

County Budget Approved—Page 17



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HIGHLIGHT

Supervisors Vote To Stop Work On Canton Grammar School Project Page 17. Editorial On Page 4.



Kelly comments...

By Charles W. Kelly

Should the Mayor of Ogdensburg be paid a salary? Yes! I think the mayor of Ogdensburg, regardless of whom he or she is (who knows it might be a woman someday) should be paid a salary. In addition to performing his duties at City Hall, the Mayor must also serve as chairman of the Urban Renewal Agency. It takes time out of his small business. Far too much time to expect anyone to do it without pay. Sure, a wealthy "do gooder" or a \$25,000 double income citizen will come forth and say that they feel the Mayor should serve for nothing. Why didn't they run for Mayor? The Republicans couldn't find a candidate to oppose Jack Byrnes, and according to one GOP "boss," money was a factor with many of the people they talked too. Not all, but a great many. Members of the Ogdensburg Housing Authority are paid \$47.50 monthly to attend a one hour meeting. Members of the UDC Advisory Board are paid \$50 a meeting. To ask a man to take time out of his business every day of the year without pay, is insane.

Who will be the 1972 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors? Donald Livingston, as chairman of the Finance Committee, would normally move up to the chairmanship next year, but opposition is apparent within the Republican ranks. The opposition is not directed as much at Livingston personally, but a number of Republican Supervisors think that he will name Supervisor Harold Smith of Canton chairman of the Finance Committee, and they are opposed to that appointment. The Democrats could select the new chairman if a split develops within the GOP ranks. Maynard Miller, the current chairman, is reportedly interested in becoming the first man to serve two years. Miller might get a solid block vote from the Democrats who will have 140 votes in 1972. The Republicans will have 222 votes. The Republicans are expected to caucus on Nov. 29, but the election of the chairman won't take place until the organizational meeting in January.

The Board of Supervisors deserves the support of the people for their willingness to stand up and be counted on budget cuts. We don't necessarily agree with all the cuts, but the Board has spent considerable time on the budget during the past week. The finance committee might have taken the initiative and presented the problem to the whole board six weeks ago. Cutting budgets in face of public criticism is not easy, but it is something that has to be done. Local government officials must get their budgets in order, and be willing to stand up and fight state mandates if the need arises. If hiring can be halted at the state level, why can't there be a freeze on hiring in the welfare department at the county level?

John Crapser's father, Attorney William Crapser of Massena, apparently has no faith in John's hunting ability. John apparently took a couple of days off this past week and went hunting. His father went to the hunting camp for dinner Thursday night and took along a roast of beef. It was the only meat at camp.

In this column last week we asked how many St. Lawrence State Hospital employees were away in school and still receiving full pay. Dr. Lee Hanes, director of the hospital, called the office Monday and offered the information on the program. Tuesday afternoon we met at Dr. Hanes' office to discuss the program. Forty-nine employees are participating in the program. Nineteen of them are full-time students receiving their full salary from the hospital. This might well be a great program, but can we afford it at this time? The most disturbing thing about the program is the fact the State has no guarantee that the employees will return to state service. It sounds a bit ridiculous for the state to educate a nurse, social worker or even a doctor and then have them go to work elsewhere. It appears that what might have started out to be a good program has been abused.

Quentin L. Reutershan, AIA, Architect on the County's "North Mall," has a very lucrative contract with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Reutershan, who estimated the job at \$1.2-Million, is the only winner in this ball game. There aren't many professions where you can handsomely profit from your mistakes. Mr. Reutershan's contract calls for him to receive 10 percent of separate stipulated sum contracts, plus ALL expenses. If the project is completed as planned, Mr. Reutershan will receive approximately \$186,000 in fees, plus ALL expenses. The Board of Supervisors has agreed to hold a public hearing on the project before the final vote is taken. The supervisors voted Saturday to halt the project, at least temporarily. Editorial Page 4.

We couldn't find any provision in the contract for the Architect to be paid a fixed amount in case the project wasn't approved by the Board of Supervisors. Nor could we find any place in the written agreement where the county put a ceiling on how much they were willing to spend. It appears that Mr. Reutershan is entitled to 80 percent of his total fee, plus expenses.

Members of the Ogdensburg Boys Club will go door to door today in the Second and Third Wards, and Riverside Drive selling candy. All proceeds will be used to benefit the Boys Club. Your cooperation and support of the project will be greatly appreciated. The Boys Club serves more than 500 boys in the community each year.

45,000 Additional Troop Withdrawal Announced



HERZOG ORDINATION—The Rev. Daniel W. Herzog dons the red stole signifying his office prior to being ordained priest at St. John's Church Saturday morning. From left, are the Rev. Wayne Pelky, vicar of Star Lake - Hermon; the Rev. David B. Plank of Norwood-Colton; the Rt. Rev. Charles B. Persell, Jr., suffragan

bishop of the Albany Episcopal Diocese, Rev. Herzog and the Rev. Canon James W. Pennock of Potsdam, dean of the St. Lawrence and master of ceremonies. The newly ordained priest will celebrate his first solemn Eucharist at 10 a.m. today at St. John's Church. (Como Photo)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon has ordered a more-than-50-percent speedup in withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam, but says he may have to intensify bombing of Communist infiltration routes through Laos.

Nixon called newsmen to his office late Friday and announced that 45,000 more American servicemen will be pulled out in December and January. This will drop the American troop presence in Vietnam to about 139,000, lowest in nearly 6½ years and more than 404,000 below the war peak.

Nixon linked the speedup to better-than-expected Vietnamese progress toward defending themselves. The South Vietnamese government said it was because of "the improved general security situation now prevailing in Vietnam."

A total of 25,000 men will be brought home in December—"to get a few more men out before Christmas," the President said—and another 20,000 in January.

This will boost the withdrawal rate to 22,500 a month from the 14,300-a-month average in effect since last spring.

Although Nixon had been expected to raise the pullout tempo, his decision to limit the next period to two months came as a surprise. Previous announcements have projected withdrawals as far as a year ahead.

Nixon said: "It is essential as we get closer to the end, if we are going to maintain any negotiating leverage, that the withdrawal periods... be somewhat shorter."

This approach would enable Nixon to make a series of troop-withdrawal pronouncements during 1972, a presidential-election year.

On other matters, Nixon told the news conference:

—The United States will continue to provide aid to Cambodia but no American troops will be committed.

—It is highly improbable that U.S.-Soviet negotiators will reach agreement on strategic arms limitations this year. But an agreement eventually will be reached, he said.

—He thinks the rate of inflation will be chopped in half next year. He praised his Wage Board and Price Commission for "very sound" decisions in setting guidelines for Phase 2 of his economic program.

—It would not be helpful to disclose the exact dates of his visits to Peking and Moscow or what will be discussed.

Nixon promised a further troop-withdrawal announcement before Feb. 1, saying the number to be withdrawn and the duration of that pullout period will be determined by these three factors:

—First, by the level of enemy activity and infiltration substantially increases, it could be very dangerous to our sharply decreased forces in South Vietnam.

SMU ACQUIRES PAGES FROM GUTENBERG BIBLE

DALLAS (AP) — Thirty-one pages of the rare Gutenberg Bible discovered at Trier, Germany, in 1828, have been acquired by the Bridwell Library of Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny today. Highs low to mid 30s. Increasing cloudiness tonight. Lows in the low to mid 20s. Cloudy Monday with a chance of snow showers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s.

For Yablonski Murders

Martin Sentenced To Die In Electric Chair

WASHINGTON, P. (AP) — Aubran W. "Buddy" Martin was sentenced to death Saturday for the first-degree murders of United Mine Workers insurgent Joseph A. "Jock" Yablonski and his wife and daughter.

The verdict was returned after 49

minutes of deliberation by the same jury that had convicted him less than 24 hours earlier.

Martin, boyish looking and modestly dressed in a gold shirt, green-striped pants and a black neckerchief, showed no emotion as the sentence was an-

nounced.

But there was a gasp from the audience jamming the courtroom. Several women members of the Yablonski family covered their mouths with their hands.

Yablonski's two sons, Joseph Jr. and Kenneth, momentarily appeared expressionless, but Joe chose to remain in the courtroom for several moments after it emptied before he rose and slowly walked out.

"Please, I'd rather not say anything," he said in a choked voice.

Martin was taken from the courtroom under heavy guard back to his cell in the Washington County jail.

The death sentence in Pennsylvania is carried out through electrocution, but the state's electric chair—once in the state penitentiary in Rockview—was ordered dismantled a year ago by then Gov. Raymond P. Shafer, raising some question about how the sentence would be carried out.

But since the process of appealing Martin's conviction and sentence will take some time, the question will presumably be resolved in the interim.

No date for the execution was set. Defense attorney Mark Goldberg, who paled after the jury's death sentence was announced and hunched forward over a table, said that appeals were certain.

"The fight isn't over yet," he said. "It's just beginning."

The sentencing went to the jury after Goldberg had pleaded for "mercy and compassion" and the prosecutor had demanded the electric chair.

Freeze Legally Thawed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The wage and price freeze ended Saturday night, to be replaced by flexible guidelines that President Nixon says he hopes will cut inflation in half.

Official regulations were published in Saturday's Federal Register, legally thawing the freeze.

But not before some last-minute exceptions were made late Friday by the President's Cost of Living Council:

—Life insurance premiums will be allowed to rise after today without federal controls, though not other types of insurance rates.

—Servicemen will get their scheduled 15-per-cent average pay raise Sunday, despite the general 5.5-per-cent guide for the rest of the economy.

—Other federal workers and persons earning less than the \$1.60 hourly minimum wage also will be exempted from wage controls. However, the President already has postponed most federal pay raises.

—The auto industry may pay scheduled wage increases this month and next, and get price rises to match, without the advance approval otherwise

required of wage agreements and businesses of that size.

The increases are subject to rollbacks if found to be excessive. Actually, the same exception will apply until Jan. 1 to all the biggest 500 wage agreements and the businesses they affect, but besides the United Auto Workers contract only a handful of smaller agreements call for any increases before then.

Ford, Chrysler and American Motors said even before the exemption was announced Friday that they would seek higher prices.

President Nixon conceded at a news conference that pent-up price increases might create a temporary "bulge" in the cost of living when freeze rules are eased. But he called the rulings of his Pay Board and Price Commission "very sound."

He said some businessmen would have preferred a lower wage guide of perhaps 3 or 4 per cent, but he said: "It would have been totally unrealistic. It would have broken the board wide open."

On prices, he said, "The guidelines that have been laid down would cut the rate of inflation approximately in half.

Medicaid Program Goes To The Dogs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressman says New York City's health-care program has really gone to the dogs. In fact, he said, one Great Dane already has a New York Medicaid card.

The registered Harlequin Great Dane named Kolyer's Mason von Lustig is holder of Medicaid identification card No. 5463603-1.

According to its owner, attorney Evelyn H. Lustig, she dreamed up the plan to put Mason on the city's health care rolls to dramatize what she termed "administrative laxities" in the New York health care program, a state-federal operation.

Mrs. Lustig drove a station wagon full of dogs—including Mason and two friends named Bovine and Quincey—into Washington recently to tell Rep. Seymour Halpern, D-N.Y., just how she got Mason a health care card.

She said she applied in the name of one

Mason Lustig for all benefits—visits to a doctor or dentist, false teeth if necessary, prescription drugs, eyeglasses and money for transportation.

"As a taxpayer, I wanted to see what kind of investigation they'd make," she said.

Mrs. Lustig listed Mason's age as 32 years—actually he's 5½ which is middle aged for dogs—and identified Bovine and Quincey as his son and daughter. Again a fib. They're no relation.

Mrs. Lustig asked for benefits for Bovine and Quincey too.

No welfare worker called on her, Mrs. Lustig said, but Mason received an acknowledgment from the Department of Social Services, with a warning that approval wouldn't be automatic.

"The 1968 legislature has amended the law to exclude persons over 21 and under 65 years of age until we verify that they are permanently and totally disabled," the letter said. "When your doctor's

statement is received one of our workers will make an appointment to secure whatever additional information is needed."

In the end, however, the department processed Mason's application without insisting on the doctor's statement, said Mrs. Lustig. In due course, Mason's yellow card arrived by mail.

It lists his name, address and the type of coverage—A1, or "all available benefits"—he and the two "children" can receive.

Halpern promptly asked for an investigation of the manner in which the city-state welfare laws are administered. His office said the program receives federal financial assistance.

"Great Scott," he muttered about his new constituent. "There's nothing like a Great Dane on the welfare rolls. "The ineptness of the city's administration of welfare makes a mockery out of the enforcement process."