COUNTY HOME RULE DISCUSSED: Michigan will do well to adopt two or three county home rule charters within the next 10 years, according to Prof. Arthur W. Bromage, chair­man of the University's political science department. "County home rule means more freedom to organize and to conduct local government," Bromage said. However, he suggested that conflict is likely to break out within the 1964 session of the state legislature over home rule for counties. The speaker explained that the Michigan Constitution authorizes county home rule, subject to legislators' passing the necessary law.

"We are now trying to move forward by getting a home rule law through the 1964 session, but disagreement may arise in Lansing over the power to be granted to counties." If a county home rule law is passed, the next step is the election of a charter commission in particular counties. "We won't be home just if the first home rule charter is actually adopted by the voters in a home rule county," Bromage said.

What are the issues likely to delay Michigan's action? A county executive should be authorized, in the opinion of home rule proponents. Appointment as an alternative to election for county administrators is another controversial point. Smaller county boards of supervisors constitute another issue, Bromage said. "Associations of county officers may oppose any law which offers such alternatives to home rule charter commissions," he pointed out. Traditionally, county officers have been popularly elected since the time of Andrew Jackson. The idea of small boards of five or seven members may arouse opposition. County boards today are confederations of city supervisors and township supervisors. Supervisors represent and often speak for their units of government. If the state legislature decides to make changes possible, the counties themselves may fail to modify existing boards.

Conflicts over power doctrine are sure to arise between counties on the one hand and cities, villages and townships on the other, Bromage continued, adding that powers for home rule counties will be scrutinized by municipalities concerned with protecting themselves. In 1963, for example, Wayne County proposed the kind of home rule statute it would like the legislature to pass. It recommended broad powers in ordinance-making and functions to be performed by counties. In the same year the Michigan Municipal League proposed major exceptions to any wide power doctrine for home rule counties, Bromage noted. "A power doctrine for counties acceptable to cities, villages and townships," he added, "will not be easy to work out. Conflicts may occur over the limits to be placed on charter counties in the levying of property taxes and income taxes." Unless prior agreements are reached, a county home rule bill is not apt to emerge from the 1964 session, Bromage said. Constructive compromise is needed.

FOUNDING OF THE LAW SCHOOL--I: What follows is an extensive history of the founding of the Michigan Law School. Presented to dispel rumors that the school was founded by the Count de Sade; length requires that we serialize. This then is the first installment:

In March of 1837, the state legislature passed an act establishing the University of Michigan. The act provided for a College of Literature, Science and Arts; a Department of Medicine and a Department of Law. The Literary College opened its doors four years later, and the Medical School in 1850. However, it was not until 1859 that the Law Department finally opened.

It was a quirk of fate which brought the Medical Department into existence before the Law Department. At the Jan., 1847 meeting of the Regents, member Zina Pitcher, an M.D. moved that medical professors be appointed at the next annual meeting. When his motion was tabled, Dr. Pitcher brought the matter up at the next meeting in August. Instead of authorizing the appointment of a medical faculty, a committee of three was appointed to report on "the expediency as well as upon the plan of organizing" depart­ments of both Law and Medicine. However, the cards were stacked against prior establish­ment of the law school when Dr. Pitcher was named as chairman of the committee. As could be expected, the resulting report covered only the medical department; with a gallant observation that the interests of the legal profession and the public required early action on the subject of a Department of Law.

Although the matter was to have been given "special order" at the following meeting of the Regents, nothing was heard of the Law Department for four years. However, it does not appear that the establishment of the medical school and the subsequent long delay in setting up the law school was the result of a sinister plot, hatched by the medical profession. Other factors seem to have influenced the situation. A prime problem was money. The University's finances were such in 1850 as to make simultaneous establishment of both departments infeasible. Due to the special needs of a Medical Department, such as laboratories, it was anticipated that a large sum of money would soon have to be spent for the erection of a medical building.

Since the University was in no position to support two new departments, precedence was given to the one for which there was the greatest public pressure and for which there was undeniably a greater need, at the moment. Although many attorneys sought immediate organization of a law department, there were just as many who indicated little or no interest. This was, after all, an era when the law office mode of educating
prospective lawyers was favored, in Michigan and elsewhere. The deficiencies of this method were not always recognized by the conservative members of the bar. To many of them, this old way of training had always served well and was not to be replaced. Thus, it is understandable, that the legal profession did not present a united front pushing for a Law Department. Moreover, the state was already crowded with lawyers and a mild prejudice against lawyers had begun to develop among the people. They did not, of course, realize that much of the irresponsibility and incompetence which irked them was due to the haphazard system of legal training that prevailed.

On the other hand, there was a growing demand for doctors throughout the state. Moreover, this was an age when science was beginning to come into its own in this country. The popular imagination was stirred by news of new experiments and discoveries coming almost daily from the laboratories of Europe and the Eastern Seaboard. Interest in science and particularly in medicine was high in this period, and it found expression in the early establishment of a medical school. The Law Department would have to wait. (to be continued).

MISCELLANEOUS: Nathan Conyers, Detroit Attorney, will discuss the Danville, Virginia, civil rights litigation, in which he was a participant, on Monday, February 24, at 6:30 in the Law Club Lounge.

The Board of Directors has placed subscriptions for five magazines for distribution in the basement of Hutchins Hall. This was done with much hesitation. For, it has been brought to our attention, indeed it is common knowledge, that the twenty or more magazines and newspapers subscribed to by the Law Club disappear from the Lounge within a maximum of three days. To say that the Board does not approve of this practice is but to state the feelings of many. Maybe you, who weekly remove your favorite magazine to your room, need to be reminded that you should read with the thought that some 300 other members of your Club might like to enjoy the same article...in the Lounge. It should be easy to remove magazines from the Lounge, but we hope that most men will be more considerate. He also hope that when you see a magazine going out the door, you will be of inconsiderate tone when you call it back.

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AT THE FLICKS:

Campus: "Mondo Cane" & "Women of the World"

Michigan: "Tom Jones"

State: "Herlin Jones"

Cinema Guild: Fri.-"Carnival in Flanders"; Sat.- "The Goddess"

CARTOON - "CONVICTION OF THIS POOR BOY CANNOT BRING BACK TO LIFE THOSE HE KILLED, NOR HEAL THOSE HE MASHED, NOR QUIET THE ANGUISH OF THOSE HE RAVISHED AND MOLESTED. YOUR HONOR, I ASK YOU, WHAT PURPOSE COULD BE SERVED BY CONTINUING THE VICIOUS PER­SECUTION OF THIS UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF SOCIETY?"

- The Board of Directors.

- Lincoln

An American will tinker with anything he can put his hands on. But how rarely can he be persuaded to tinker with an abstract idea.

- Leland Stowe