

ADC-U: Yes or No?

In Governor Romney's "State of the State" message delivered to the legislature, he asked among other things for enabling legislation so that Michigan could come under the federal Aid to Dependent Children of Unemployed Parents Act, more commonly known as ADC-U.

This was not a new program to the legislature since they had considered this legislation in 1961, then later in a special session and again in 1962. Each time they rejected it.

The legislature turned it down in 1961 because it was brand new and no one knew exactly what it did. The five most voiced objections were that the Federal Government was taking over an area that was already adequately serviced by local government.

SECONDLY, the federal law did not provide for residence requirements and there was a fear that residents of states that did not enact the law would move into Michigan to take advantage of it.

Also, the federal law required that the program be administered by people under a "merit system," which is a fancy description of civil service. Since only Wayne and Kent counties in Michigan had civil service, it would mean that the other 81 counties would either have to set up civil service or duplicate staffs by bringing in state employees to run the program.

FOURTHLY, the federal ADC-U program gave the recipients cash, while welfare programs in our state were geared to giving out food stamps and paying rent directly so that people on welfare were not handling money.

This latter program was designed so that there was certitude that the recipients used the proceeds to live and not to play. The final objection was that the state would have to pay part of the administrative cost while receiving no financial benefit from the program and that was during the days when there was just no money around for new programs.

PRESENTLY, welfare benefits are paid locally by the counties—(except in Wayne County because of the gigantic cost) and the counties would get the federal funds, not the state.

Now in 1963 we are again faced with ADC-U. If enacted, it would mean that the Federal Government would pay part of the counties' cost of welfare. Here in Oakland County it would mean an additional \$500,000 coming into our county's coffers.

Some of the original objections have been eliminated by amendments to the federal act. The turning point seems to be, shall we accept the federal funds or not?

OUR NEW governor has stated that he

is against in principle more federal involvement in purely local matters. However, he says that the place to fight this is when the laws are enacted, not after the program is in order way.

He feels that the way for citizens of Michigan to fight ADC-U is to encourage repeal of the federal law. Until it is repealed, he feels we should take advantage of it since Michigan people are paying for it whether we supported the enabling legislation or not.

State legislators from Oakland County are looking to the county for direction. They feel if the county wants it, they will work for it. If the county opposes it, as it did two years ago, they will oppose it.

RAY LOTTE, chairman of the County Board of Supervisors Welfare Committee, is for it. His committee hasn't voted on it yet. The board of supervisors is looking for citizen direction.

We feel that the county should take advantage of the program. We accept Governor Romney's principle that the way to fight an enlarged Federal Government is in the congressional halls, not by ignoring a program already established in which we are already paying a good share of the tab for the states that have come under the program.

To ignore the program now is like cutting one's nose off, to spite his face.

WE FURTHER support the program because its provisions help eliminate some duplication of service that exists between our county welfare boards and the federal welfare programs we have enacted in the past.

We also support the program because it encourages rehabilitation programs for the unemployed, which is the only way we will eventually solve our welfare problems. There are some people who will remain on welfare until they find a job, and won't find a job until they receive some training.

The ADC-U act provides that for every dollar the state puts up for rehabilitation, the federal government will put up \$3.

OUR SUPPORT is not based on the philosophy that we should encourage more federal programs. Rather, it is based in part on the pure practicality that the program is here and will help our county.

We cannot overlook also the practicality that we will lose the money the people of this state have put into the program through taxes if we pass it by.

By the same token, if there is a move in Washington to eliminate this program or any other excessive invasion by the Federal Government into areas of local concern which can be adequately handled by local government, we will be among the first to give aid and comfort to the movers.

Honors Accepted with Pride

Naturally, we are pleased with the selection of The Birmingham Eccentric as the First Place General Excellence Award winner among newspapers of its circulation category by the Michigan Press Association.

We accept, with pride, it and the five other top awards won by The Eccentric in the MPA's 1962 weekly newspaper contest.

We are most gratified at this recognition of our efforts to give our readers a top quality newspaper. And we dedicate ourselves to that goal.

WE ACCEPT with pleasure, too, Gov. George Romney's acknowledgement of the recognition paid his hometown newspaper. We appreciate his kind comments, as published in his letter to this newspaper last week.

Yes, we proudly accept these honors and pledge anew to serve the best interests of our readers and our advertisers, to give them the best possible newspaper. And we will always welcome your comments as to how we can do a better job!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

This week—Feb. 7-13—is Scout Week, a period holding special meaning and significance to the Boy Scouts of America who celebrate their 83rd anniversary as a national organization. It holds interest and importance for many, many other people, too, we believe, as there is scarcely an American family that has not felt and benefited from its influence.

France's Charles de Gaulle vetoed the desire of Great Britain to become a member of the European Common Market. This refusal, opposed by every other member of that organization, has shocked the entire free world. De Gaulle's current attitude is one of a kind of contempt for

Britain and for the United States—even though without the help of these two countries France today would be a slave state. Explanation of de Gaulle's veto? Close observers of the world scene sum up the situation in this one word: ARROGANCE.

A lone robber entered a Livonia bank and, tying up a half dozen employes, escaped with \$153,000 in currency. While he was trying to escape through a back door, two Livonia policemen entered the bank but failed to capture the bandit. Moral: if you want to be sought after by thousands of police, including the FBI, rob a bank and make a temporary get-away . . . we say "temporary."

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

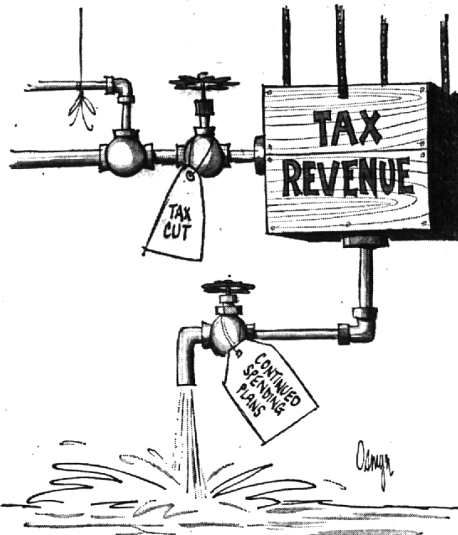
• A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press
Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Published every Thursday at
Birmingham, Mich., in The
Eccentric Building,
1225 Bowers Street
Telephone MlDwest 4-1100



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That 'White House Plumbing'



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

A Better Solution To School Problem?

This letter came in response to one from the Westchester Village Association printed here on Jan. 24. The association has since withdrawn its objections to the school board boundary proposals.

To the Editor:

If the residents of Westchester Village have a gripe, let them think a little about the plight of students in the Charing Cross and Hickory Heights area and take comfort.

Misery, 'tis said, likes company. We of the North Adams section should then be boon companions of Westchester Village for our misery is so much greater than theirs.

It all has to do with the new school zoning arrangement. Westchester teenagers, it seems, will have to go two whole miles to attend Groves High School.

Let it be known, the teenagers in our area will have, at the least, a five-mile trip to attend Groves—a trip which, in itself, is a long

haul for regular school attendance, but coupled with after-school activities becomes an endurance test for students and parent-drivers alike.

BUT THIS is not all. Derby School is within walking distance for most children in our area. But will we complain that they may have to walk along "a bumpy, muddy road" if they attend the new Valley Woods Junior High? Heavens, no! Would be "were" all!

We will, though, have a few words to say about the traveling they will have to do from North Adams to Valley Woods at Fourteen Mile Road and Lahser. Compare this with the walking distance for many of our children to Derby Junior High, the logical and, up to now, prescribed junior high for Harlan students.

AND WHAT of the value of our property? Are we no less to be considered because we preferred "the large trees and rolling land" mentioned by the Westchester Association? When it was found we (See SCHOOL, 5-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 7, 1913

When Lew Fields, of the new-reunited Weber & Fields, brings to the Garrick theatre for one week, commencing next Monday, Feb. 10, his jumble of jollification, "Hanky Panky," Detroit will have its first glimpse of a production which looks all recent at the Broadway theatre, New York, where it played over 150 nights.

Suffragette violence took a new form in London, when women, armed with slingshots, boarded the tops of omnibuses and hurled heavy leaden pellets against windows of stores, dwellings, clubs and officials buildings along the street. Each pellet was stamped "Votes for Women." A number of women were arrested and their weapons confiscated.

Although Governor Ferris is in favor of government ownership of railroads, and expressed an opinion that it would be a good thing for the state to purchase the property of the Pere Marquette, the constitution of Michigan is a barrier in the pathway of the chief executive along the lines of government ownership, and until that barrier is removed, it will be impossible for the state government to own or operate public utilities corporations.

(See HAPPENINGS, 5-B)

Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

No one paid me last summer for not raising carrots in our garden but that doesn't mean I'm against subsidies.

However, I can see the system extending itself until people get rich by the simple process of doing nothing in their spare time. By definition, such a period would be the off-hours left after idling away 40 hours per week for a substantial pay check.

There is some talk, for instance, of dismounting the mounted police in Detroit. I suppose the men would be put to work somewhere else and the animals put out to pasture. Still, if the horses are going to be supported for not supporting a policeman on his rounds, then we people are entitled to a deal, too.

INASMUCH AS I personally enjoy my job, I don't want to draw a paycheck for turning in blank pages but one of these days my boss might get wise and hire someone to replace me.

If I have to work somewhere else, I think I would prefer not running a computer to not ironing shirts in a laundry. However, I'm sure someone might be interested in paying me to stay away from teaching school or perhaps would be delighted if I forgot that I knew nothing about making up prescriptions.

AS A PLUMBER, I'm a complete dolt but I don't think they've gotten around to not using them yet. Perhaps I couldn't qualify anyway though I'm pretty absent-minded and they're

missing a good thing if they don't hire me to stay my distance.

There are other aspects of this subsidizing business that have been overlooked, too. I'd certainly appreciate some encouragement from the government in the matter of skipping my income tax provided they'll agree not to pay me my social security, come the day.

THERE ARE SOME areas, of course, where the absence of work is already evident, though what the pay situation is remains to be ferreted out. A couple of situations that come readily to mind involve such matters as chores that the small fry overlook or buttons that husbands insist wives have forgotten to sew on shirts.

As a matter of fact, there are some areas in which I would personally be willing to pay a small subsidy. Certain TV commercials fit into this category and are ideal for "no-pay" television.

STILL, AND ALL, the trend toward subsidies could become alarming. Imagine a world in which everyone did nothing and worked at a "no-job."

The prospects are particularly lousy when one imagines the lack of industry in bookkeeping departments where the help would be industriously failing to turn out paychecks.

They couldn't logically make out even their own checks despite the fact they were doing a good job of doing nothing.

Someone would fire them for working.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

Last year I wrote a column on the Department of Mental Health and particularly its director, Charles Wagz. I ended the column by saying that the then governor should tell him to "shape up or ship out."

Mr. Wagz recently offered a third alternative to the new governor.

He said he would like to step down as the director and take another job in the department.

Off hand, one would wonder why he would want to step down but remain with the department after the many years he has served as director. That is, you would wonder until you learned something about civil service in the state of Michigan.

CIVIL SERVICE came into being many years ago to eliminate the "spoils" system. In the early days of our country, every time a new head man was elected, he fired all the governmental employes and hired a new group which just happened to have supported him for election.

Experienced workers were replaced wholesale by political "hacks," and by the time the "hacks" became experienced, they were turned out by new political "hacks."

Then emerged a system whereby people could become professional governmental employes and not be subject to wholesale firing. It was hailed as the greatest step forward for improved government.

HOWEVER, if we look back, all we did was replace one "spoils system" with another. Instead of the Republicans or Democrats getting the spoils, now a third entity called the civil service commission has been given the spoils.

The way it works is this: A person wants a job with the state. He takes a written exam and an oral interview which are both weighed equally. The people who are rated highest by the examiners get the job.

But suppose a person takes the written test and scores 100 per cent. If the commission doesn't want him, he can flunk his oral and be out of the running. On the other hand, a high oral grade which is not checkable can easily offset a poor written exam.

ADD TO THIS system the fact that salaries under civil service jobs are not set by the legislature but by the civil service commission itself. So whether the state can afford it or not, the commission can and does raise salaries, which factor affects the general fund of the state.

This is where Wagz's move comes in. The director and his chief assistant of a department are not under civil service and their salaries are set by the legislature. The rest of each department is under civil service.

The civil service commission has now raised salaries to the point where there are several people in each department who get more money than the head man.

Thus, if Wagz steps down he will receive higher pay, have his responsibility and be protected from firing by civil service regulations.

Somewhere along the line civil service became the dog that ate his master.

By KEN WEAVER City Beat

When she attends the 70th annual Metropolitan Detroit YWCA meeting in Detroit on Feb. 16, Birmingham's mayor will renew acquaintances with another lady mayor.

Mayor Florence H. Willett is looking forward to meeting once again the mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico. She is Feilisa Rincon de Gautier.

It was two and a half years ago that the two women first met—during Mrs. Willett's first term as our mayor. They became quite good friends during a meeting of the American Municipal League in New York.

MAYOR de Gautier, reports Mayor Willett, has had for some time an "open door" policy for the public much like that of Gov. George Romney's. She has, day each week when the public can come in to her office to ask questions and discuss city affairs. She has been mayor of San Juan for six years.

Mayor de Gautier will be the luncheon speaker for the YW for its program in the Veterans Memorial Building on the 16th.

HAVE YOU noticed how careless some people are becoming about the English language?

Watch the big signs that spell out the names of commercial establishments, for instance. See how often they omit the apostrophe in possessive words.

Like: Johnsons Womens Apparel Shop and Jones Mens store.

The trend must be carrying over into letters now.

In the mail last week came a letter from the Young Men's Christian Association of Metropolitan Detroit. The letterhead hit me at once—there was no apostrophe between the "n" and the "s" in Men's.

IF MAN is singular and men is plural, then it stands to reason that anytime you have an "s" with either man or men, it must be possessive and therefore must have an apostrophe.

I suppose the people that prepare such things as name signs and letterheads figure that the general public won't notice such errors anyway.

This is a poor attitude, indeed. How much better it would be if they would think in terms of educating the public, of improving our means of communication rather than impairing them.

COMMENT OVERHEARD at the Michigan Press Association convention several days ago:

"When we write an editorial criticizing something, they say we're against everything; when we write one giving praise, they say we're for everything; when we write an explanatory piece, trying to explain both sides, we're called 'too middle of the roadish'."

Amén.