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What Teens Think

The Michigan State Chamber of Commerce sponsored a high school symposium on economics for representatives of all Dickinson County high schools at the Dickinson House in Iron Mountain this week. There were more than 150 senior students — boys and girls — faculty members and businessmen in attendance. The meeting was an experiment of sorts as the previous ones have been for college students. These held in the U.P. have been at Michigan Tech and at Northern Michigan University. Iron Mountain High School makes economics a required subject, the others don't. A faculty member at one of the other high schools said: "How can we crowd all the things that we should teach into our curriculum?"

Even when study of economics is required there is no sure magic of student understanding of the subject in desirable depth. It is complex, it is changing, many teachers are not equipped to give much more than what's in the text, and the serious-minded student may despair about class attitude.

Some students were very complimentary about their economics teachers. (They were lucky: like any student with a superlative teacher.) Some said their economics textbook should have had a year's study and got only one semester. They touched only the mountaintops. Some took American history instead of economics; they skipped even some of the mountaintops of economics.

There will never be a perfect curriculum or studies needs change and students differ but the young people at the symposium gave the clear impression that they regarded some knowledge of economics as necessary for good citizenship. "Otherwise how can people know how to vote?" as one student asked.

Organizations like the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and the Dickinson County Area Chamber of Commerce which co-sponsored the symposium urge the teachings of economics because business is heavily regulated by government. Unless people know about their dependence upon business and what it has done to enrich them and the nation, they may impair its ability to serve them. They may do this by their vote on issues involving economics (and most all of them do), by their investments, their purchases, their attitudes toward business.

Richard Paull of Hibbing, Minn., editor of the Hanna Miner, said in that the American industrial system has made Americans the richest people in the world. They compose only a seventh of the world population but they own 46 per cent of the world's electric power generation, 72 per cent of the automobiles, do more than 80 per cent of the world's air travel.

Yet they harbor some foolish ideas about this system which has made America so affluent. They think, averagely, that business keeps a lot more of its earnings than it does. The average American, polls indicate, said Paull, thinks that the division of earnings is about 75 per cent to the industry and 25 per cent to the workers. The actuality in compensation and profits is that the workers get 94 per cent, and the remaining six per cent of profits and compensation goes four per cent to the stockholders who earn the business and two per cent is retained in the business. Laborers get 24 times as much in pay as owners do in dividends.

The high school students wanted to know the answers to some serious questions.

Is war industry interested in enlarging the war? If the answer were yes, America would be in dire trouble. It isn't yes; most industries supplying war material aren't "war" industries. The big flap over Dow Chemical's napalm was about a product that represents a tiny part of its product line.

Should there be compulsory arbitration to end labor disputes? No. Strikes are bad, but stifling governmental bureaucracy to end them may be even worse. Implement labor-management negotiations by good will and good structuring of the issues.

Can our natural resources supply economic growth in the future? You betcha! There are huge reserves of minerals and renewable resources like the forests are better than ever. The BIG problem is not natural resources, but human resources. As one student said: "If we don't solve those problems we won't need any iron ore."

Aren't small businesses in trouble? Yup, some of them. But there's more business, more profit, more failures than ever before. The trend is toward business, but even in the prime example of the auto industry the biggies live on hundreds of small businesses which supply parts and services.

More knowledge about our economic system will create more respect for it and more protection, and it create some. The public buys its products and benefits from their excellence and economy.

Peninsula Perambulator

Approval of three-quarters of a mill tax for education of handicapped children will be asked by the Menominee County Intermediate School District Board of Education at the June 11 election. It is estimated that about 500 children out of 6,467 students in the district should be receiving some type of special education.

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A. J. Schupp, Iron Mountain police chief, has warned pedestrians that his department is starting an immediate crackdown on persons failing to heed the "walk" and "wait" signs at posted intersections. Also, he stressed that motorists are required to stop for anyone walking in a cross-walk when the "walk" sign is in the pedestrians' favor.

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A budget of $10,000 was approved for 1968 operations by the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce. Directors were told by Norma Hedrick, secretary-manager, that letters seeking information about the Straits area are being received from all over the United States.

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Seventy-six men have been called back to work at the Drummond Dolomite plan on Drummond Island to begin routine maintenance and repair work in preparation for the coming shipping season. Remaining workers will be called back when stripping and milling operations begin. Assistant Plant Manager Jerry Gabel said that April 15 is the general target date for starting work at the stone crushing mill, but that, as always, weather will be the determining factor. Stockpiles of crushed stone on hand are quite low this year, he added.

From The Journal Files

60 Years Ago

—Marquette—

Rehearsals of "Breezy Point," three-act comedy to be given at The city hall tomorrow night, have been held daily and indications point that the play, which will be presented by 13 members of the Osiris Society of the Normal school, will be one of the hits of the season. Mrs. Eulie Rushmore is directing preparations for the production. Characters will be enacted by the following persons: Mabel Taylor, Florence Markham, Ellen Shea, Nellie Butts, Olive Carrigan, Agnes Hamel, Clara Nebel, Thomastine Ball, Delphine Mayer, Elizabeth Green, Marie Deasy, Yvonne Parkinson and Mary Templeton.

A large crowd attended the ski jumping contests on Peterson hill in Skandia. The slide was in fairly good condition. John Burling won first prize with 166 points, his long-jump being 62 feet, and Albin Burling won second prize and the special award for the longest standing jump. Carol Johnston took third place and Ole Evenson fourth.

—Ishpeming—

Thomas Roberts, of the Bank Street alleys, won by 59 points five games of a 10-game match with Elmer Mitchell, of Negaunee, at the alleys here. The scores were T. Roberts, 851; E. Mitchell, 792.

About 50 Republicans of the Tenth ward attended an organization meeting and elected the following officers: President, Arsene Nault; first vice president, Harry Matthews; second vice president, Thomas Symons; secretary, William Nault; assistant secretary, John Ayotte; treasurer, Thomas Marshall; committee on membership, Thomas Symons, Arsene Nault, Louis Engen, William Stanbury, Henry Johnson, Eli Lafferiere, Patrick O'Connell, Clifford Ayotte and Harry Mathews; committee on arrangements, D. J. Evans, Nathaniel Rowe, Adelor Lefferiere, William Parsons, William Roberts, James Harris, P. J. Sullivan, Thomal Marshall and William Nault.

—Negaunee—

S. S. Thomas, the E. Iron St. man, and S. J. Collins, who conducts a market on Jackson St., whose names have been mentioned in connection with local offices, say they are not seeking the nomination for aldermen against present members of the council in their wards.

A new baseball team that should give a good account of itself has been organized. It is composed of members of "The Bunch" Club, and in the lineup are several old players. Everett Sperley and John Curley, the Pioneers' battery, will be the pitcher and catcher, and T. Hogan will hold down first base. The remainder of the lineup: F. Winter, second base; Russell Siva, third base; A. Lemmer, left field; H. Choquette, right short; Charles Wasmuth, left field, and W. Edwards, right field.

30 Years Ago

—Marquette—

In connection with the circulating of petitions on the proposal to amend the state constitution to extend the terms of office of county clerk, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, treasurer and registrar of deeds to four years, statistics relative to the length of terms of these officers in other states have been received by Lloyd LeVasseur, Marquette County clerk.

C. J. Dimmer, assistant Marquette fire chief, and Ray Lawrence, of the Front St. station, plan to leave Saturday afternoon for Detroit to attend the fire department instructor training conference, being held under auspices of the state board of control for vocational education, from March 21 to 26, inclusive.

Tests made last fall indicate that the 1938 horde of grasshoppers in this section will be larger than in previous growing seasons and plans are being made by L. R. Walker, Marquette County agricultural agent, to assist farmers in combating the crop-destroyer.

—Ishpeming—

Fire starting shortly after 2:30 this morning destroyed the Utberg store, Sheldon M. Hocking store, Impiltoro barber shop of the Mining Journal and the Star department store, the latter owned by the Rev. K. V. Mykkanen. The damage was estimated this afternoon at approximately $35,000.

—Negaunee—

Troop 22, Boy scouts, under direction of Fritz Wanberg, was awarded first place in the annual district first aid contest held Thursday evening in the gymnasiums of the Negaunee high and the Central Grade schools.

Seniors dominated the honor roll for the first period of the second semester, released today by the Negaunee High School principal, R. B. Gilmour. More than a third of the 39 students on the roll were twelfth graders, many of whom carried five subjects.

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'Maybe It's Because We Don't Speak The Language'

Andrew Tully:

Proposed Draft Changes

WASHINGTON—Some good minds on Capitol Hill have been having thoughts about the Selective Service system lately, and one of the more distinguished thinkers is Sen. Joe Clark, D-Pa., who would place compulsory military service "where it belongs — after high school, but before college."

Clark's proposal is not new, but it is important because it comes from a man who has been studying the problem for several years as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and as chairman of the Senate Manpower Subcommittee. The latter group held a series of hearings on the manpower implications of the draft last year, and between times Clark has interested himself in a legislation to provide jobs — job training for the hard-core unemployed.

Because of this exposure to the overall problem, Clark's ideas for revising the draft law merit more attention than they have received. Unfortunately, however, he has had to compete for attention with Sen. Teddy Kennedy, who has just dropped a draft reform bill into the hopper, and a Kennedy can capture a headline merely by blowing his nose.

Drafting youths after high school, says Clark, would "make the draft fair, as it has not been, by treating all our young men equally. The time of graduation from high school is probably the best time — if there can be a best time — for such an interruption in their lives."

This is true, of course, whether or not a boy plans to go on to college. It is just as important to a young man learning how to pump gas or fix a TV set to be free of the worry of being drafted as it is for a scholar planning to go on to the perhaps headier career of a nuclear scientist or a U. S. Senator.

Eliminating Confused Point

Moreover, Clark's proposal would eliminate what he calls the "clouded and complex issue" of educational and occupational deferments. No such deferments would be available — period.

Thus the son of a family on welfare would be placed on equal footing with the boy whose father can afford to send him on to college. In the sense that this penalizes the father who has saved for years to send his son to college, this may not be ideal, but under the circumstances there is no alternative. Military service is an obligation, not a penalty to be imposed on the poor.

Besides, there would be advantages for the boy who hoped to go on to college. Once he enrolled in that college his military service — or his period of eligibility for it — would have passed. He could also qualify for a free education under the Cold War GI Bill of Rights.

Teddy's Plan

Kennedy's bill would have Congress totally revamp the draft law. Like Clark, Kennedy would have the youngest taken first, but he has offered an ingenious proposal in regard to college deferments. Kennedy would leave the decision up to the student by permitting him to choose to be exposed to the draft after turning 19 or after he either completed college or dropped out.

Neither Clark nor Kennedy are buying immediately the wishful thinking that the draft can be abolished forthwith and replaced with an all-volunteer army. Those who suggest this, says Clark, should remember that the price tag would be roughly $4.5 billion a year. Kennedy in effect pigeonholes the idea by suggesting a government study of its costs and feasibility.

The discouraging aspect of the whole business is that it will be up to Congress to make the proposed changes in the draft law, and Congress has shown little interest in making improvements. Indeed, last year it did some perfunctory tinkering with the law and succeeded only in strengthening the status quo.

(Bell-McClure Syndicate)

Hal Boyle:

Class In Double Talk

NEW YORK (AP) — The class in double-talk will please call in the Junior Executive Suite." It has a pull-out bed under the refrigerator.

"If you don't mind my saying so, professor, I thought that was the most interesting lecture you've given all this semester." If I flunk your course, Mr. Lamebrain, my sorority will never initiate me.

"I wouldn't marry him if he were the last man on earth." He's already got a wife anyway.

"If it is of any encouragement to you, I don't mind letting you know right now that I have mentioned you in my will." I had to leave my debts to somebody.

"Haven't you been losing a little weight lately, George?" Boy, this guy is really putting it on. He must eat with a shovel.

"I was just passing through town and thought I'd surprise you with a call." Every other girl I phoned either didn't answer or already had a date.

"It's such a nice night out, Millicent, it might be more pleasurable if we walked." If this dame thinks I'm going to spend the rest of my life renting taxicabs for her, she's out of her mind.

apartments in the building. We

Editor's Mail

(Contributions are invited. Letters should be limited to less than 500 words. Only signed letters will be considered for publication. Personal attacks on individuals will be eliminated.)

Academic Freedom

Editor, Mining Journal:

When McClellan and academic freedom go to court nothing less than civilization itself goes on trial.

Values live in the minds of men, not on scraps of paper. If our youth is ever stopped from looking for the truth — not allowed to look in all directions — civilization will die. Kill academic freedom and you kill man. In the classrooms of the world right now man's future is being determined. He could linger on for a while without it — in a stone age culture.

Of those people listed in the Saturday, March 2, Mining Journal as supporting the president and board of control's version of academic freedom, about one-fourth are current Northern classroom instructors. Most of the undoubtedly have good reasons for supporting the administration. Of the rest, about half don't or never did have any responsibility for a classroom. Of those who were former Northern instructors, the names that weren't there stand out the strongest.

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Side Glances

"In the good old days all the moon had an effect on was romance and the tides. Now it's TAXES, too!"

Joseph Alsop:

Real Heat On Rep. Mills

WASHINGTON — In the difficult matter of tax increases, the real heat on the all-powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee comes from a quarter that few persons suspect.

Rightly or wrongly—and almost certainly wrongly—Wilbur Mills began by setting his face against tax increases at this time. Mills has recked little of the President talking about "fiscal responsibility," of the leaders of the Treasury and Federal Reserve warning of "inflation," and of the business leaders saying all the same things. But when danger to the dollar is mentioned, a serious quickening of the chairman's pulse is now visibly detectable.

This latter is becoming a more and more serious subject. Last week, sparked as usual by French-planted rumors of a future change in the $35 gold price, another brisk run on gold began. Momentarily, the pound sterling fell slightly below its pegged value. The dollar itself was under heavy pressure. Advice (and expensive) measures had to be taken to restore order to the money markets.

'Worse May Come Later On'

Repeatedly, moreover, Mills has been warned that much worse may come later on, unless the U. S. "demonstrates fiscal responsibility by passing the tax bill." His standard reply has always been that it is up to the President to demonstrate fiscal responsibility by cutting spending. But that does not get around the fact — and Mills reluctantly admits this — that the tax bill has acquired a near-dire symbolic significance to the people in the world and banking community who worry about the dollar.

The news to this effect, constantly relayed to Mills by Secretary of the Treasury Henry H. Fowler, at first tended to be dismissed as scare-stuff. But the chairman, one of the two or three ablest men in the whole Congress, also is a careful man, given to checking the facts, and with plenty of friends of his own in the world's financial and banking community.

All the great men of money that Mills has consulted in New York and overseas have bluntly told him the same thing: that nonpassage of the tax bill will risk, and may even invite, the kind of pressure on the dollar that would break the international gold pool, and would thereby break the gold price. This could imaginably happen this year.

There are lots of other things that need doing to put the dollar beyond danger for the long pull. But for the short pull, the best single defensive action that can be taken is to get a tax increase through Congress. And since Mills most emphatically wants no trouble for the dollar, and certainly does not want to be blamed for such trouble, the foregoing facts necessarily exert powerful pressure on him.

Showed Signs Of Budging

Recently, therefore, he has shown signs of budging from his former adamant position. He has publicly, and very sensibly, stated that a tax increase would become absolutely essential if Vietnam spending should rise — as it is most likely to do. He has also begun, in private, to say that more should be done to make his colleagues see the importance of the dollar problems.

With all the facts and most of the business community on their side, Mills and the Administration together could almost certainly shove a tax increase through this pigheaded and shortsighted Congress. But without Chairman Mills, the Administration is powerless.

Meanwhile, it must be understood that the main danger is not a mere failure to defend gold's official $35 price. The main danger is the massive chain reaction that such a failure would set off.

To begin with, the U. S. economy is simply too big, nowadays, to bring off a British-style devaluation. In the British case, an increase of the total devaluation of the pound by one-tenth of one cent would have caused immediate French devaluation of the franc, which his monetary advisers actually pressed upon Gen. De Gaulle.

In the case of the gold price being broken all other major currencies would be competitively devalued. In parallel with the dollar's devaluation. The consequence would, in fact, be an automatic worldwide monetary game of beggar-my-neighbor. Furthermore, such a game of beggar-thy-neighbor would not end with mere chaos in the money markets.

It would spread outward, downward and upward, into all the activities of every trading nation, causing an acute world recession if not a serious world depression. The amount of political and economic damage that would then result is impossible to estimate and almost too terrible to contemplate. Such are the stakes in this game.

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Jim Nichols:

Court Structure Challenge

LANSING (AP) — When the framers of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 decided it was time for a change in the structure of the state's lower courts, they left it to the Legislature to work out the details of the change.

They weren't doing the Legislature any favors.

Few tasks in recent memory have proved so challenging to lawmakers as building on paper a new judicial system they hope will someday exist in reality, while at the same time trying to put together the two-third legislative majorities the constitution requires.

And when the House last Friday voted 75-27 for a complicated, 54 - page bill to establish such a system, it represented a prodigious achievement for the proponents of the new courts on legislative process.

It did not, however, represent the end of the court reorganization struggle. It simply dumped the issue in the Senate's lap. Eventually both houses will have to agree on a single version — again with two - thirds majorities.

The delegates to the 1961 - 62 Constitutional Convention put a lot of work into the new document's judiciary article, and in the end they decided to abolish the offices of circuit court commissioner and justice of the peace.

They gave the Legislature until the end of this year to "establish a court or courts of limited jurisdiction with powers and jurisdiction defined by law."

Which didn't give lawmakers very much to go on.

How many judges should the new court have? What should be their qualifications? What should they be paid, and by whom? Where should they hold court? How should they be elected? What sorts of cases should they be empowered to try?

All those questions and more — many, many more—were hotly debated in the House this year and last year before a bill, finally answering all of them, won approval with a single vote to spare.

The House judiciary subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Donald Holbrook, R-Clare, charged with working on the problem, decided to carve the entire state, except for Detroit, into judicial districts for the new lower court.

Detroit was left out because sponsors of the court bill figured they would have enough trouble getting two-thirds approval without causing a split in the big Detroit delegation with a fight over justice in the Motor City. Such a fight developed anyway.

But the decision to draw districts and allocate judges across the rest of the state naturally stirred into action powerful interests. Some didn't like the district the subcommittee drew. Others thought their city or county should have more judges than the committee allowed.

The subcommittee also decided to pay the new district judges $20,000 a year. That, multiplied by the 181 judges provided in the House bill, yields an annual state appropriation of $3.6 million.

At the same time, the subcommittee put much of the expense of the new courts on hard-pressed local units of government—provoking anguished cries from county supervisors around the state.

Sponsors of the bill had to devise a complicated formula for using the revenues fines, costs, filing fees, charges for getting married, and so forth of the new courts to pay back the state, the counties and, under the House version, the cities. That wasn't easy, either.

The result:

Some Detroiters insist on coming into the new court system and some insist on staying out.

Some Northern Michigan legislators insist on a one-judge-per-county approach, while advocates of a uniform court system and advocates of holding down costs oppose them.

Many lawmakers are under pressure from influential constituents back home — circuit judges, municipal judges, justices of the peace, county supervisors—to oppose the bill until all objections are satisfied.

Then there are dozens of lesser issues that have to be dealt with in setting up the new court system. More than 100 amendments were offered to last year's unsuccessful court bill. The one the House passed Friday carried amendments on 13 of its 54 pages.

Friday's House vote didn't lay all these issues to rest, or determine the final shape that Michigan's new courts will take. But it proved something to those who said it was impossible to put together a new judicial system, uniform across the entire state.

It proved it can be done.