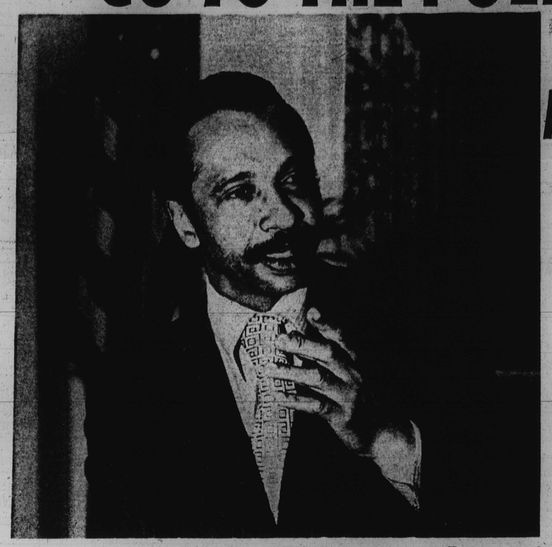
Tuesday, May 16, is Primary Election Day

GO TO THE POLLS AND VOTE



Pull lever 4C

for Congressman

PARREN J. MITCHELL

DEMOCRAT FOR CONGRESS
7th DISTRICT, MD.

and in EVERY district in Baltimore

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AUTHORITY: KENNETH JOHNSON & DEHAVEN L. SMITH

THE STATE OF THINGS

The Consumer and Candidate

By VAL HYMES

If the political analysts really wonder why the voters are being so fickle about the presidential and congressional candidates, they should look around a little.

The voter has become very much aware of the fact that he is no longer wooed by the candidate with the kind of concrete promises he can collect later. He knows they used to talk about the consumer, the taxpayer and the voter as the fella deserving of the best, first-class sales pitch, all the political attention and hoopla.

Some of the talk is still the same, but the action is different. The reassurances are louder but the payoff is depressing.

For example, while the Governor was careful to emphasize there would be no "general" tax increase this year, Joe Taxpayer wakes up three months later to find that a beer tax, a wine tax and a gasoline tax have been enacted by the Legislature and endorsed by the Governor.

A cigarette tax almost made it through and four counties were ordered to raise a once-optional piggyback income surtax.

For example, while the Governor was careful to emphasize there would be no "

Then last week, the Board of Public Works announced a three-cent hike in the State property tax, blaming it on inflation, a need to protect the State's credit ratings — and the State takeover of school construction.

"What about our credit rating?" the taxpayer asks. And there are still those counties that protest the school construction program, saying it was the Governor's idea in the first place.

And inflation, they groan, seems to be holding down wages as 40,000 State employees and 1200 State policemen wait to hear from Washington if their long-delayed pay boosts are retroactive while prices continue to climb.

When the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer got together to announce that latest property tax increase, one observer said it sounded like a Greek chorus as each official in turn expounded on the virtues of the school program, the horrors of inflation and foot-dragging in Washington.

The program will send $300 million to the counties, however. Baltimore City is due for $30,731,000, ranking 2nd in Maryland to Anne Arundel County.

Regardless of the political implications, this is a consumer measure of sorts, because the State can get a lower interest rate than the counties on bond sales. So the taxpayer get more for his money.

We won't think right now about what will happen when next year's school construction bill is added to this year's $300 million and last year's $154 million.

The Board of Public Works, by the way, met again this week to discuss ways to give the local boards head-start time until July and to debate again the basic policies of renovations versus repairs, re-evaluations and schools needing future additions.

On the whole, it was a session with good news and bad news for the consumer. And the bad news has already blurred the campaign issues, like the failure in the last minutes of the session of the limit on homeowners' assessments. Or mass transit that goes with the gasoline tax increase.

The biggest losses to Mr. and Mrs. Consumer this year. Consumer Protection Chief John N. Ruth Jr. estimates, are these bills that would have regulated and licensed television and radio repairmen and automobile mechanics.

The refusal of the General Assembly to give the State's Consumer Protection Division subpoena powers to allow it to seize suspicious records and merchandise has day by day plus long-range impact on the consumer's ability to press a complaint.

But the State's first anti-trust law was enacted, basically prohibiting monopolies and price-fixing, complementing the Federal law.

And druggists may begin dispensing generic (no brand name) drugs in July unless doctors specify otherwise, and unless the Governor vetoes the bill as the State's medical society asks. Another would let elderly groups learn about discount prescription offers.

A series of landlord and tenant bills to clarify a renter's rights and liabilities went through as did a bil requiring the display of a seating chart where reserve seat tickets are sold. Still others would protect the consumer from the loss of stored or moved household goods; from the sale of used goods as new merchandise, and from phony speech and hearing examiners.

• • •

And funeral directors won't be able to force the purchase of a casket or a funeral when a cremation is ordered; bill collectors will be stopped from telling employers when a cremation is ordered; bill collectors will be stopped from telling employers about delinquent debts or using threatening phone calls to collect them, and travel promoters must put group funds in escrow or pay fares with them.

Several dealing with charge accounts and financing have been cited as major consumer bills, including one protecting the buyer of shoddy merchandise by giving him 90 days to act without fear of a suit from the loan company.

Another guarantees that guarantees over $10 will be honored, and still another gives the consumer a chance to fight with the computer by requiring an address and phone on charges, not just a post office box.

There are others, like one giving the Commissioner of Small Loans more punch with the power to issue cease and desist orders to violators oft he Retail Installment Sales Act.

But the consumer today will be a cynical voter at the polls May 16 — if he bothers to go at all — because few of the campaign issues seem to bear any relation to his problems.

What's News: ANOTHER 181 BILLS and resolutions were signed by the Governor Friday, including Friendship Airport system . . . GOVERNOR MANDEL says the law would let him by an ex-officio member of the national convention delegation, but he won't violate party guidelines and wants to be elected June 2 (changed from June 6) at State convention . . . THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEES met in Baltimore May 4 to elect convention officials, with suburban counties showing their muscle with results for the first time. STATE'S ATTORNEYS AND PUBLIC DEFENDERS studied the science and technology of crime-fighting for three days in the first seminar by the Governor's crime commission.

WALKING TOGETHER Congressman Parren J. Mitchell led a walking tour on Monday. Other candidates who joined the walk were left to right Mesdames Kathleen M. Carter, Louise G. Murphy, both candidates to the Democratic National Convention; Congresswoman Shirley Chishlom, U. S. Presidential candidate; Mrs. June Wing, delegate to Democratic National Convention; Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, and Mrs. Risselle Fleisher, delegate to eDemocratic National Convention.

Jr. Olympic gymnastic at Harlem Pk. School

The South Atlantic Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic gymnastic championships will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at the Harlem Park Community School, Harlem Avenue and Gilmor Street.

Competition will get under way at 10 a.m. and will be open to both boys and girls, ages 6 to 9, 10 to 12, 13 to 14, and 15 to 18 years of age from the entire South Atlantic District.

The AAU Junior Olympics, sponsored nationally by the Quaker Oats Company, was originated in 1949 through an agreement between the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) of the United States and the United States Olympic Committee.

Dance recital at Johnston Square center

The Johnston Square Recreation Center, located at Biddle and Valley Sts. will participate in District Dance Recital to be held on May 18a t 7:30 p.m. in the Center. The various groups will feature tap, modern, jazz and African dances. Admission is free.

MAY 21-23

The Maryland Recreation and Parks Society will hold its 21st Annual Governor's Conference on Recreation and Parks at The Hunt Valley Inn in Baltimore County on May 21-23. Governor Mandel will address the Conference at the Governor's Luncheon May 22.

MAY 17

The Black Student Union of the University of Baltimore will sponsor a Spring Festival today beginning at noon in the Langsdale Library of the University located at Maryland Ave. and Oliver St.

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IF YOU'RE PAYING OFF ONE OF THESE CARS YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO READ THIS.

According to their new car manuals, every model listed above was designed to operate on a 91 octane gasoline.

Furthermore, most of the manuals recommend a low lead or no lead gasoline.

Today, several companies sell a gasoline that meets those requirements.

But of all the major companies, only Gulf has one that costs less than their regular. It's called Gulftane low lead.

At 91 octane, it's just right for most 1972 models as well as many 1971 and older models that we didn't have space enough to list.* And it's got the kind of additive package you'd expect from a major brand such as Gulf.

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The money you save can go towards next month's car payment.

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*Because atmospheric factors and an engine's condition affect its performance, there is no way to guarantee that any single car will give knock-free performance on a particular gasoline. To find out if your car will run on Gulftane, try a tankful and see.