

\$1 Billion Collected In Michigan Gas Taxes

Michigan is among some 22 states which have collected more than \$1 billion in gasoline taxes since the levy was imposed. The first imposition of a state gas tax in the nation occurred in 1919. Since then states have collected an estimated \$62.7 billion from this lucrative source of income. Michigan first imposed a tax for the privilege of using highways in 1925. The current state levy is 6 cents per gallon. Farmers and governmental units get all the tax they pay back, however, and 1.5 cents of the levy is refunded to bus companies operating under a municipal franchise.

THE INCOME remaining is divided, with 47 per cent going into the state motor vehicle highway fund, 35 per cent to counties, and 18 per cent to cities and villages for road maintenance and construction.

During the last completely reported fiscal year Michigan took in more than \$155 million in gas taxes and refunded some \$7.5 million of this to farmers, bus companies and governmental agencies.

Societies

(Continued from 7-B)

United States approved the resolution of the University of Mississippi making the law applicable prospectively only, and refused the contention of the complainant that the statute violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution. The Court did not make the same distinction between exclusion and expulsion of members of secret societies, as had been previously considered important by the majority of the court. Thus, most high-school anti-fraternity cases have followed the Mississippi decision of the Supreme Court regardless of distinguishing details, and all decisions have upheld rules banning high school fraternities, except one—a Missouri case which considered the prohibitory rule "unjust discrimination unsupported by right or reason."

Unquestionably, the state and federal constitutions impose limitations upon the power of the legislature or the school boards. If, for example, a pupil were expelled from school for failure to pay for a window pane he had broken, such expulsion, and the regulation imposing it, probably would be set aside by the court as unjust discrimination.

IN ANOTHER case, a distinction was made between college and high school students: "Normal schools and colleges are attended by students who are preparing for the serious affairs of life and, being older in years and with wider experience, are better fortified to withstand any possible harmful influence attendant upon membership in secret societies and clubs, than younger pupils attending elementary and secondary schools who are less experienced and more impressionable."

Thus the opinion is widespread, and all authorities seem in accord, that secret societies in the public schools have a deleterious effect upon the young and immature mind. School discipline suffers by reason of their existence.

No court, therefore, could with a good show of reason deny the validity of a statute declaring such societies illegal.

AS WAS said in the Steele v. Sexton case, the student cannot willfully set at naught measures necessary for the discipline and welfare of the schools simply by invoking the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution (which reads in part: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.")

And if, as has repeatedly been decided, a student may be expelled for violating a valid school regula-

tion, he may be denied special honors, such as credits, prizes and the diploma. It can hardly be said that the penalty is so arbitrary and unreasonable as to deny the plaintiff the principal case (Steele v. Sexton) the rights guaranteed him by the Constitution.

IF THERE were a contrary decision to the general trend of cases, the reasoning no doubt would take the form expressed by Judge Potter speaking for the dissenters in the Steele v. Sexton case when he said:

"The principles involved are far-reaching. This legislation goes beyond the legitimate sphere of state regulation . . . Public education has its legitimate sphere, but the child, except when in school or on his way to or from there, is not under control of school authorities. The credits which a pupil has earned are valuable. . . These credits are property. This law arbitrarily interferes with the sphere of individual liberty guaranteed by the Constitution. . ."

But statutes or school board rules do make membership unlawful and refuse diplomas, credit for school work, or participation in extra-curricular activities as the penalty for violation. In some instances suspension or expulsion is authorized as a penalty. Several states exempt societies which are permitted by the school board. In all cases, except the mentioned Missouri rule, these prohibitions were sustained by courts.

SINCE THE basis of the ban on membership in secret societies has been wide and varied, and since the prohibitory rules which have been challenged differ considerably, generalization is dangerous. Each decision considered only the rule and penalty of the particular case in which it was challenged, and the basis upon which is was challenged.

In Michigan, as the 5-3 split decision of the Supreme Court indicates in Steele v. Sexton, and despite the overwhelming authority backing the legislation prohibiting secret societies in the high school,

imply that if this were a case of clear expulsion the justice and others might possibly feel differently about the merits of the action taken.

An administrator in Michigan need not be hesitant about refusing credits or a diploma, for that was expressly affirmed in Steele v. Sexton.

Above all, the important point to remember is that: Administrators have a duty to the State, as expressed by statute, to distinguish secret societies. This regulation is supported by fines ranging up to \$100 for each offense upon com-

missive or omissive administrators. The existence of the prohibitory laws are a useful weapon, but no administrator can rely upon the courts alone to eradicate the problem.

The best and most permanent solution to any high school fraternity-secretory problem lies in an educational reorientation of the school agents—that is, the parents, the school and the community.

From 75 to 80 per cent of all lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society, is associated with cigaret smoking.

Carnegie Is At Travis AFB

First Lt. William A. Carnegie of Lathrup Village arrived at Travis AFB, Calif., last week for assignment with a Military Air Transport Service unit following a tour of duty in Libya.

Lt. Carnegie, a pilot, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie of Lathrup Village.

He received his B. S. degree from the U. S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

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