more secure, the answer must be a resounding NO.

They Offer a High Potential

In Birmingham and its environs there reside many people of above average talents and skills—in specialized fields—accountants, advertising executives, architects, builders, contractors, designers, educators and engineers to name but a few.

Think what a potential of resource material they present for community development!

This thought arises with the report that Birmingham's Citizens Action Committee has appointed a Civic Design Committee to study the downtown area and to make suggestions for its improvement.

What a splendid idea!

THIS DESIGN committee is to be comprised of local architects, landscape experts, designers and others with special training and knowledge who will volunteer suggestions for the aesthetic development of the community.

Surely this idea can be applied in other phases of community development, with a utilization of the many people of other special abilities.

For the many people who work in Detroit but live in Birmingham, there must be times when they experience a frustration in not being able to do anything for their "home-town" community—not being able to contribute toward the creation and development of improved environment for the happiness and growth of their families' living.

Here is a chance to express that frustration—by making a contribution to a local community effort through committees such as mentioned above.

THE CITIZENS ACTION Committee, a group of civic-minded area residents sincerely interested in the aesthetic values of their community, would welcome volunteers to offer themselves as a resource to future projects. If this response were to happen, what spectacular results we might have in due time with the special skills and talents available on the local level.

The resource is here; it need only be tapped.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Michigan's Gov. George Romney continues to be mentioned as a 1964 Republican presidential nominee possibility. Why? Simply because he is colorful, has achieved a business success of considerable stature and already has begun ascending the political ladder. Another reason is this: the Republican Party is seeking a 1964 candidate to vie with the present White House incumbent, and it is not convinced that Nelson Rockefeller can beat JFK, or even that Barry Goldwater can, either. While the party never can with complete accuracy prophesy who will win an election, it wants as many "ares in the hole" as possible to be available as candidates. So it is watching Michigan's able and aggressive governor. If Romney isn't selected in 1964, and if he runs for a four-year term for re-election as governor (and establishes a good public service record), he certainly could be nominated in 1968. By that time, many political observers believe, regardless of which Kennedy(?) runs to succeed JFK, George Romney should have better than an even chance to beat him.

Do you believe that Khrushchev obtained a cue relative to JFK's "profile of Cuban patriots in

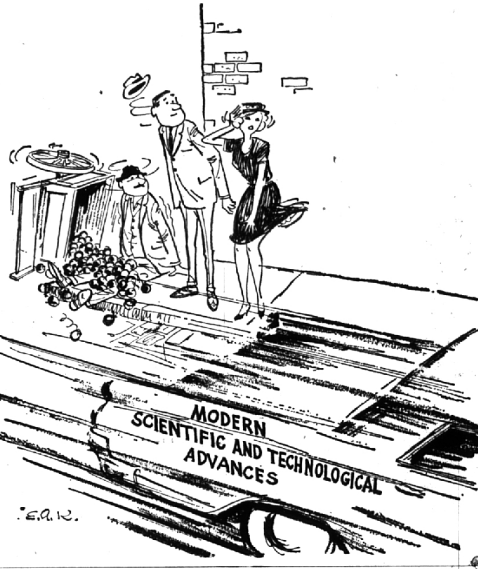
that Bay of Pigs fiasco? Could the Soviet leader wonder how strong the President would be if the Berlin situation were forced into a "showdown" status by the Russians?

There are many who believe that the havoc wrought by hurricane Flora is but the working of "poetic justice" against the machinations of Fidel Castro and his army of supporters. They refer to the disasters that came to Sodom and Gomorrah, and Capernaum—areas that once were dominated by evil and unjust men. ("Tain falls on the just and the unjust.")

Detroit didn't win the 1968 Olympics, but it did put together a bit of team-work that, if retained and nurtured, should be of great civic value to the world's Motor Capital. Indeed, the ripples of such teamwork might be of value to the whole State of Michigan!

A Wisconsin company is developing a long-playing record that makes only 16 2/3 r.p.m. speed, thus playing as long as two hours. Let's hope that they confine their recordings to good music only.

Boy! Those New Models Sure Move



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Lesson: Keep Direct Control of Government

To the Editor:
The lead editorial Oct. 24 (county government) is well taken, but it missed the point. Citizens will never know what's going on with the Oakland County Board of Supervisors until all supervisors are elected by and are responsible to the people.

When local citizens and responsible newspapers are apparently willing to tolerate government by appointees at home, why worry about self-perpetuation and enlargement of big government in Lansing and Washington?
THE MORASS of big government is a bottomless sink-

hole to the average citizen, especially when operated by faceless self-perpetuating appointees, with their self-appointed experts and committees, who, not subject to election, are constantly promoting programs and studies, which in many instances, are strictly inconsistent with the basic and traditional American concepts of self-government, the citizens' needs and the taxpayers' ability to pay.
When citizens have become careless of their liberty and lost direct control of government, nations and civilizations have fallen, doomed by unbridled inefficiency and extravagance of willful, self-perpetuating, big government run amok with unrestrained power and the ever-resulting enslavement of the citizen.
PAUL A. KERN, JR.
Orchard Lake

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Board Action On Societies Is Criticized

To the Editor:
I have been reading with interest the fight of a courageous group of parents with the Birmingham School Board. The school board members are dead wrong in their insistence to coerce parents into signing a statement of intent pursuant to the secret societies.

The statement in the Oct. 24 Eccentric by the school board to have "private conferences" to "avoid embarrassment" is a technique used by government to divide and conquer the public and to avoid the bright glare of honesty to hide shady government actions.

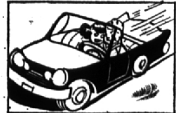
TO ME, this is the first step in thought control by coercion of Birmingham parents through their children. The loss of our free United States way of life to social experimenting like Cuba or Russia shouldn't happen to any group of parents in Birmingham.

I have met my wife's steak dinner that no school board member will have the courage to honestly answer this letter.

H. P. ESTES
Former Resident of Birmingham
Mandeville, La.

STRICTLY FRESH

Modern girls adore spinning wheels—four of them and a spare.



Marriage is just another union that defies management.

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
Nov. 7, 1913

An exchange gives an incident that illustrates the impossibility of telling where the trouble resulting from a mortgage will end. A man mortgaged his farm to buy his wife a pair of earrings. The wife took in washing to pay the interest on the mortgage, and the first day she lost one of the diamonds in the suets, and tried to hang herself in the barn but the rope broke and she fell on a \$150 Jersey cow breaking its back.

Halloween last week was an improvement on the old way. We hear of only one outrage. Steps were moved and the lady of the house narrowly escaped a bad fall by stepping off in the dark. The Birmingham Brass Band was out and discoursed most excellent music all the evening, marching to all points of central Birmingham giving all the people a rare musical treat. The handsome woman of the night and Mitchell being kissed (a chaste one) by an unknown lady (?), all was well.

Mr. Sam Donaldson is building a barn 36 x 70 feet with full basement. The handsome woman of the night to the hip roof barns more usually seen. The barn is built on the side of a hill, an ideal place for a basement and when finished Mr. Donaldson will have one of the best and most modern barns in these parts. The work is being done by Mr. Burlock of Pontiac.

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 9, 1933

Baldwin High School students who belong to secret organizations not sponsored by the school will not be threatened by expulsion—nor an educational, argumentative campaign against "fraternities" and "sororities" will be waged in an attempt to influence students who belong to such organizations to break them up of their own accord. This is the course of action decided upon by Principal Melvin C. Hart, following the appearance of the

fraternity problem with increasing frequency and boldness during the past few weeks.

Special services in several of the churches Saturday and Sunday will mark the observance of Armistice Day in Birmingham this weekend. There will be no parade or flag-raising ceremony here although the Drum and Bugle Corps of the American Legion will take part in a parade in Pontiac Saturday morning. The traditional two-minute pause at 11 a.m. will be observed here as usual.

Birmingham school teachers Friday will receive 35 per cent of their salaries for the last two weeks in scrip and 65 per cent in cash, in accordance with an action of the Board of Education last Thursday night in increasing the percentage of scrip in November payrolls from 25 to 35 per cent.

15 YEARS AGO
Nov. 4, 1948

Traditionally Republican, Birmingham voters turned out Tuesday in near-record numbers to back GOP candidates in both national and state contests. In both national and state contests, Bloomfield Hills voters also piled up substantial Republican ballots. Locally, Gov. Dewey obtained 4,902 votes to 922 for President Truman, while Sigler gathered 4,884 to Gov. Williams' 1,262. In Bloomfield Hills, Dewey received 578 votes. Truman 98. Sigler was given a 6-1 vote over Williams, 561 votes to 129. A total vote of 701 was registered. Birmingham voters gave Dooders 4,893 to 1,179 for Brown in the 17th district Congressional race.

Mrs. Marilyn Rogue escaped serious injuries Monday morning when a truck wheel crashed through the brick wall of the Fox and Hound Inn, scattering bricks around the room and onto her bed where she was asleep. She was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, and was released after X-rays showed her head injuries were not serious.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

I was reading about the great airlift the other day where thousands of soldiers were flown to Germany and arrived intact 10 hours ahead of schedule.

Of course, they couldn't be counting the time from the airport into Frankfurt. That could be the difference between the beginning and end of the next world war.

A couple of weeks ago my spouse and I planned a trip and were scheduled to take off early in the morning.

We happened to be in Detroit the night before and decided that instead of going home we would go straight out to the airport and stay at the airport motel.

WE ARRIVED about midnight without reservations. The girl was very nice about telling us that apparently everyone in the Detroit area had the same idea, but they had arrived earlier.

We tried every motel along the expressway and finally ended up at the Dearborn Inn.

The clerk looked at us rather oddly when we registered, considering we were only about 20 minutes from home.

Somehow airline officials are going to have to solve the long trip to the airport. If you are going to New York, it takes 50 minutes to Metro Airport, only an hour and five minutes on the plane and another hour in from the airport in New York.

I HAVE HEARD that NASA has designed its moon ship to include a taxi and several extra days' rations to take care of getting our astronauts into town from where they land on the moon.

It could be one of their biggest problems. Actually, getting to the airport isn't the only problem with travelling by air.

Have you parked at an airport parking lot recently? After you drop off your wife and luggage you have to go halfway back to Detroit to find a parking space.

And if you're gone for any period of time you might find that it's cheaper to leave your car there and buy a new one.

YOU CAN PARK in downtown Detroit cheaper. If the airlines are having such a hard time financially, why don't they sell their planes and just run the parking concession?

With all the problems, still, nothing beats travelling by air. Imagine being less than five hours away from anywhere in our country. Someday they will design planes so they can pick you up on your front lawn and without the trip to the airport, we will be able to cut travelling time in half.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

The Birmingham PTA Council proposes to lower the age limit for the sale of liquor and tobacco to minors from 21 to 18.

Harvard and Radcliffe students indulge in wild sex parties.

Seems to me there's a lesson to be learned there. Proponents of the lower age limit for minors reason that it is more realistic.

I'll bet that when the proposals were first made to allow women in the male students' rooms at Harvard and to allow men in the women's quarters at Radcliffe, somebody said this would be "a more realistic attitude."

THE IDEA IS THAT the young people are going to do it anyway, so why not sanction it and thus discourage the abuse by eliminating the thrill that comes with a violation of the rules.

Bosh! Give a man his favorite pie, he is going to eat it. I advocate a strengthening of the laws and stricter enforcement of them—not a softening of them.

We are told time and again that the morals in this country have deteriorated. And I believe it. Among the reasons for this deterioration, I am sure, is this practice of making indulgence in moral laxities easier by this "more realistic approach."

THE TIME HAS come to crack down—not back down. The time has come to be firm, to let teen-agers know that we will not tolerate drinking and smoking, that we just won't put up with any of this nonsense.

The worst thing we can do is to tell them to go ahead and drink and smoke, with our blessing.

When I was a child, I dared not enter our neighbor's yard without parental permission. Where is this kind of discipline today? It is almost nonexistent. But this does not mean that our young people are to be condoned.

Lowering the legal age of minors from 21 to 18 will only increase the instances of liquor and tobacco addictions; it will not reduce them.

It will mean greater moral deterioration, not less.

SO BIRMINGHAM teen-agers are able to procure liquor and tobacco now. But should we accept this as a just cause and change the law to condone it?

Or should we admit that we have been too weak in the past and be more determined in the future to establish stronger, healthier moral habits in our young people?

In my book, the time has come to be tough, to crack this whip that our young people how to accept responsibility for a better society.

Veterinarians report an increase in the horse population. This would have to happen just when we've run out of parking space.

The European Common Market nations have agreed to arbitrate the "chicken war" with Uncle Sam. Our squawking may have kept an egg from being laid.

It is reported from Florence, Italy, that the "kangaroo look" is the new fashion. The thought of it gives us the jumps.

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

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

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bovey Street, Telephone Midwest 6-1100



PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER

George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus