

Open Letter to Dave Breck

Dear Dave:

You have been one of our city commissioners now for almost three months. You were elected to that office not because 200 families or less from an area touching the south end of our business district got together and put you in, but because 3,393 residents of the city of Birmingham respected your judgment and admired your ability.

Honestly, you were elected because you worked the hardest of all the candidates. Apparently, you have some basic feelings as to how the city should direct its future actions, particularly in the field of downtown planning.

ONLY THE ALMIGHTY can judge whether your plans or the plans of some other interested party are the best for our community.

However, since you have been sitting on the commission you have engendered feelings of resentment which can't help but hurt our community.

If you want your plans to succeed, you

must win over the other members of the commission, not fight them.

As long as you represent the vocal but minority opposition you can never win a vote of the commission.

OUR COMMUNITY over the years has been noted for its progress. Progress only results from teamwork.

Teamwork does not mean that everyone has to forget his own ideas and follow the leader, but it does imply that each team member must give a little for the best interests of the group.

We realize that you campaigned on certain principles and want to see them adopted by the rest of the commission. We don't feel that the other commissioners are too far in variance with your desires; but you're not really giving them a chance, but you're not really giving them a chance.

We hope in your future years as a public servant that you achieve your goals, but we think you might be more successful if you bring the team up to your point of view, instead of driving them away by what can easily be interpreted as stubbornness and grandstanding.

Support Smoking Ban at Home

When it comes to prohibiting smoking in school, we submit that legislation alone will not accomplish enforcement.

Parental responsibility must be exercised. The authority of the schools must be backed up by the authority of the homes.

In recent weeks, both the Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham school boards have adopted written policies to deal with the problem of minors smoking in the schools. The motivation for the Hills' policy came from the students, themselves, via request from the student council. This is an encouraging sign; it indicates an acceptance by the students of the moral implications involved and of their own responsibility.

boards acted properly in establishing a program aimed at enforcing this law.

BUT HERE again, we submit that success cannot be fully achieved without supportive action on the home level.

Under the state law, minors ostensibly cannot obtain tobacco without parental consent; if smoking by children is deemed proper, then there should be some effort to alter the state law.

If, however, the community thinking is that this law and the schools' ban on smoking are correct legislation, they should be enforced in the homes. They should be just one more rule to be broken.

WE COMMENT the boards of education for their actions; they have taken positive steps to handle this problem. Their policies spell out clearly and emphatically what constitutes smoking and what punishments will be meted out.

That the boards were right and proper in banning smoking in the schools goes without question. Though there may be lack of agreement insofar as moral precepts are involved, there can be no denying the legal authority for such a move.

There is a state law that prohibits the sale of tobacco to minors. Certainly, the

TO IMPLEMENT and enforce their own ideas, parents need a community attitude. If that attitude is smoking bans are necessary and proper discipline, they should be obeyed. Otherwise, there will be flagrant violations.

To make the smoking policies fully effective, parents should support the authorities not only when it comes to smoking in school—but also in nonschool activities.

There must be an awareness of the problem and an acceptance of responsibility to deal with it in the family level. Only then can there be hope for complete success.

Big Cities Face 2 Serious Problems

Large cities like New York face two serious problems, racial discrimination and the flight of middle class families to the suburbs. This is the finding of New York's Community Service Society.

There are enormous gaps to be closed, says the Society, before equal rights in housing, education and employment can be obtained by minority groups. If the departure of the middle class continues, New York could become "a city of industrial parks, a few clustered islands of the well-to-do and a handful of large commercial

centers—all interlaced with blighted low-income neighborhoods."

CITIES WOULD be more apt to escape this destiny if they could regulate their own affairs. Sooner or later any step that a city wants to take necessitates the approval of the state legislature, a body controlled by rural voters, not only uninterested in city needs but often suspicious of them.

This dead end is a strong argument for the Department of Urban Affairs proposed by President Kennedy.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

We are wondering if Senator Barry Goldwater has hit on a new gimmick to catapult him toward the White House. He has been chewing the fat with citizens in all parts of the country on the ham radio circuit. Fairness dictates mention of Goldwater's claim that he first obtained a ham operator's license 40 years ago. Still, it seems suggestive that he resumed the hobby only recently. Whatever his motives may be, ham radio gives him a chance to have chatty little conversations with quite a few Americans in various parts of the country. This may be the best thing since FDR's freese chats. And it won't come entirely as a surprise if names such as Rockefeller and Romney show up on the ham radio license application lists.

The idea of greater harmony among divergent religious groups is sometimes equated with the concept of one Big Christian church encompassing all denominations. Such an all-inclusive church is

neither foreseeable nor, in the view of many religious leaders, particularly desirable. The idea detracts from the feasible and highly desirable goal of growing interfaith cooperation. There are many signs that such cooperation is increasing. Community dialogue groups in which Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders discuss religious and social issues are increasing. The fact of having a Catholic President has faded. The Vatican Ecumenical Council favors Catholic participation in interfaith activities. The differences that separate religious groups cannot hide the underlying unity of faith in a beneficent God with whom men can make contact. On this basis men of all faiths can work together in matters of common concern.

A new drug, cyncholine chloride dihydrate, holds promise for curing alcoholics. If it gains general acceptance, headline writers will be driven to drink.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Rules Against Smoking In School Draw Criticism

To the Editor:

It is good to read in the May issue of "Beard of Education Briefs" that the hazards of smoking to young people are to be dealt with.

The measures, as described, are to be entirely punitive and many people may say "high time." Such a view is short sighted.

The writer would like to comment from the viewpoint of an educator, the parents, the best interests of the students and the viewpoint of one who has seen intimately how smoking attacks both the lung tissue and morale.

Adolescents, especially resentful ones, are daring. The natural trouble-makers, the socially rejected show-offs and even a quota of new smokers could be expected. Tattling would not be the only problem borne by educators.

best introduced in no uncertain terms at an early impressionable age, and repeated at suitable intervals.

Theologic, historic and social-economic aspects should at appropriate times be taught. This would stimulate thought and discussion. Education should be vital, true.

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IN RELATION to suspension these facts should be considered: first, the type of student who would be furiously inclined to break the rule can often least afford to lose days and even months from school work.

Some few critics, fearing a shortage of jobs at graduation, would say of such a student "God will provide." No parents, such a student, or good teacher, would.

UNDER THE suspension plan many bitter arguments could be started in homes, especially where parents smoke; but under such an educational plan no thinking parent would find objection. Children's smugness need not be feared; they would gain in understanding and compassion.

The question about the inability of medicine to prove or disprove deterioration may be raised. It is a very good question to raise, and the subject should not be dropped there; one truth sometimes leads to another.

THE PROPOSED punitive measures in the Birmingham district are, briefly: if any student under 16 years is discovered to be in possession of, or using tobacco or exhaling smoke in any area on school property the student shall be subject to a three-day suspension for the first offense and five days for each offense thereafter.

Students over 16 years shall be subject to five days suspension for first offense, ten days suspension for second offense, (with parental consultation), third offense, suspension for the semester.

BECAUSE OF a poor education in regard to the use of tobacco from a psychological or moral viewpoint, the student has been led into error. Reasoning for a parent when ill at ease or confronted with a problem can become a habit. He learns the meaning of this too late.

The harassed parent, who would much prefer that a smoker should be dealt with as intelligently as possible.

Is the whole education process becoming not only too specialized and standardized but also enveloped in fear? Truth is a joy to the young mind, and then there are fewer legends.

HELEN GIDDINGS
Birmingham

EVEN A casual glance at these rules should bring to mind the mischief which could be created for teachers, higher personnel, individual students and parents.

THE PHYSICAL deteriorations caused by these things are

WE DON'T want to make the job for educators more difficult than it is. Suspension rules can only develop disrespect. This is a nervous, imitative age and smoking as a youth problem should be dealt with as intelligently as possible.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

It is not recommended that the readers of this column follow the example of the couple that will be given here.

But it is an interesting example of how a retired individual, who savvy about financial affairs can have his cake and eat it, too.

George J. Walton retired early, at 62. He and his wife wanted to move southward. They had an income of \$350 a month, and \$5,200 in savings. They had a good house and sold it for \$15,000.

They took \$4,000 of the savings, added it to the house money, and invested the \$19,000 in two high-grade common stocks. One of the stocks was currently yielding 4.8 per cent return, the other 5 per cent.

Both stocks were what is known as Blue Chips, and both had reasonable prospects of future growth in value.

There was usually a problem, too, of a retired man being able to get a mortgage.

The Waltons went to the leading bank in town, went in to see the president, and asked him how much money he would let them borrow on their \$19,000 of Blue Chip stocks and at what interest rate.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 27, 1913

The emperor of Japan signed the appointment of Gen. Gen. Sachibiko Kusunose as minister of war to replace Lieut. Gen. Kikochi. The impression prevails that the withdrawal of Gen. Kikochi is connected with the administration reforms, whereby, as a concession to the liberals, the ministers of war and the navy could be selected from the reserves.

THE WALTONS settled in their new town, rented an apartment for a while, then found a \$12,500 cottage they liked. Mortgage rates in the community were running about 6 per cent, and there were additional charges that went along with a mortgage—title insurance, special casualty insurance, fees, etc.

HE SAID 60 per cent of the current value of the stocks (some banks will loan up to 70 per cent) and at a rate of 4 1/2 per cent. It would be a collateral loan and there would be no fees or charges of any kind—just 4 1/2 per cent straight.

Sixty per cent of the \$19,000 came to \$11,400. The Waltons went back to the seller of the \$12,500 house and offered to give him \$11,000 CASH for the house and would close the deal in 24 hours.

The seller took it.

It may not be the costliest freight and passenger depot that the D.L.R. has, but certainly they have no prettier outfit anywhere on their lines than the one at Circle, to serve the fastidious tastes of their patrons in, around and among the Bloomfield Hills. It is an architectural beauty.

'Wonder If They'll Drive Safer This Year?'



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

A popular word used when trying to show what awful people "politicians" are is "junket."

Very few people know what is really meant by the word, but they visualize the white sands and blue waters of them. Then they become very rankled because a public servant is enjoying it and the people are paying for it.

Actually, the people in the know never call these trips "junkets"; they are interim study committees.

INTERIM STUDY committees are created because legislators should know something about a subject before passing laws on it. This includes studying school costs before voting on school aid, or studying judicial practices before changing procedure.

Every once in a while, these noble study committees end up studying their subject on beaches or on mountaintops. These are the exception, but they are the ones you hear about.

In our fair state these beach studies are used as rewards for legislators who have worked extra hard during a session.

THERE IS no justification for it, but it probably relates back to the compensation the legislature receives. Whether you are a good and conscientious legislator or one that shows up twice a month (on paydays) you still are paid \$7,000 a year.

Some legislators work the whole year, others devote as few days as possible. The interim study committee is this year we will have legislators going to Hawaii, Florida, California and probably all other points east and west.

These trips will be paid for by the taxpayers, and the taxpayers in the majority of cases will not get anything out of them.

BY THE SAME token we will have many more legislators visiting prisons, mental health facilities, state parks and so forth—all within the state—at a very little cost to the taxpayer and from which the taxpayer will receive considerable benefit.

The junkets should be eliminated, the study committees should not be. Where do you draw the line?

This situation does not only exist in state legislatures. Congress because of its wider scope is by far a bigger offender. At least the state officials must account for every penny they spend and these records are open to the public. This is not necessarily true of congressmen.

The situation will only be stopped when enough people who can't afford to take a trip to a beach or mountaintop start complaining. But then, that's how government works.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Can you imagine a housing development on top of Lake Michigan? Or on the bottom of it? Or out on top of the ocean? Or on the ocean floor?

It's possible in the accomplishments of man as he makes technological advances in the years ahead, believes Virgil LaMarre.

LaMarre, the man who directs community relations for that advertising agency at Woodward and Long Lake in Bloomfield Hills, suggested this possibility at lunch the other day.

YOU KNOW how it goes at these things: One idea leads to another.

I described to LaMarre my concept of eventual one-rule, one-check government for man, which led to comment on the population explosion and birth control.

This then led to speculation on colonization of other planets. Something will have to be done eventually to alleviate the overpopulation of the earth, LaMarre opined.

WOULD SUCH a movement be a voluntary one, or would governments have compulsory programs? Would entire families be sent or would they be split up?

Would fast commuter systems be available to make frequent interplanetary visits possible, or would people have to face the prospect of never seeing certain relatives again?

Will televised communications be perfected to the point that people can at least see their friends and relatives on screen as they talk to them via space-distance telephone? Imagine what kind of rates would be involved!

LaMARRE OFFERED this possibility for consideration:

A man leaves earth for a visit to a planet that is 50 years away. He is placed in a state of preservation so that when he arrives he is of the same age and health as when he left.

He spends one day on the planet, then makes the 50-year return trip to earth. When he arrives here, everything is 100 years older—yet he is the same age as when he left!

CAN YOU, then, picture a housing development out in the middle of the ocean—or on Mars or Venus or Saturn or Neptune? Can you imagine a 100-year journey into space?

"Why do men risk life and limb in the effort to reach the top of Mt. Everest—or engage in other feats that endanger their lives?" is a question that many people ask. Well, only those who have risked themselves in some endeavor can answer exactly and in convincing detail. But aren't such risks just proof of the universal fact that there is within most of us a motivation for achievement—be it but a small one? Aren't many people who drive their cars recklessly and those who madly rush into traffic risking life and limb? Perhaps climbing a mountain is more challenging, more dramatic than normal, everyday risks—perhaps it is the challenge that tempts the mountain climber, who in other activities of life is quite careful—who never would drive recklessly or risk becoming a pedestrian traffic statistic.

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