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Gov. George Romney is among six Republican governors who have accepted invitations to attend a GOP fund-raising dinner May 9 in Washington. The Senatorial Campaign Committee is sponsoring the dinner.

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## State Police Report Bad Checks Increasing

With no apparent slackening off in Michigan's estimated million dollars a month fraudulent check activity, the State Police in 1962 examined a record high number of 1,758 bad check specimens.

These were 20 more than the year before, and the amounts are increasing, according to Det. Sgt. Fred C. Kelly, head of the department's check fraud section at East Lansing headquarters.

The check specimens totaled \$123,855, or about 25 per cent more than \$99,450 in 1961. The average amount of the checks was \$70.45 compared with \$56.09 the year previous.

THE STATE POLICE receive for examination less than one per cent of the bad checks passed in Michigan each year.

It is on this basis that Sgt. Kelly figures the loss to Michigan merchants to be in the million a month range. Nationwide, he says, the estimated annual loss is about \$1 billion.

The State Police check fraud section, set up in 1948, has a card file of more than 47,000 bad

check passers, and this is added to at the rate of about 100 a week. It provides direct references for information needed by the State Police and other law enforcement agencies in combating the problem.

NOTING THAT bad check activity appears to increase with a rising economy, Kelly says this is due to carelessness in not knowing the endorser or failing to get proper identification.

Because stolen checks play a big part in the fraud problem, he urges that all checking materials and information be kept securely locked up when not in use.

### Training in Texas

Naval Aviation Cadet David B. Small, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Small of 24655 North Cromwell, Birmingham, is serving with Training Squadron 23 at the U. S. Naval auxiliary air station, Kingsville, Tex. Before entering the Navy in September, 1960, Small attended the University of Illinois at Urbana.

## Protestant Describes Bas Mitzvah Ceremony

By PATRICIA ANDERSON  
Special Writer

When I received an invitation to a Bas Mitzvah from a friend of mine, I was thrilled, and yet, being of Protestant faith, a little shy about attending.

I was thrilled because I had known Sarah, the young girl who was to be Bas Mitzvahed, ever since she was five. The Lieberman family had been neighbors of ours.

I felt shy, but remembering how free from bigotry the Liebermans always were, I thought there were bound to be other good friends there who were not Jewish and who were just as ignorant as I concerning a Sabbath service in a synagogue and the Bas Mitzvah itself.

In fact, the more I thought about it the more I found myself looking forward to the experience.

BUT I WAS NOT prepared for the joy of understanding I received.

I arrived early, and while waiting for the synagogue to fill, I read some of the words from the prayer book.

"May God give us strength for the coming week that we may be better able to live according to His law."

Why, the words were almost the same as in our prayer book. I had sat in one of the back rows on the aisle as I was to be "Pouring" at the Qnec Shabbat following the service and

would be one of the first to leave.

I even found I could join in the singing of some of the hymns as well as in Hebrew.

As the place started to fill up, I recognized a group of young people from our church in Southfield; also, Cannon Hughes from his own Episcopal church in Highland Park.

There were other teen-agers, some from Kingswood in Cranbrook I found out afterwards, classmates of Sarah's older sister.

TEARS CAME to my eyes twice during the service.

Seeing Sarah, small for her 13 years, standing before us and hearing her read the holy words from the Torah gave me somehow a renewed faith in all young people everywhere.

Her voice was clear, and we knew she was giving more than a reading. She was dedicating herself to a religious life in the Jewish faith.

One third of the congregation was not Jewish, and probably not one of us would ever embrace the faith. What were we doing here?

We were witnessing a sacred ceremony that involved friends of ours—people we knew as good neighbors.

We were witnesses to the differences, and these differences somehow brought us even closer together.

THE SERMON was based on the life of a great humanitarian: A Jew who had suffered at the hands of the gentiles, yet had spread tolerance and understanding throughout the world.

Now Sarah was facing her father who was speaking to her solemnly: "And you have, of your own free will, made the decision to dedicate your life to doing good deeds and helping others, with the help of God."

These may not have been the exact words but are close enough, I think.

I wiped away a second tear when the rabbi placed his hands over her head in blessing. This young woman suddenly, it seemed, had grown as tall as he.

AFTERWARDS, in the hall upstairs, the Oneg Shabbat had all the attributes of a lovely social gathering.

The warmth, the congratulations, the punch bowl and the absolutely beautiful daffodil and candle arrangement brought beams of pleasure and compliments, accompanied by the younger set's eagerness to sample all the different kinds of little cakes. The boys dressed in their best—boys always look more "dressed up" than girls.

I enjoyed my stint at the coffee urn because I could see the smiling faces as I handed them their cups, and I thought how good it was to see what had happened to all of us, for I'm sure I was not the only one who was enlightened that evening.

the globe. Amazingly, most of us swallowed this description of us in bewildered silence.

SIGNS POINT to a healthy change.

This new wind blowing about has been so long in coming. Let's not scare it away. Let's only welcome it and hope it'll put the word "status" right out of our vocabulary and off our printed pages. It should die at last.

For years, dozens of articles have been declaring that we Americans are driving each other mad with our ceaseless search for security status.

"The longer the car, the longer your house, the more trips you take, the more country club cards owned, the more maids you hire are the items you selfish American citizens stress," has been peddled all over

## Status Symbols Dying, According to Writer

By RUTH VOGT  
Special Writer

It's dying a definite death. The sooner the silly word "status" fades from our modern day vocabulary the better will most of us be able to breathe easier.

When a furrier was asked recently, "Do you think the new found sea offer fur piece will become a status symbol?" he sort of laughed, squirmed and answered in a vein as if he wished to see this thing killed and buried for good.

More and more does one wonder who actually builds up the image of the American woman.

DO WE ACT A certain way and then do our periodicals report it or do our written pages pour out what they think we're like and we then decide that we are exactly as they write?

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### Orthopedic Group To Hear Speaker

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The Tyler Orthopedic Parents Group will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Orthopedic Unit at Tyler School, Oak Park.

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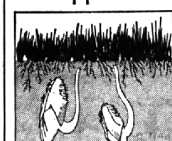
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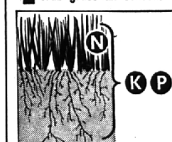
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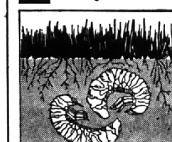
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