

On November 27—without prior notice or discussion—the Birmingham City Commission took it upon itself to enact an “open housing” ordinance. An ordinance which would impose fines (up to \$500) or jail sentences (up to 90 days) or *both* on any person who refused to sell his real property to *anyone* who wanted to buy it.

Aroused by the way the ordinance was enacted, the Birmingham Referendum Committee circulated referendum petitions during December and January. Almost 3,000 signers—or 25% of Birmingham’s registered voters—attested to the fact that they, too, felt this controversial issue should be decided by popular vote.

The day for that vote is April 1.

On that same day two Commissioners are running for re-election. Both voted for the ordinance on November 27.

But Janet Dodd and Bill Hefferan are also running for the commission as a slate. Both would have voted *against* the ordinance. **Here’s why . . .**

“We are opposed to any law which would force a person into signing a contract against his will. This is exactly what the so-called open housing ordinance does.

“We regard our homes and their location as probably the single most important investment we’ll ever make. And as property owners who have worked hard for the property we own, we object strongly to being told how we may or may not dispose of it. Don’t you?”

“For many years we’ve been personally and financially involved in the Birmingham community. (In addition to our homes, this financial involvement also includes the hefty taxes

we continue to pay each year.) Now we’ve reached that point where we *must* take a stand against outside interference with *every* facet of our lives—personal, as well as social and economic.

“We already have actual open housing in Birmingham. Any home owner can sell to anyone he cares to. Anyone who has the money and finds a willing seller can *buy*. He can join our community, and at the same time, assume some of its responsibilities.

“But the right to sell or *not* to sell is earned by those who *own*. We want to keep it that way. Don’t you?”



MRS. JANET DODD, 2462 Derby, is a member of the Birmingham Referendum Committee. A housewife as well as a full-time accountant, she also serves as secretary of the Pembroke Manor Association, a homeowners’ group. She has been active in Birmingham civic affairs for a number of years and currently is President of the Patient Benefit Association of the Oakland County TB Sanitorium.



W. MICHAEL “BILL” HEFFERAN, 1545 Penistone, is a lifelong Birmingham resident. An accountant with Ford, he received his B. S. in Economics from Olivet College. Now vice president of the Sheffield Estates Homeowners’ Association, Bill has long been active in civic and public affairs. He is 32 and has four children.