

Court Candidates Endorsed

The election is but two and a half weeks away. It has been the policy of this paper to endorse candidates for public office in the issue two weeks preceding the election.

This year we are faced with two problems. The first is that never before have the Michigan voters faced so many candidates in a single general election, and it is not possible for us to adequately comment on all the offices in one week.

The second problem is that without the Detroit newspapers to remind people who is running, we found during the primary election that our issue two weeks before an election apparently was not still around the house when people wanted to use it as a reference, and its value was somewhat diminished.

TO SOLVE these problems we are going to discuss the candidates for the two important court races and the Massachusetts ballot this week and treat the other federal, state and county offices next week.

Though it is a break with our normal policy we think it will better accommodate our readers.

As for the courts, we are faced with two elections. In Oakland County we must elect three circuit judges; two of them to fill new posts created last year by the legislature and one to fill a vacancy created by Judge Russel Holland's resignation.

GOV. ROMNEY appointed three men to serve in these capacities until this election.

One is Arthur E. Moore, the outstanding probate judge for this county for many years.

The other two are former presidents of the Oakland County Bar Association, Philip Pratt and James Thorburn.

All three are such outstanding candidates that we recommend to the voters that these three men be returned to office. We are indeed fortunate that we have men of this caliber willing to perform the duties of this office.

THE OTHER court with which the voters must be concerned Nov. 3 is the new Court of Appeals. We are running a

news feature and map about the function and geographic jurisdiction of this court in our news pages this week. (See Section A).

This court will permit all cases heard in circuit courts to be reviewed for error by a higher court. Before the statute creating this court was passed this year, crowded conditions permitted only some cases to be appealed, thereby depriving some citizens of the right to have decisions reviewed.

The importance of this election is that this will be the only time the entire court is elected at one time. Since incumbency in judicial posts is tantamount to election in most cases, whoever is elected at this time will probably have that position for life.

WE FEEL that three of the six candidates stand out. These are three of the four candidates we preferred in the primary.

Timothy Quinn, from Caro, and Louis McGregor from Flint are both well known circuit judges. They are experienced and enjoy the highest of reputations among members of the bench. They have earned promotion.

The third candidate we endorse is Oakland County's state senator, Farrell E. Roberts, who is presently chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Roberts has served our county well and we feel he is qualified for the court.

We have not endorsed Beverly Hills resident Thomas Kavanagh, who led in the primary voting.

ON MANY occasions on this editorial page, we have complained about the type of justice meted out by labor-dominated courts. We see this daily in the decisions of our state supreme court.

Mr. Kavanagh is one of labor's two endorsed candidates.

The two elections we have discussed are important to us as citizens of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

They are both nonpartisan and voters many times forget to vote this part of the voting machine because they are not part of the straight party ticket.

We hope our readers investigate the candidates for these offices and remember to vote for their choices.

The Role of 'Mrs. Suburbia'

On Page 1-C of our paper today, we carry an announcement of the 1964 Suburban Homemaker of the Year contest. The deadline for entering is midnight this Saturday.

We consider it a worthwhile program to cosponsor with the Suburban Press Foundation, of which this newspaper is a member. The purpose of the contest is to pay sincere tribute and recognition to the important role of the suburban homemaker in today's pattern of living.

The role of "Mrs. Suburbia" has developed along with the growth since World War II of the suburban type of community and the suburban community newspaper.

THIS IS as true in Birmingham, Mich., as it is in other suburban areas across the nation. The suburban homemaker has assumed an increasing role in the community, which we feel the local newspaper has a responsibility to recognize and report.

Suburban citizens—"Mrs. Suburbia" included—have come to depend on their hometown paper to keep them informed on local government, needs, responsibilities and achievements.

Today, suburban journalism is the fastest growing segment of the newspaper world. It is setting the pace in modern journalism. It offers a leadership that cannot be found elsewhere. It is helping to give direction to suburban development.

WE FEEL it is particularly fitting, therefore, that suburban newspapers from one end of our country to the other are joining together to recognize the vital role of the homemakers in a changing world.

The growth of suburbia has meant that homemakers have had to "grow" too, as the complexity of their responsibilities has broadened. They are to a large extent responsible for the kind of community in which their families live.

We invite all of our readers to join us in the search for the Birmingham-Bloomfield area Suburban Homemaker of the Year. We see her as the woman who can be depended upon to respond to the emergencies of our complacent suburban life.

SHE IS an example of the development of the many facets of suburban living which challenge the suburban community newspaper to rise to the demands of the journalistic profession.

With the Suburban Homemaker of the Year, her family comes first; yet she realizes that her family does not exist in a vacuum, that she has a responsibility to her community as well as to her family and to herself.

The Birmingham Eccentric, your suburban community newspaper, recognizes the importance of "Mrs. Suburbia" and invites you to fill out the Official Entry Blank now with the name of the woman you believe best qualifies for this title in our community.

All Even in This Poll



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

School Bus Driver Displays Kindness

To the Editor: The following is a copy of a letter I sent to Dr. John Blackhall Smith, superintendent of the Birmingham Public Schools:

Dear Doctor Smith: Too often people write you only when they have some criticism and don't think to write when they have a compliment. I had such an outstandingly pleasant experience recently I felt you should know about it.

My first grade daughter came home from school in tears because she had picked up the wrong paper bag on the school bus—an empty lunch sack, not her own sack which two little dolls brought to her from Holland by her grandparents. She had taken the dolls to school for "show and tell." I immediately went to the bus garage to see if anything could be done.

The bus supervisor, Mr. Harvey Vachon was most kind and helpful. He told me the time the bus driver would check in and said he would post a note for him about the lost dolls. I came back at the time the driver, George Smyrl, was to check in.

MR. SMYRL, having read Mr. Vachon's note, had already checked his bus for an axail. I explained to him the dolls were in a brown paper sack and were prized highly by my daughter.

As that, he recalled he had seen a child pick up a sack and carry it off the bus. I then assumed the dolls were gone and told them both I appreciated all they had done.

I added that the dolls weren't

valuable intrinsically, just sentimentally, and they should not be concerned—we'd all done the best we could. Mr. Vachon asked for my name and telephone number in case anything turned up.

ABOUT AN hour later Mr. Vachon telephoned. He reported Mr. Smyrl, on his own time with his own car, had retraced his route to the point where he recalled the child having carried a sack off the bus. He looked around the stop and there he found the sack with the dolls.

I feel Mr. Smyrl showed exceptional kindness and a willingness to go beyond his duty. Because he didn't want a little bit hurt and disappointed, he had used his own time and gasoline to hunt for her lost dolls.

My husband and I are very grateful for this and pleased to know that we have men of the caliber of Mr. Vachon and Mr. Smyrl serving our school system.

The transportation our children are provided is too often taken for granted. The responsibility these bus drivers shoulder is great and is certainly not borne under the best of circumstances—69 exuberant youngsters in the back seat.

I for one want to thank them for the job they are doing and especially Mr. Smyrl for his extra thoughtfulness and consideration.

MRS. JAMES W. HARRIS  
1950 Latham  
Birmingham

MORE LETTERS  
IN SECTION BB

Vote 'Yes' on 'Massachusetts'

The first question faced by a voter on Nov. 3 will be: REFERENDUM ON ACT 240 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 (MASSACHUSETTS BALLOT).

Shall Act 240 of the Public Acts of 1964 be approved? This act eliminates a straight party ticket and requires a separate vote for each candidate voted for and which provides that in General Elections, candidates' names shall be grouped under office titles (Massachusetts-Type Ballot) rather than under party headings (present system).

The issue is simple. Under the present system a person can pull one lever or mark one "X" and vote for all partisan political offices.

He need not know who is running for office or, more importantly, what the qualifications of the candidates are.

ALL HE has to do is find the picture of a former president who is most appealing and make one move.

Seventeen states in our nation, practically an even split between Democrat- and Republican-dominated states, have said we want our people to know who they are voting for. We think that indirect voting is not democratic. This so-called "Massachusetts Ballot,"

or "People's Ballot," bill was passed by the state legislature with this same reasoning. Why, then, are the people being asked to vote on it?

The answer is easy. One minority special interest group feels that it is not fair to make the people know whom they are voting for. To demand intelligence from the voter is to deprive him of voting rights, in their view. This special interest group, organized labor, circulated the great mass of petitions needed to put it on the ballot.

THE OPPONENTS of the bill say it is a partisan issue. This is not what the Democrats in Massachusetts say.

The proponents of the bill say that it is the only real way for the most qualified man to be elected, regardless of party.

The Republicans don't always pick the best men, nor do the Democrats. The present system allows a party to put a popular man at the top of the ticket and let all of the other candidates, whether they be qualified or unqualified, ride his coattails into office.

We feel the most important thing for our state and nation is that the most qualified men be elected to public office. This can best be effectuated by voting "YES" on the above question.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



I attended the announcement party last week for the proposed new tennis house across from Berz Airport, and frankly I think it's a great idea.

For many years I have heard about teen-agers getting into trouble in this fair community because they don't have enough to do.

The same relative lack of facilities for teen-agers is true for us older men. What can you do in the winter in the way of exercise to keep at your summer fighting weight?

WHEN THE 'Y' STARTED a drive last year to improve its facilities, I pitched in because the plans included a health club for the oldsters.

When the funds collected didn't amount to enough to take care of the kids and adults alike, naturally I went along with the decision that the facilities for the kids came first.

But that still leaves the businessman with little opportunity to shed winter pounds unless he plays squash at the BAC or spends a couple evenings a week bowling. And much as I like bowling, I find the afterlife puts no more weight than the exercise takes off.

TENNIS IS ON its way back. Ten years ago, our community had two public courts; now we have 20.

Part of this is due to the increased interest in physical fitness.

In half an hour of tennis you get more exercise than in a 3 1/2-hour round of golf.

This tennis house will be unique for our state. The only other facility that could claim to be an indoor tennis club in Michigan is a one-court, leaky-roofed building that has trouble maintaining 30 degrees heat in the winter, situated in a suburban community on the east side of Detroit.

I'M EXCITED ABOUT the new club because it will give our community another reason to puff out its chest, along with golf courses like Oakland Hills and swimming teams like Seahawk's.

It might also help me convince my family when the cold winter breezes blow that Michigan is still a great place in which to live.

I hope they hurry up and build the court.

I'm ready, go ahead and serve.



City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

If the election were today, I believe I would vote for Barry Goldwater for president.

A few weeks ago, I would have said Lyndon Johnson.

It's that kind of election this year for many of us, I guess. The choice is not an easy one.

In 1960, I voted for Richard Nixon because I had met him twice and felt I knew him and what to expect of him much better than I did John F. Kennedy.

With Mr. Goldwater I believe there is an opportunity to branch out into a different direction. There is also an apprehension, to be sure, born out of extreme views and declarations that were later proved based on misinformation.

WITH MR. Johnson there has been a feeling of continuity of government; there's a sense of security in staying with him.

But in my opinion he is basically the same type of president we have had the last 31 years. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman all followed, generally, the path cut by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Of them, Mr. Kennedy was probably the most promising—because of his cultural assets and his great ability.

Mr. Roosevelt embarked us on the sea of socialism. He started us in a different direction at a time in our history when it was imperative to do so. His programs thus were suited to the times; but those times have long passed.

WITH THE Rooseveltian type of government has come a false economy, based largely on the threat of war and the maintenance of a huge military force. A consequence has been stronger governmental controls.

Mr. Johnson, in my mind, is of the same ilk as his predecessors. The same can be said of his running mate, Hubert Humphrey—only more so.

I think the time has come once again for a change, to halt the controls and powers of the national government, to free our young people from the threat of military service, to let the people have the kind of laws they want and not what certain moralists in office think they should have.

MR. GOLDWATER, I believe, will give us a new direction to our government; he will lead us into greater self-governing and less centralized governing.

His conviction of the value and strength of the free enterprise system cannot be questioned. And I am reminded that through the years I have felt that more good can be acquired through this system than through socialized government.

Mr. Goldwater believes in less government and less spending by government.

So do I.

IT HAS LONG been my conviction that the American people have lost the ruggedness that characterized them as a young nation; that they have not only lost some of the fundamental freedoms but also an understanding of them and the desire to retain them.

Mr. Goldwater would, I believe, help us to regain that understanding and, consequently, the freedoms.

He cannot do it alone, of course. No man can. He cannot effect this change in our direction as a nation overnight, of course. But he can initiate the change.

AS TO THE fear that he arouses, it must be remembered (See CITY BEAT, 3-B)

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