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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 1 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., JANUARY 15, 1963

SHORT COURSES -- SPRING SEMESTER

The Institute of Municipal Government at Wilkes College will again conduct a number of in-service training courses for municipal officials. These courses are designed to make available to elected and appointed officials means of improving in the performance of their duties.

The courses being offered this spring semester include: Small Arms Course--an introductory course in the care and use of the revolver, including firing for record; Magistrates - Civil Law Course--a general review of the fundamentals of civil law required by magistrates and the proper operation of their office; Councilmen and Commissioners Course--a basic course that presents the organization, powers, and functions of borough and first class township governments; Report Writing Course--a course to acquaint the police officer with the purposes, values, and principles of basic police reports; Fire Fighting Instructors Course--a course for those who wish to qualify as teachers of the fundamentals of fire fighting.

MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING IN PITTSBURGH

A million-dollar building experiment is being conducted in Pittsburgh by a team which includes a private developer, architects, lending companies, the Federal Housing Administration, manufacturers, building and construction trades council, and city and county agencies--all cooperating on a housing community for middle-income families. The project--East Hills Park--although experimental now, as reported by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, could be a model for middle-income housing in other cities.

The plan, directed by ACTION-Housing, Inc., Pittsburgh citizen group, and financed in part by the business-supported Pittsburgh Development Fund, calls for four neighborhood sections, complete with residential, commercial, and public lands in accordance with a new zoning amendment passed by the city council. This amendment, permitting more than a single zoning use in the area, was only one of the several "revolutionary" acts characteristic of the project. Other unusual features are as follows:

--The building and construction trades council of Pittsburgh made several concessions to the developer of the East Hills project, Catranel, Inc. Out-of-the-ordinary agreements made were: the guarantee of no work stoppages because of disputes, with Catranel authorized to hire non-union labor if the union failed to supply workers within 72 hours; bad weather work stoppage on regular work days to be made up the following Saturday at regular wage rates--not overtime; wage scale for workmen to be 10 percent lower than the going commercial wage scale for most of the construction. In exchange, Catranel agreed to hire only union labor and to subcontract only with union shops.

--New building materials are being experimented with, one of which is colored aluminum roofs harmonizing with colored bricks of the buildings; gas incinerators with the advantages of reducing air pollution and management and maintenance problems; underground electrical connections and telephone service wires, for utility and beauty.

--Groups of houses clustered around courtyard areas--a step expected to save open land for playgrounds and parks, segregate living areas from auto traffic, save space and cost in road and utilities installation, and reduce by a big 40 percent the average cost per dwelling unit for site work.

--Availability of building trades union pension funds for buyers' mortgages gives the buyers in the first neighborhood phase of East Hills Park an interest rate of 4-3/4 percent for 35 years. Mortgages are FHA-insured.

--Other factors of interest: Purchasers will pay \$10 a month to a cooperative maintenance association to free them from cutting lawns, shoveling snow, caring for general upkeep of houses and grounds; and an elementary school will be housed in a two-story 10-apartment building provided by the developer, which if housing demands become overwhelming can be converted back into apartments.

Predicted cost of living in one of the 210 units in phase one of East Hills is \$79.50 per month for a two-bedroom house to \$115 for a four-bedroom house.

OCCUPATION TAX RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania declared unconstitutional and invalid an "occupation" tax of \$10 yearly levied by a city upon non-residents engaged in any occupation within the limits of the city.

The tax is not an occupation tax, but a head tax, a direct levy

upon persons, since no distinctions are made among occupations and the fixed \$10 levy falls upon all nonresidents. Head taxes may be imposed only upon residents of the taxing districts, since residence alone furnishes the contract necessary to render a person amenable to the direct levy.

Even if the tax were truly an occupation tax, it would violate the uniformity provision of the Constitution of Pennsylvania because of the unjustified distinction between residents and nonresidents.

The tax bears none of the incidents of an occupation tax which is a flat rate levy measured by the assessed value of a particular mode of employment. Here no distinctions are made among occupations, a fixed ten dollar levy falling upon all nonresidents. The use of the word "occupational" adds nothing to the levy and does not conceal its real nature as a capitation tax.

The tax is imposed because of the protection which a governmental unit affords to persons residing therein, and is designed primarily to require contribution from all residents for the services rendered them by the taxing authority. Consequently, per capita or head taxes can be imposed only upon residents of the particular political subdivision since residence alone furnishes the contact necessary to render a person amenable to the direct levy.

Such a connection is lacking here since the only persons subject to the levy are those residing outside of the city. Residence cannot be made the basis of discrimination in taxation of persons engaged in the same occupation or profession. To permit such distinction would be contrary to the well-established principle that the validity of a classification is whether it produces diversity in results or lack of uniformity in its operation either on the given subject of tax or the persons affected as payers.

SAVING VEHICLES FROM SALT IS EXPENSIVE

T. M. Galloway, City Purchasing Agent of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, has made available to NIGP the following interesting article from "Civic Administration" magazine of February 1962: "Municipalities planning to use a phosphate additive in road salt to decrease vehicle corrosion would be well advised to change their plans. An extensive research project carried out by Ontario Research Foundation, in cooperation with metropolitan Toronto officials and Ontario Department of Highways, indicates such additive may not be worth the expense. For metropolitan Toronto alone, use of inhibited salt would cost an estimated \$500,000 more a year than salt alone.

"And without similar treatment to provincial highways fanning out from the urban area, Toronto's use of it would be of questionable value. The research project was carried out last winter on a test rig which simulated actual driving conditions. Various shaped pieces of the various types of metal used in car body and frame manufacture were subjected to a varying exposure from wet snow with salt, and snow with inhibited salt. In addition, fender sections and other metal test samples were heated for varying lengths of time to simulate the effect of regularly parking a vehicle overnight in a garage. Besides the outdoor test rigs, engineers studied corrosion on cars driven a controlled number of miles on urban Toronto streets during the winter, and extensive physical and chemical tests were carried out in the laboratory.

"When the results of all tests were evaluated these conclusions were reached: Inhibited salt results in an average reduction of corrosion of 55%. The shape of the metal concerned has a major effect on degree of corrosion. Thus V-shaped frame members, which retain the wet salt corrode faster and to a greater degree than a shape from which salt can freely run off. Storing a vehicle overnight in a heated garage accelerates the rate of corrosion. Corrosion due to de-icing is dependent upon time, not on miles traveled."

MUNICIPAL BOND ISSUES

An overwhelming majority--86.6%--of the volume of municipal bonds sold in 1961 were financed through public invitation of bids rather than negotiated sales.

A recently published report by the Investment Bankers Association shows that general obligation bonds are sold this way even more frequently: 96.6% of the \$6 billion sold in 1961 were by public sale.

On the other hand, revenue bonds sold only 60.6% by public bidding. IBA suggests that the reason for this is that most revenue bond acts permit negotiated sales.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Time: What some people waste, others use, and the rest spend.

Diet Mix: Product whose makers live off the fat of the land.

PUBLICATION

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 2 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., FEBRUARY 15, 1963

KINGSTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Groundbreaking ceremonies were recently held for the new Kingston Borough Municipal Building. The ceremonies paved the way for construction of the \$162,000 municipal building which will replace borough offices which are now housed in several structures throughout the community.

The new building, at Wyoming Avenue and Price Street, will be one and one-half stories high and will house police headquarters and have three jail cells; a garage for both cruisers; offices for the police chief, borough secretary, engineer, building and health inspectors and council chambers. It will be of Colonial-type design.

Cornelius Daly, regional director of the Communities Facilities Administration, under whose sponsorship the building is being erected, congratulated those in attendance and stated that the new structure was the first project being undertaken in a six-state area.

Mayor Husband, during his brief talk at the ceremonies, stated that the building should be dedicated sometime during the month of June.

A parking lot will be located at the rear of the building on the Price Street side. The front grounds will be landscaped.

LEHMAN TOWN HALL

Lehman Township Supervisors will break ground for a new municipal building and public park as soon as weather permits, according to plans made at a recent meeting. Michael Godek, chairman, said that five acres of land including a pine grove and small stream on the Huntsville Road adjacent to the Lehman Golf Course has been acquired from Joseph Park.

Godek said plans call for a public picnic area in addition to the municipal building. The Board also discussed a transient salesman fee as possible means of revenue.

LUZERNE COUNTY ACCESS ROAD

A consulting engineer has been retained by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways to prepare aerial photographs and submit maps and a report of alternate location studies for a new access road from the existing Susquehanna River bridge and the Anthracite Expressway in Luzerne County.

The proposed work includes a study to determine the most feasible route to provide a four-lane limited access highway between the river bridge and Sugar Notch interchange approximately 0.3 mile north of Nanticoke City. After the location of the route is determined, the design will include two 24-foot lanes separated by a four-foot median. The project will be about 3.5 miles in length in Sugar Notch Borough and Hanover Township and will be an extension of Legislative Route 786 from Legislative Route 40036 to the interchange north of Nanticoke.

COOPERATION CALLED "MUST" TO ATTRACT INDUSTRIES

Intergovernmental cooperation was the discussion at a recent gathering of Allegheny County local government representatives at the University of Pittsburgh. They heard some straight-from-the-shoulder talk on the subject from Robert H. Ryan, new head of the Regional Industrial Development Corporation. As reported by William Allan in the Pittsburgh Press, Ryan said:

"More and more of the men in industry making the tough decisions, where to locate a plant, where to expand, are paying more and more attention to the total livability of a community.

"Taxes are relatively low on their lists.

"They're looking for good local schools, good universities, good symphony orchestras, good highways, good water and good government.

"They're worried not so much about what you're spending as for what you're spending.

"The days of locating industry where there's cheap labor and materials are over. They're not building ships and tanks. They're building electronic devices that you can hold in your hand and which cost thousands of dollars.

"With modern transportation these plants can be located anywhere and the fellows in industry are going to locate their plants where they want to live."

How are we going to get communities which are going to attract such industries and industrialists? Mr. Ryan says it won't be easy-- that we will have to get "greater mileage out of every dollar, spent by both industry and government. "The time is coming," says Robert H. Ryan, "when we are not going to be able to afford the luxury of not cooperating."

IN THE BAG

College Park, Maryland, is the first city in the nation to adopt a city-wide system of refuse collection using disposable paper bags. After a 60-day test period among 106 householders the city council approved adoption of the new system. Ninety percent of those in the test group endorsed the paper bags as more sanitary and less noisy than the standard metal cans.

The system uses a strong, weatherproof bag that is clamped over a round collar on a permanent metal holder. An odor-tight lid keeps out flies, birds, and animals. Each residential property owner will be furnished one wall-type holder and two paper bags per week. The cost of this basic service will be borne by the city. Should the property owner desire a stand-type holder or require more holders, the additional cost will be charged to him. New bags will be furnished at the time of regular semi-weekly refuse collections. The containers can be used for most kinds of garbage and rubbish. A separate weekly collection is provided for grass clippings and yard and garden trash.

Although the new system will increase present refuse collection costs, it is expected that it will be offset by savings in labor costs. The system will enable the city to transfer the equivalent of eight full-time employees to other public works projects. Other advantages of the plan are: the system eliminates setting back cans, it permits crews to work ahead of garbage trucks without unsightly crew conditions; it eliminates the purchase and operating expense of packer-type trucks since open dump trucks can be used; it permits refuse crews to work at a higher rate of speed; use of open trucks should eliminate 90% of special trash pick-ups; and less physical exertion is required on the part of the crews handling paper bags as compared with heavier metal cans. (Reprint from Pittsburgh Local Government News-letter, January, 1963.)

CITIES NEED SEWAGE PLANTS

The backlog of municipal waste treatment needs now involves 5,290 communities and will require an annual expenditure of \$600 million over the next decade, according to reports recently issued by the U. S. Public Health Service. Grants under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to help meet this need will total \$80 million for fiscal

1962, and \$90,000 for fiscal 1963, and \$100 million for each of the next four fiscal years. A city can now receive up to 30 percent of construction costs or \$600,000, whichever is less, under the Act. Annual expenditures for sewage treatment facilities by federal and local governments have averaged approximately \$460 million a year since passage of the Act in 1956.

SOMETIME...

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the Best Qualified in the room;

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter,
You can stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example is:
Do just the best that you can;
Be proud of yourself, but remember...
There is no INDISPENSIBLE MAN.

(Public Administration Review, Dec., 1962.)

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Used Car: One that teaches the buyer how hard it is to drive a bargain.

Neurotic: A person who, when asked how he is, tells you.

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 3 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., MARCH 15, 1963

STREET USE REGULATIONS FOR A SNOW CONTROL PROGRAM

New traffic ordinances to assist in snow control have been put into effect in Buffalo, N. Y. In essence, these ordinances give the Streets Division the power to post "No parking" signs where required; and they provide more efficiently for the removal of improperly parked, stalled or abandoned automobiles. About 120 miles of streets, including main arterial highways and the downtown shopping area are designated as "snow emergency" streets. During a declared emergency, all vehicles on any of these streets are required to be equipped with snow tires or tire chains; and parking is also prohibited during a snow emergency.

Pertinent portions of the ordinance are given below, local data, such as street names and ordinance numbers being omitted.

For more efficient enforcement, and in lieu of towing a vehicle to the vehicle pound, where such vehicle is found parked in violation of the ordinance a police officer may place a warning tag on the vehicle. Any owner, operator, chauffeur or driver to whose vehicle any such tag has been affixed must obey the instructions or directions thereon and any refusal or omission to act in accordance therewith will be followed by the issuance of a summons.

A new subdivision provides for unattended vehicles. Whenever, during snowstorms, floods, fires or other public emergencies, a vehicle is found (a) parked, abandoned or unattended at any time on any street or highway as defined in the ordinance, so as to constitute an obstruction of traffic; or (b) any place where stopping, standing or parking is prohibited, the vehicle may be removed to the vehicle pound. Before the owner or person in charge of such vehicle can remove it from the custody of the police department, he must furnish evidence of his identity and ownership or right of possession, must sign a receipt for the vehicle and must pay all expenses actually and necessarily incurred in effecting such removal, such charges not to exceed the sum of \$15 for towing, and \$1 for each day, or fraction thereof, during the time the vehicle remains in the pound.

The commissioner of police may declare that an emergency exists in the city of Buffalo, or in any section or sections thereof, whenever snow, freezing rain, sleet, ice, snow drifts or other natural phenomenon creates or, in the judgment of the commissioner, is likely to create, hazardous road conditions impeding or likely to impede the free movement of fire, health, police, emergency or other vehicular traffic vital to the health, safety, and welfare of the community. The declaration of such an emergency shall create an emergency period of 72 hours, but such period may be terminated earlier by the commissioner if the necessary snowplowing and/or sanding operations are satisfactorily completed. --Public Works

COURT UPHOLDS HOME RULE

The Oregon Supreme Court has ruled that a state law requiring all political subdivisions that employ four or more full-time firemen to maintain a firemen's civil service system is a violation of home rule (State ex rel. Henig V. City of Milwaukie). The case came before the Court on appeal from the city of Milwaukie. The Court maintained that establishment of a civil service system for city firemen is a local matter of state-wide concern. It then declared that the state legislature does not have authority to enact a general law applicable to all cities when the enactment relates to matters that are predominantly of local concern. Charles S. Rhyné, general counsel, National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, has stated that the opinion will "... receive nationwide attention as a classic in the field of home rule." The opinion is available from the League of Oregon Cities, P. O. Box 5177, Eugene.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS NOW OUTNUMBER MUNICIPALITIES, TOWNSHIPS

Special districts now outnumber every form of local government except school districts, a preliminary report of the 1962 Census of Government shows.

There were 18,323 special districts compared to 17,997 municipalities and 17,144 townships in 1962, according to the survey.

The substantial growth in special districts--up nearly 4,000 over 1957--is partially due to a change in classification, which now counts as special districts some units previously considered as dependent agencies of other governments.

Nevertheless, entirely aside from the effect of these classification changes, the number of special districts shows an increase of more than 2,200, or about 15 percent, between 1957 and 1962.

Only one-third of all special districts are engaged in natural resources activities. The remaining two-thirds perform largely urban functions. The largest group of special districts are engaged in fire protection--3,229 or 17.6 percent of all special districts.

On the other hand, multi-purpose districts--often cited as a promising approach to metropolitan-wide functional problems--number only 310, or 1.7 percent of the total.

The Census report shows a grand total of 91,236 governmental units in the United States in 1962, a decrease of 11,156 from that shown in 1957. There has been a continuing sharp reduction in the number of school districts, 34,678 in 1962 compared to 50,454 five years ago.

In the same period, 782 more municipalities were reported. Townships declined by 54, and counties numbered seven fewer--3,043 vs. 3,050.

More than 4,000 governments are found in each of seven states: Illinois, 6,453; Pennsylvania, 6,202; Kansas, 5,411; Minnesota, 5,213; Nebraska, 5,125; South Dakota, 4,464; California, 4,023. These states account for nearly 37,000 local governments, about 40 percent of the national total. --American Municipal News.

CONTRACTS FOR DATA PROCESSING

Saginaw, Michigan has awarded a contract to a local service bureau to concert certain major functions of the department of finance to electronic data processing. Functions to be converted are: real estate and personal property taxes and special assessments, real estate taxes return roll and delinquent tax accounting, water and sewer billing and related accounts receivable, and preparation of payrolls and related reports. The city reports that conversion to data processing will eliminate six bookkeeping machines, bring long-range savings in personnel costs, and increase capacity for handling an expanding work load.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Proper timing is important from the standpoint of economies and good public relations. Examples of poor timing would be such things as placing needed restrictions on curb parking during a period of temporary business recession; increasing water rates during the summer months; the installation of a traffic signal the day after a fatality at that location;

patching an asphalt street a few days before the street is completely torn up and reconditioned under a new program; cutting a new pavement for water and sewer lines shortly after the new pavement is installed.
--Texas Town & City.

Monthly breakfast meetings of the mayor, city commission, and other Memphis officials concerned with urban renewal have proven successful for coordinating and reporting. Only one participant has missed a meeting over a two-year period, and that because he had to be out of town. --Public Administration News.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY OK

The Alameda County (California) Superior Court ruled recently that a provision in the Alameda County Charter forbidding political activity on the part of county employees is unconstitutional. The decision was based on two points: (1) the provision is vague as to what conduct employees may engage in without fear of punishment, and (2) it discriminates unreasonably between employees in the classified civil service and those in the unclassified civil service. Framers of the charter pointed out that the language in the charter is identical with that in a number of other jurisdictions. --Public Management.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Forbidden fruit is responsible for many a bad jam.

Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XI NO. 4 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., APRIL 15, 1963

ELEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER

MAY 22nd IS A RED-LETTER DAY. CIRCLE IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

The Institute of Municipal Government will hold its Eleventh Annual Dinner for award and certificate winners at the Wilkes Commons on Wednesday, May 22, 1963, at 6:30 p. m. This dinner really brings to a climax the in-service training activities in local government which the Institute has conducted over the past year.

The main speaker will be Colonel E. Wilson Purdy, newly appointed Commissioner of Police for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Commissioner Purdy, who received his graduate degree in Police Science from Michigan State University, will devote some of his remarks to professionalization of law-enforcement.

The in-service training activities of the Institute have intensified and increased in number over the last eleven years. It is quite evident that many local officials in Northeastern Pennsylvania are making every effort to avail themselves of these short courses and thereby raise their standards in local government. The awards dinner is, therefore, a fitting climax to their sincere efforts to widen their horizon and vision.

*** DON'T FORGET MAY 22nd! ***

\$181,540 AID GIVEN TO CITY

Accelerated Public Works Program, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Washington, yesterday granted Wilkes-Barre City \$181,540 toward a \$323,000 sewer project in the City. Announcement of the grant was made to Mrs. Ethel Price, head of Wilkes-Barre Street Department, by Congressman Daniel J. Flood. Stipulation of the grant states that work on the project must begin within 75 days.

Mrs. Price stated that work on the specifications will begin immediately. Under the grant, the Federal Government will pay 58 percent of the total cost, \$181,549, while the city will be required to pay the

remaining 42 per cent, or \$131,460. Request for the Federal aid was submitted on November 7, 1962. The moneys will be spent on three sewer projects in the city: Project 1, sanitary interceptor sewers in North Wilkes-Barre for a new residential development; Project 2, reconstruction of D. and H. sewer in South Wilkes-Barre and Mill Creek Sewer in North Wilkes-Barre, and Project 3, improvement of North Pennsylvania storm sewer. The Federal agency yesterday also granted \$8,787 to Freeland Borough to provide resurfacing of Ridge Street. The work is to begin in 40 days.

ALBUQUERQUE SAVES ON RENTAL CHARGES BY MODERNIZING ITS FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

A modern fire alarm system has gone into operation in the fire department of the city of Albuquerque. The Class A system is required by the National Board of Fire Underwriters for all departments answering more than 1,500 alarms in one year. During the last fiscal year, the new system, Fire Chief Simon Seligman said, will help keep low insurance rates in force in Albuquerque. With the new type A system, fire alarms are received at central headquarters and by responding companies only. The class B system, formerly in use, transmitted all alarms to all stations. It has been estimated that the \$111,640 contract price of the new system is but one-tenth of what the city would have to pay during the next 30 years (a conservative useful life expectation of the new system) under a plan which proposed leasing a telephone type reporting system.

Albuquerque's new system was installed by the Gamewell Co. of Newton Upper Falls, Mass., specialists in public safety for more than a century. The central headquarters alarm room is a model of installation design. The room housing the central office equipment is approximately 16 feet by 20 feet and was originally built for a six-circuit, Type B system, when the city had only ten engine houses. The new type A equipment which has an ultimate capacity for handling 30 engine houses has been installed in the same room.

Included in the central office equipment is an operator's console of the latest Modular design. Controlling switchboards have been neatly installed to the rear of the dispatcher's facilities. When a person reports a fire or requests the rescue unit by telephone, he is connected to the main fire alarm office. Two alarm operators will be on duty in the alarm room at all times. Under the new system the alarm operator will determine from dispatch cards, the companies responsible for responding to the call and will transmit the alarm and location to these companies.

The dispatch cards, required for the new system, gives the operation the correct companies to dispatch to any type emergency to any location in the city. These cards show the first due companies as well as the second and third alarm assignments to every location in the city.

"All of these plans have been worked out so that the Fire department is able to function effectively under any emergency condition," Chief Seligman said. All incoming calls to the alarm room are recorded as a means of preventing mistakes. If there is any doubt, the alarm operator immediately plays back the recording as a double check. "If the caller gives the operator accurate information as to the location and nature of the emergency it is possible to have apparatus on the way in seconds," the chief said. Plans call for extension of the system to include two more planned fire stations. --Western City Magazine.

SET-OUT, SET-BACK SERVICE COSTS TOLEDO \$333,000/YR.

The original separate collection of garbage and trash has been replaced by a single collection on a once-a-week basis with pickup and setback of cans in the city of Toledo, Ohio. A study was recently made to see how well the newly installed collection system was working; and to make any additional recommendations for further improvement of the efficiency of pickup and haul.

Using 1960 as a test year, the city of Toledo's refuse collection costs were determined from budget analysis. Each individual costs, such as labor, operation and maintenance and amortization, was divided into the general categories of:

- a. pickup costs
- b. haul costs

Pickup and haul costs were in turn, subdivided into:

- a. costs related to time and
- b. costs related to miles of travel.

By relating each of these costs for the test year to the tons of material handled during that period, it can be stated that the cost of handling one ton of refuse was \$13.40 for pickup and \$3.64 for haul for the year 1960. Haul costs were broken down further, and expressed as \$0.3795 per ton mile with the mileage computed on a round trip distance basis.

One of the expensive features of Toledo's refuse collection procedures is the additional service given by picking up and returning refuse cans to the rear of the houses rather than leaving this work to the individual householder, as is done in most cities. It is estimated that if this pickup and return of cans is deleted, about \$333,000 per year will

be saved. If, on the other hand, only the return of the empty cans to the rear of the houses was deleted \$152,000 would be saved.

Recent changes instituted in the city pickup procedures were analyzed statistically. The incentive system presently being employed appears to be working far better than anyone felt possible, and the average work day has been reduced to 5.9 hours. Part of this reduction is due to the voluntary relinquishment of two 15-minute coffee breaks allowed during the regular 8 hour working day.

The situation was further analyzed, and it is concluded that some additional total increased efficiency could be expected by keeping the present system and increasing the work load in a gradual manner as population densities increase, or as individual truck route areas are adjusted to equalize total work load among collection crews. If the effective workday were increased from 5.9 to as much as 7 hours, it is felt that the present incentive system would probably break down. This is considering an 8 hour workday less 2 coffee breaks or an effective work period of 7-1/2 hours. The anticipated breakdown would be due primarily to seasonal occurrences of considerable period of overtime being required.

TIPS WORTH TAPPING

Gaylord, Mich. (Kenneth D. Northuis, manager), has a monthly column in the local newspaper written by the city manager. . . . Roanoke, Va. (Arthur S. Owens, manager), sent notes of apology and roses to several dozen citizens who suffered through an especially long delay in trash pickup at Christmas time. . . . West Palm Beach, Fla. (Frank Lawler, manager), placed an advertisement in a local paper prior to preparing the annual budget to ask for citizen suggestions. Those responding to the ad were sent a form; the response was good and several suggestions were incorporated into the budget.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Nothing makes paying your taxes seem fully justified like getting a refund.

Lots of people laugh one way and vote another. -- Will Rodgers.

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII NO. 5 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., MAY, 1963

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DON'T FORGET MAY 22nd!

RECENT PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATION AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES

The Governor has signed the bill which amends the law authorizing the establishment of historical districts in counties, townships and municipalities by requiring that members of the Board of Historical Architectural Review be residents of the county, township or municipality in which the historic district is located. The law formerly provided that only a majority of the Board be residents.

Another law amends the act entitled "an Act to authorize and empower cities, boroughs, towns, and townships, separately or jointly, to provide for protection against floods by erecting and constructing certain works and improvements, located within or without their territorial limits, and within or without the county in which situated. . . ." authorizing municipalities to enter into arrangements and agreements with other public authorities for the purposes of the act, removing the prohibition upon municipalities to construct dams for flood control or other purposes, and increasing the amount of works or improvements which may be let without competitive bidding and advertisement.

THIRD OF CITY PROPERTY NOW EXEMPT FROM TAXES

Wilkes-Barre is an outstanding example of the manner in which municipal income from real estate taxes is being steadily whittled away by exemptions. In Wilkes-Barre--contrasted to the state average which finds 3 cents in taxes lost for every dollar collected--almost one-third of all the property in the city is exempt from paying taxes. The 1961 assessment, for example, shows that with a grade total of \$115,900,000 of property, the total value of property which is exempt from taxation is \$37,466,754, or about 32% of the whole. The tax exempt list increases steadily with much new property added by means of changes of the law.

That most of the exemptions have been granted in recent years is shown by the fact that in 1950 the total was \$28,886,754, so that the increase has been almost \$9,000,000 in the last decade. This contrasts sharply with preceding years since back in 1930 when the total was little less than it had become 20 years later. In 1930 the exempt total was \$28,648,535--only some \$200,000 less than in 1950.

All through Pennsylvania exemptions are becoming a big headache for local government officials. With a trend toward more and more exemptions whittling away at local tax bases, they must seek new sources of revenue. When local taxables are shaved by exemptions, state subsidies to school districts and for other purposes--normally based on local real estate values--are increased to help make up the difference.

George Fox, research and statistical expert of the State Tax Equalization Board, estimates at least \$80,000,000 in taxables are lost to school districts through exemptions. The cost to the state in increased subsidies runs upward of \$43,000,000. A survey prepared by Fox showed that the value of exempt property rose 20% between 1935 and 1950, while taxable property increased only 9%. The margin narrowed in the next 11 years, but exempt property still rose by 65% from 1950 to 1961, while taxable property increased by 63%.

A long list of exemptions is spelled out in the State Constitution and general laws. They include all public property, places of actual worship, and property owned by public utilities, charitable and non-profit organizations and military veterans groups.

Despite the serious problem faced by local taxing bodies, attempts are made constantly for even more exemptions. Twenty-five bills proposing additional exemptions were introduced in the 1961 General Assembly. Two were enacted. One exempts concert halls operated by charitable organizations; the other excuses land used for limited access highways. The latter is merely a classification of an exemp-

tion already on the books. In addition, the 1961 legislature gave final approval--and the voters concurred overwhelmingly at the November election--to a constitutional amendment exempting the property of needy multiple amputee, blind and paraplegic veterans.

"This latest amendment is the first of a new type of exemption which affects property of individuals and is certain to open the door for amendments to exempt properties in other classes of persons," said Martin Steiger, Philadelphia chief assessor.

A review of exemption provisions and so-called abuses has been urged for years. The Joint State Government Commission, research arm of the legislature, followed up the resolution by appointing an 18-member committee to study the problem and report to the 1963 session.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS INCREASES

Technical assistance, a concept and practice familiar in international relations, is increasingly utilized as a form of domestic intergovernmental cooperation. However, "in the concern about grants-in-aid and other methods by which one level of government may supervise or control activities of other governments," the importance of technical assistance has received less consideration.

To remedy this lack of attention, the Council of State Governments has published a report on State Technical Assistance to Local Governments, by William L. Frederick and Marilyn Gittell.

Though technical assistance has been basically an outgrowth of state supervision the authors state, it is often a more effective means of accomplishing goals sometimes sought through control. "Increasingly the emphasis at the state level is upon assisting local governments to do a better job, rather than merely supervising them to make certain that minimum standards are observed." In this way, too, state governments can better rely on local units to furnish services which otherwise might have to be shifted entirely to the state level.

Technical assistance for local units may sometimes be mandatory, for instance providing budget forms or auditing services. Other aid programs are available upon request, particularly from state agencies concerned with professional services like education and health or with staff functions. Technical assistance takes several forms: consultation and expert advice, conferences, institutes, special studies and reports, clearing house and information programs, manuals and model laws.

--Public Administration Bulletin.

MUNICIPALITIES TO GET SHARE OF GAS TAX

Acting Secretary of Highways Wilbur C. Webb announced recently that Governor William W. Scranton has authorized distribution of \$29,390,232 to the 2560 political subdivisions throughout the state. The money represents 90 per cent of their share of the Liquid Fuel and Fuels Use Tax for the fiscal year to end June 30.

Legislative Act 655, (1956), guarantees annual Department distribution of 20 per cent of the 4 1/2 cent tax--or \$30 million, whichever is more--to the municipalities which have qualified by submitting budgets for approval. The Act specifies that at least 25 per cent of the allocations must be spent for construction and reconstruction and the balance for maintenance on local streets, roads and bridges.

This year, for the sixth time, 90 per cent payments will start in April, so that money is available for use during the summer construction season. The remaining 10 per cent will be paid in October as specified by the Act.

Payments will be made to First and Second Class townships, boroughs and cities. Although counties receive no payments, amounts going to municipalities have been compiled, for simplicity, to show totals by county.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

A successful man is one who knows how to get ahead of the people he has to get along with.

Fault has never been too easy to find that people stopped looking for it.

PUBLICATION

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 6 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., JUNE 15, 1963

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

The Institute of Municipal Government culminated another successful year of activity with the Eleventh Annual Awards Dinner for local officials in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Certificates of Attainment were presented to 103 men and women who completed the courses of the Institute in property assessment, police report writing, fundamentals of fire fighting, civil law for magistrates, personnel supervision, municipal fire administration and small arms. An additional nineteen officials and employees received service awards for experience and untiring efforts as public servants in their communities.

The following officials received service awards: Dr. Robert M. Bodycomb, Dallas school board 18 years; John T. Jeter, Dallas Borough engineer, 46 years; Henry Cislo, Dupont police chief, five years; Michael Kravitsky, Edwardsville police chief, 29 years; Vernon A. Cease, Jackson Township school director, 24 years and justice of the peace 14 years; Anthony Krauzlis, Kingston police officer, 38 years; Anthony Panaway, Laflin solicitor, five years; Frank Marcinkowski, Nanticoke councilman, 16 years; Joseph Mazzarella, Pittston Township fire chief, 18 years; Anthony Kulikowski, Plains Township commissioner, eight years; Lawrence Kendig, Plymouth police chief, 33 years; John Brennan, Pringle police chief, 12 years; Charles Arndt, Salem Township school board, 23 years; Joseph Tirpak, West Wyoming official and secretary of the school board, 21 years; Charles Morgan, Wilkes-Barre chief of police, 20 years in the department; Carl Naessig, Wilkes-Barre City assessor, 30 years; Albert Harrison, Wright Township school director, 15 years; Carl N. Smith, chairman, Wright Township Planning Commission, three years; George Samuels, Forty Fort fire truck driver, 27 years.

COMMISSIONER PURDY

In an address at the Eleventh Annual Dinner of the Institute of Municipal Government, Colonel E. Wilson Purdy, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, scored the indifference of citizens who failed

to assume the responsibility of citizenship in demanding and supporting good law enforcement. According to the Commissioner, the police officer is the first line of defense against crime.

"A strong hometown police department and the dedicated officer on the beat are two vital commodities without which no community can hope to protect its citizens or property," he declared.

He advocated an open door policy with regard to the public press and urged police departments to encourage visits from the general public as a means of disseminating information on law enforcement activities. He expressed caution against police officials setting themselves up as semi-official censors.

If law enforcement agencies want to improve their public image and gain the support and respect of the people, lack of which Commissioner Purdy decries, it would be well for them to ponder Purdy's words seriously.

COUNCILMEN'S PAY BILL

The "Councilmen's Pay Bill" was signed into law by Governor Scranton. It is the first bill pertaining to borough government to complete its trip through the legislative process this session. H. 352 amends the last paragraph of Section 1001 of the Borough Code by deleting the "regular" from the phrase: "No compensation shall be paid in any month to a councilman who has failed to attend at least one (regular) meeting of council during the month." This would permit a councilman who missed the regular council meeting, but who attended a special or adjourned meeting during the month, to be paid his monthly salary for that month.

LAWS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Act 6-- Provides for the election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Second Class Townships. (1) P# 52.

Act 7-- The supervision of townships affairs shall be by five township supervisors when the court has provided for election of two additional supervisors. (1) P# 67.

Act 16-- Two members of any board of supervisors consisting of three members shall constitute a quorum, and three members of a five member board shall constitute a quorum. (1) P# 60.

Act 23-- Increases the maximum compensation of auditors in any township having a population of 10,000 or less not to exceed \$200 for any calendar year. Auditors are not to receive more than \$400 for any calendar year in townships having a population in excess of 10,000. In addition, an auditor is to receive \$10 per day to audit the accounts of a vacated public office. (1) P# 66.

Act 29-- Authorizes ordinances and certain resolutions to be in force after attachment to the borough ordinance book, and validates certain borough records. (5) P# 833.

NON-RESIDENT OCCUPATIONAL TAX

In June, 1962, this column reported the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's knockout of the City of Johnstown's attempt to impose a flat \$10 "occupational" tax upon non-residents working in the city. Johnstown came out of its fiscal corner counter-punching with the fact that it also had put a \$10 per capita tax upon every resident. But the court said that the tax on non-residents was itself a per capita tax and therefore invalid because of lack of jurisdiction to tax. *Danyluk v. Johnstown*, 406 Pa. 427 (1962).

But that was only a preliminary. Next, into the Superior Court's ring, came the Borough of Midland, also seeking a way to get residents of neighboring towns to kick in for the services they receive. But, as we reported in September, 1962, Midland also lost, despite the fact that it carefully imposed its \$10 occupation tax upon everybody employed in the borough, resident and non-resident alike. The Superior Court, believing that it was following the Supreme Court's decision in the Johnstown case, kayoed the Midland tax on the ground that it was also a per capita tax because of its flat rate; and a true occupation tax, the court said, must involve a sliding scale of charges varying with different classes of occupations. *Guernsey v. Midland Borough*, 197 Pa. Super. 394 (1962).

Now, however, comes the main event. The City of Allentown, like Midland, brought to the Supreme Court its tax, which also put a \$10 levy on all residents and non-residents engaged in an occupation within the city.

As we noted last September, the fact that the "Tax-Anything Act" (Act No. 481 of June 25, 1947, P. L. 1145) now expressly sets a \$10 maximum for "flat rate occupation and occupational privilege taxes" supplies a pretty good hint that the solons in Harrisburg don't think that a valid occupation tax must have a sliding scale.

So, in Gaugler v. Allentown, recently filed, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld Allentown's tax. The court says that, in the Johnstown case, it did not intend to rule that an occupation tax, in order to be valid, must of necessity vary according to the mode of employment.

The Johnstown case, the court states, was different because the lawyers there virtually admitted that the "occupational" tax was really a per capita tax on non-residents.

The Allentown opinion points out that the Tax-Anything Law expressly mentions both per capita and occupation taxes and expressly puts separate limitations on both.

For good measure, the Allentown decision says that municipalities had power to impose occupational license taxes even before the 1947 act was passed. For extra good measure, the Supreme Court also backs up its view of the occupation tax by citing an 1885 Pennsylvania case. Don't throw out those old law books yet, solicitors; they come in handy, sometimes.

The Allentown opinion did not expressly overrule the Superior Court Midland decision. But don't be surprised if Midland seeks a return match. (Reprint of article by David W. Craig, Esq. in the LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER, May, 1963).

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Keep thy eyes wide open before marriage, and half-shut afterwards. --Benjamin Franklin.

Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects. --Will Rogers.

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 7 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., JULY 15, 1963

LAWS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Act 4-- Amending Section 1709 of the First Class Township Code (1931 P. L. 1206) to increase the millage limit for general township purposes from 15 mills to 20 mills. Approved March 25.
- Act 15-- Amends Sections 2 and 3 of the act of 1936 P. L. 95, relating to flood control, by authorizing cities, boroughs, towns and townships to enter into arrangements and agreements with other public authorities for the purposes of the act; removing the prohibition upon municipalities to construct dams for flood control or other purposes, and increasing from \$300 to \$1000, the amount of works or improvements that may be let without competitive bidding and advertisement. Approved April 15.
- Act 21-- Amends Section 610 of the First Class Township Code (1931 P. L. 1206) to allow county association of township officers to hold quarterly conventions, as an alternative to semi-annual or annual conventions.
- Act 30-- Enlarges the right of Authorities to charge a tapping fee, and provides for payment to the person or corporation paying for the construction. (1) P# 74.
- Act 46-- Regulates the compensation of townships secretaries and treasurers as to salary, wages, or a certain percentage on all moneys received and paid by him as determined by the supervisors. (1) P# 57.
- Act 47-- Authorizes supervisors to transact business other than organizing as a board at meetings on the first Monday of January. (6) P# 372.
- Act 48-- Validates ordinances heretofore attached to the city ordinance book for third class cities. (7) P# 279.
- Act 49-- Validates ordinances heretofore attached to the township ordinance book for second class townships. (7) P# 280.

Act 50-- Further fixes the qualification of members of the board of health relating to physicians. (7) P# 281.

Act 56-- Authorizes an appropriation to the Veterans of World War I of The U. S. A., Inc. (8) P# 695.

Act 63-- The board of commissioners may appropriate, annually, to each post of the Veterans of World War I of the U. S. A., Inc. (8) P# 706.

Act 76-- Authorizes townships to remove and impound illegally parked vehicles. (3) P# 279.

Act 78-- Authorizes the reassessment of a building or buildings constructed, or where major improvements have been made after the township supervisors have prepared a duplicate of the assessment of township taxes. (4) P# 835.

CENTRALIZED PURCHASING

"If the 15 percent saving often claimed for centralized purchasing is correct, Richmond, Virginia taxpayers have saved nearly 12 million dollars since establishment of the city's central purchasing agency 20 years ago." A Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial appraising the municipal purchasing agency after 20 years of operation is quoted in the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing Letter Service.

Some improvements came about through questioning of previous purchasing arrangements, the editorial notes. On the new agency's first day of business one of its representatives phoned a typewriter ribbon supplier who had always sold ribbons at \$10 a dozen to a certain city department, and said he was going to look for a lower price elsewhere. The supplier then cut his price to \$5.50.

Richmond was the first U. S. city to use foreign small cars, the editorial continues, and one of the first to use domestic compacts. The foreign ones, with operating and maintenance costs of 2.1 cents per mile, cost 1.2 cents less per mile than conventional cars. In 1947, at the purchasing agency's recommendation, consolidation of the three city shops servicing city-owned motor vehicles brought further economies.

These examples of investigation and innovation, observes the Richmond newspaper, indicate "the savings realized through having purchases made by a professional buying agency that seeks to save money

instead of by separate departments and bureaus whose primary interest may be simply to acquire needed materials quickly in order to get on with the job."

NEWS ABOUT FIRE

Portland, Oregon-- A plea for closer cooperation between fire and building officials was voiced here today by C. M. Christiansen, building inspections director of Portland.

"If your city does not now have the kind of cooperation you would like," he said, "you will need to rid yourselves of monopolistic codes and 'little kingdoms.' Little kingdoms, favors shown to a few, and egotism in the job have no place."

While personnel is vitally important, Christiansen said, the most competent administrators "are literally stymied without proper codes." The ideal code, he told the group, requires "specific minimum standards of performance rather than specific materials," thus getting away from the monopolistic code under which only the products of a particular manufacturer or dealer can qualify.

In the past, code requirements often called for inefficient work methods and "stand-by" labor. These codes were so restrictive and monopolistic that they were barriers to new products and modern techniques, he said. Granted good codes to work with, cooperation can only be achieved if fire and building officials have an understanding of "What and why they are enforcing." Each group must be well informed as to the other's problems so that there can be teamwork resulting in accomplishment.

"The principle of public service impartially applied is the only foundation for the enforcement of code provisions," he said.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT

The right of interim assessment has now been extended to the boroughs of the Commonwealth, on a limited basis at least. House Bill 356 is now Act 80 of 1963.

The Boroughs Association had this bill introduced to give the boroughs the same right of interim assessment now available to the cities, counties, school districts and townships of the first class--the right to assess for taxation purposes, new construction completed after the tax duplicate has been prepared for the year.

H. 356 stalled several times on its journey through the legislature because of opposition from several builders' groups. When it appeared that the bill would be recommitted and might die, the Association agreed to some amendments. The amendments were inserted and the bill advanced and is now law.

The amendments provide that the new property shall not be assessed and taxed until it is purchased or occupied whichever is earlier. In no case, however, shall the postponement of assessment extend beyond that date on which the next annual tax duplicate is completed.

DEBT LIMIT

Senate Bill 37, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, is on its way to the Governor. This bill, as amended, would increase the local government debt limit to 5 percent of assessed valuation without voter approval, and to 15 percent of assessed valuation with voter approval. The current limits are 7 percent with voter approval and 2 percent without.

S. 37 originally applied only to school districts and to school debt. After Senate passage, it was amended in the House to include all local governments, was quickly passed, and, the Senate concurred in the House amendments.

The Boroughs Association is urging the Governor to sign this bill, although its long-standing policy on debt limits favors changing the basis from assessed valuation to market valuation.

The Governor's signature **this year** would be only the **first** step. A Constitutional amendment must pass two successive legislatures and be approved by the voters.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

A DEBTOR is a man who owes money to a CREDITOR who thinks he will get it.

A penny for most people's thoughts is a fair price.

PUBLICATION

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 8 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., AUGUST 15, 1963

THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE

The Third Annual COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE will again provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among the various organizations and individuals concerned with the solution of the more practical problems related to the social and economic well-being of our area. The CONFERENCE will bring together all those people interested in present and future planning for the area. It is designed to set a pattern for continuing cooperative efforts among local government officials, builders, realtors, industrialists, developers, and interested citizens.

In examining the more vital problems of our area, the sponsors of the COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE hope to benefit from sharing experiences with nationally known authorities who will participate in the CONFERENCE with us.

The Third Annual COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE will be held at Wilkes College on Wednesday, September 25, 1963.

Watch for the final program announcement and registration form. DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT MEETING! MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

LAWS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Act 93-- Extends the eligibility for military leave of absence under the "Veterans Preference Act of 1957" which includes employees of counties, municipalities, townships, authorities or other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth to times of emergency proclaimed by the Governor or President of the U. S. A.

Act 95-- Provides that no elected county officer or county solicitor shall at the same time serve as treasurer or tax collector of

PIPE INTERIORS INSPECTED BY TV

The Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania has announced an exciting innovation in sewer and pipe line maintenance. Robinson has now added interior inspection via closed-circuit television to its varied services.

According to Jay B. Schaff, company president, the inspection is performed in the following manner: a section of a sewer, for example, is first rodded from manhole to manhole with the Robinson Power Rodder; the television camera is then attached to the rod and is pulled through the line. Interested parties sit in weatherproof comfort in the portable monitoring trailer and watch every tile come onto the screen. Photos of the monitor can provide a permanent record. The camera is especially constructed for this type of work. Encased in a waterproof stainless steel cylinder, the unit measures 5 1/2" in diameter. Inboard lights provide needed illumination. The camera can be placed on skids or even on a boat or raft for inspecting large diameter pipes, and additional outboard lighting can then be provided as needed.

A typical inspection job was performed recently for the Borough of Greentree where approximately 850 feet of 36" concrete storm sewer was the subject. Robinson had been cleaning the sewer and after removing literally tons of debris encountered an immovable obstruction at about halfway point (two openings available were at two extremities). Since collapsed pipe was suspected, it was decided to make the TV inspection. The camera confirmed all suspicions, and the exact locations of the breaks and trouble areas were quickly noted. Inspection was completed in one day. (The Borough Bulletin, March 1961)

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

A chip on the shoulder always indicates there is wood higher up.

Some people are like blotters - they soak it all in, but get it all backwards.

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 9 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., SEPTEMBER 15, 1963

THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE

The Third Annual COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE will again provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among the various organizations and individuals concerned with the solution of the more practical problems related to the social and economic well-being of our area. The CONFERENCE will bring together all those people interested in present and future planning for the area. It is designed to set a pattern for continuing cooperative efforts among local government officials, builders, realtors, industrialists, developers, and interested citizens.

In examining the more vital problems of our area, the sponsors of the COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE hope to benefit from sharing experiences with nationally known authorities who will participate in the CONFERENCE with us.

The Third Annual COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE will be held at Wilkes College on Wednesday, September 25, 1963. The theme of this CONFERENCE will be "The Need to Rehabilitate the Older Community." At the panel session, prominent individuals will discuss the following topics: Survival of the Central Business District, Effect of Urban Renewal on Land Values, and Measurement of Community Renewal Needs. The CONFERENCE will conclude with a discussion of The Role of the Citizen in Community Growth.

SHORT COURSES

Once again the Institute of Municipal Government will provide non-credit, non-degree educational opportunities for elected and appointed officials. They are presented in cooperation with the Public Service Institute, Department of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Instruction by the Institute staff is supplemented by guest lecturers.

During the Fall Semester, the following courses will be presented: Arson Investigation --- A review of the Firemen's responsibility in the detection and prevention of arson and fraud fires; Criminal Investigation --- An advanced course in the observational and scientific techniques used in the investigation of major crimes; Magistrates - Criminal Law --- A general review of the important points of criminal law required by magistrates in the proper fulfilling of their office; Rural Assessment --- An advanced course for assessors with prior experience and familiarity with the tax assessment field in rural areas.

SWOYERVILLE

The recent decision of Judge Jacob Schiffman regarding a motion by the Swoyerville Council for a preliminary injunction to stop the erection of a million gallon oil storage tank strongly points up once more the importance of zoning. Note the comments made by Judge Schiffman in denying the motion. "The record does not reveal that the tank is unsafe because of the material or equipment used or the manner of its construction. Nor does the testimony indicate the proposed structure will necessarily or with practical certainty, result in fire or explosion with resultant drastic effect upon neighboring residents. On the contrary, the record reveals the construction involved meets the requirements and has been approved by the Bureau of Fire Protection, Pennsylvania State Police of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Not only is the record barren of the necessity to prevent irreparable harm and injury, it also does not denote that greater injury would result by refusing the preliminary injunction than by granting it."

"On one hand, the plaintiff alleges noise and odors during the construction, but the evidence does not reveal they were unnecessary or unreasonable under the circumstances. Indeed, there are scattered among residences, other industries, commercial establishments and vehicular traffic in the area. Nor do the fears and apprehension of these residents constitute a legal reason to now enjoin the defendant. The balance of the scales of equity and justice must be viewed in the light that this action was commenced after the defendant had purchased the property upon which the storage tank is located. The relief sought is after substantial construction had progressed with its concurrent financial responsibilities. THESE COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE DEFENDENT WERE NOT PRECLUDED BY ANY ZONING CLASSIFICATION OR OTHER RESTRICTING ORDINANCE WITHIN THE BOROUGH."

Once again, local officials have sadly learned that it is legally impossible to prevent certain undesirable activities simply by construing the activity as a nuisance. A decrease in value of nearby residential property cannot be the basis of any legal relief. An injunction is not a substitute for a well-written and adequately enforced zoning ordinance.

Courts in the United States have continually held that the only method of promoting the best use of land is by means of a zoning ordinance. This is the tool of comprehensive planning that is intended to safeguard investments in homes and schools and it provides for orderly growth and wholesome living.

If Swoyerville had adopted a good zoning ordinance, the residents of that area would have been spared their concern. The ordinance would not have allowed commercial or industrial uses in a residential area.

Only fifteen of the seventy-three municipalities in Luzerne County have some type of zoning ordinance. There is a real need in every one of the remaining fifty-eight communities to enact a zoning ordinance sufficiently definite to convey to a landowner a clear concept of what use may be made of his land. Only then can the best interests be served and the orderly growth of these communities be adequately provided. The sad lesson of the residents of Swoyerville should be enough incentive for municipalities in Luzerne County to draft their zoning ordinances with deliberate speed.

LEGISLATION IN REVIEW

A great deal of legislation was passed by the 1963 General Assembly which will affect local government. Some of that legislation will be summarized in this issue of the NEWSLETTER. A more complete list of legislation affecting local government will follow in subsequent issues.

First, an appropriation bill was passed which will provide a full 2 percent sewage aid payment to municipalities. The Commonwealth, as a part of their clean streams program, pays to municipalities which have built sewage disposal plants, an annual sum to be used by the municipalities which have built sewage disposal plants, an annual sum to be used by the municipalities for maintenance and operation of these plants. The amount of this grant is based on the cost of construction of the plant and the law specifies that this amount shall be "up to 2 percent."

In recent years, however, the percentage has been far below this figure: 1.19 percent in 1962. Many municipalities proceeded with construction with the assumption that the full 2 percent would be forthcoming, and the state made no effort to discourage this belief. Further, since the clean streams program transcends municipal boundaries and is, therefore, a statewide problem, and since municipalities have contributed far and away the greatest amount of an effort to eliminate stream pollution. Many officials have long made a mandatory full two percent grant an important part of its legislative program. The bill which would have mandated this full 2 percent did not pass, but the appropriation bill in an amount sufficient to provide the full two percent did. The result is that in fiscal 1964, municipalities and authorities can expect to receive a 2/3 increase in the amount of sewage aid they receive from the Commonwealth. This does not mean, however, that this amount will be forthcoming in subsequent years. This guarantee will be one of our main objectives in the 1965 Legislature.

The second piece of legislation passed this session is the bill which amends the Compulsory Wage Law (Act 442) of 1961. Rarely has a new law received such a spontaneous outburst of opposition from local government officials as did Act 442 of 1961. This law, not well conceived in the first place, was administered in a way which increased the cost of public works contracts as much as 30 percent in some areas, and many municipalities were forced to either postpone or cancel needed public works, or devise ways to circumvent the law and its regulations. This new act, basically, does four things: it raises the limit from \$2,000 to \$25,000 on projects covered by the law; defines "locality" from which the prevailing wage is to be determined as meaning the municipality or the county in which the work is performed; establishes an appeals board on which municipalities will also be represented.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Some persons grow with responsibility - others merely swell.

About the only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions.

PUBLICATION

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 10 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., OCTOBER 15, 1963

LEASE-PURCHASE PARKING LOTS

Glendale, California, recently entered into a lease-purchase agreement with an insurance company to lease two parking lots in the central business district at a rate of 5 percent of the land acquisition cost per year. The city spent its own funds to purchase a land parcel contiguous to the other two lots; to clear the land; and to install paving, lighting, meters, and other improvements. The city may purchase the property within five years at the original land purchase price of \$51,000. The entire off-street parking program in the central business district is self-financing, and the cost for new lots is derived from revenue from existing lots and on-street parking meters. Since initiation of the CBD off-street parking program in 1954, the city has spent about \$1.1 million for 12 parking lots and a 240-unit garage.

SAVINGS ON CITY INSURANCE

Rockville, Maryland (26,090), has effected a savings of 25 percent on insurance costs by competitive bidding. Specifications were developed by the city finance department to cover workmen's compensation, automobile and comprehensive liability, and public and institutional property fire and extended coverage. The specifications doubled coverage to \$1 million for single limit liability coverage and provided 100 percent replacement costs for all city-owned buildings under fire and extended coverage insurance.

MERCHANTS OFFER BONUS TO SHOPPERS

Merchants in about thirty cities throughout the nation are giving customers free transit rides with a purchase of at least \$2 to \$6. After a shopper makes a purchase, the clerk either gives the buyer a free transit token or stamps a transit company receipt, making it valid for a free ride home. In some cities, buying only a dollar's worth of merchandise brings a five-cent refund toward transit fare.

Tucson, Arizona, has had a successful program in operation since 1956. Since then, merchants have given over one-half million free rides to customers.

NICOLETTI v. VEITCH et al., APPELLANTS

The Mayor of a Borough has no authority to veto an appointment by the Borough Council of a person to fill a vacancy in the office of councilman. This is despite the fact that the Borough Code gives the Mayor authority to veto resolutions and that the Code provides that, in case of a vacancy in the office of councilman, the council fills the vacancy by appointing, by resolution, a registered elector of the Borough. The latter, however, does not require a formal resolution of council; a mere roll-call vote, properly entered on the minutes of council, meets the requirements of the law.

The substance and not the form of councilmanic action is governing in these matters. The Mayor's authority to veto extends only to ordinances or resolutions of legislative nature, and not to actions of executive or ministerial nature, regardless of whether they may be called resolutions or ordinances.

The court further based its decision on the fact that: (1) in Section 1003 of the Borough Code there is a distinction between ordinary resolutions of council, and those dealing with the filling of vacancies; (2) to allow the Mayor the veto over such appointments would lead to confusion and complications because the Mayor returns his veto at the next regular meeting of Council, and Council is by law given only 30 days to fill the vacancy, otherwise the duty to fill the vacancy devolves on the courts.

BILLS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Act 15-- Extends the time during which actions of assumpsit may be brought for the recovery and collection of municipal claims to six years.
- Act 16-- Increases the authorized rate of tax in certain cases to twenty mills.
- Act 80-- Whenever in any borough there is any construction of a building, buildings, or major improvements after the borough council has prepared a duplicate of the assessment of borough taxes, the property shall be reassessed and added to the duplicate.

Act 149-- Excludes from certain advertising requirements, certain borough real or personal property to be sold to nonprofit corporations engaged in community industrial development.

Act 162-- No elected county, city, borough, town or township controller or auditor, and no controller or auditor appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of county, city, borough, town or township, controller or auditor, shall be employed in any other capacity by a school district or joint school board if he audits any finances or any funds belonging to or controlled by the school district or joint school board.

Act 167-- Provides for payments from the tax on premiums paid by foreign casualty insurance companies when a municipality furnishes police protection to another municipality pursuant to a contract.

Act 176-- Increases the millage of annual tax for road, bridge and general township purposes to 14 mills.

Act 180-- Increases the maximum amount of annual tax for general borough purposes to 25 mills.

Act 297-- Excludes from The Realty Transfer Tax Act any transfers to nonprofit industrial development agencies, and provides that such exclusion shall be retroactive for a specified period.

LIQUID FUEL TAXES

The largest amount of money in history will be returned by the State Government from liquid fuel taxes to local municipalities this year. Local governments will receive a total of \$10.2 million for local street maintenance. This amount brings the 1963 payment to a record \$39.6 million. In 1962, local governments received a total of \$37.2 million.

Payments to municipalities are based on the volume of liquid fuel taxes collected in each community during the year. The largest payment by the State Highway Department is \$31,501.96 to Wilkes-Barre, and the smallest payment is \$66.07 to Jeddo Borough.

Under the law, municipalities can use liquid fuel tax monies for the following purposes:

1. 25 per cent of the amount must be used for construction, reconstruction, and resurfacing, if all the roads in that community are

not improved. If they are improved, this money can be used for maintenance.

2. Usual maintenance, i. e., snow removal, erection and dismantling of snow fences, repairing of roads after spring thaws, etc.
3. Purchase of small tools. No major equipment may be purchased.
4. Purchase of snow fences.
5. Salaries and wages when applicable to State accounts.

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Middletown, Connecticut, is beginning its third five-year plan for motor equipment replacement. The plan combines a modified depreciation reserve fund with level annual appropriations to finance capital expenditures. The current plan calls for annual appropriations of \$80,000 so that \$400,000, plus interest, will be available for the fourth five-year plan beginning May 1, 1968. The replacement plan originated in 1953 with a bond issue of \$400,000 for initial financing. During the first decade annual appropriations of \$60,000 were made, and the initial bond issue was retired from general revenues. At the beginning of each five-year period, the capital expenditure committee of the town council meets with department heads to review their inventory with respect to age, condition, and operating costs. The five-year plan then is projected on the basis of present and anticipated needs. The program covers all motor equipment except police cars which are financed on an annual replacement basis by regular appropriations.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The real tragedy of ulcers is that you can have them and still not be a success.

What every bachelor is looking for is an ideal girl who isn't looking for an ideal man.

PUBLICATION

This News-letter, published monthly as a community service, originated in the Institute of Municipal Government of Wilkes College. Notes and inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Hugo V. Mailey, Institute of Municipal Government, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 11 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., NOVEMBER 15, 1963

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

In the continuing attempt to solve mutual problems, the East Side Sanitary Landfill Authority has been formed. This Authority is composed of the City of Wilkes-Barre, the Borough of Ashley, and Hanover and Plains Townships. It has as its expressed purpose the development and maintenance of a sanitary landfill for the garbage and rubbish collection in the four municipalities. This follows by only a few months the creation of the West Side Regional Sanitary Landfill Authority. This Authority is composed of nine boroughs: Courtdale, Edwardsville, Forty Fort, Kingston, Larksville, Luzerne, Plymouth, Pringle, and Swoyersville.

Both of these authorities have been established for a two-fold purpose: the elimination of the open dumps as required by the State Department of Health, and also to provide effective, economic disposal of refuse for the affected municipalities.

As has been stated in this Newsletter a number of times, "Too many times cooperation between towns is avoided because it is too full of common sense. We have got to learn that all communities in an area sink or swim together; that the economic well being of one community affects the others."

OCCUPATIONAL TAX LITIGATION

In cases now before the State Supreme Court the city of Johnstown and the Borough of Franklin have asked the court to rule constitutional their \$10.00 occupation and occupational privilege taxes. These municipalities are appealing a decision of the Cambria County Court and are asking the Supreme Court to consider their taxes similar to a tax imposed by the city of Allentown which the higher court upheld in March. Samuel R. De Francesco, Johnstown City Solicitor, reasoned to the court that the occupational taxes are the same as the Allentown ordinance, except that the Johnstown and Franklin ordinances exempt residents and non-residents who earn \$600 or less a year.

DON'T GET INTO A FRENZY OVER FOAM!

"Four billion pounds of detergents are used every year by this clean nation... and four billion pounds go down the drain." On this bit of statistics may depend the actions of a great American industry, an alert profession, and the future of sewage treatment processes, stream sanitation and public water supply systems.

Important as this sounds, the solution does not lie in getting into a frenzy over foam resulting from the presence of detergents in sewage, in sewage plant effluents, in receiving streams, and in public water supply sources.

The current concern over detergent pollution offers four alternative procedures for coping with the ABS challenge: Providing sewage treatment processes for eliminating ABS in effluents, streams; manufacturing ABS detergents which are readily biodegradable, and discontinuing the use of ABS detergents by legal edict or voluntary action of manufacturers. These four alternatives constitute the total line of attack on the new and vexing problem; that is all there is.

(Progress Report, Commission on Water Resources Planning, State of New York.)

SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

(Reprint)

A perennial problem in the development of subdivisions is making provision for future storm water drainage. Often a small subdivision is constructed in the lower section of a drainage area without storm water pipes. As more development occurs in the higher elevations, the need for large pipes becomes quite evident. Below is additional information from the American Society of Planning Officials on the comparative financial arrangements for paying for storm drainage facilities.

There are a couple of ways that an official could formulate and justify city policy on this matter: on the basis of a comparative analysis of practice in other communities; or on the basis of a type of benefit-cost analysis.

Several agencies have undertaken comparative studies of subdivision improvement costs. In 1952, the Regional Plan Association questioned 95 communities in the New York Metropolitan Region and found that over 80 per cent of them regularly charged the cost of storm water drains to the developer.

A more comprehensive survey by the Urban Land Institute, reported in Technical Bulletin No. 27, revealed that of 115 cities having 50,000 or more population, 71 per cent of them required the developer to pay for all storm sewer installation where it is called for by subdivision regulations. In those cities where costs were shared by developer and community, the breakpoint is usually based on the size of the pipe. For example, Long Beach, California, requires the developer to pay for all storm sewers under 30 inches while the city pays 30 per cent of the cost for sewers over 30 inches. Fort Worth, Texas, requires the developer to pay for the full cost of storm drains 36 inches in diameter or less; for those over 36 inches, the city pays 25 per cent. In a few communities, the city pays all costs for pipes over a certain size.

A 1958 comparative analysis was done by the Tennessee State Planning Commission. The report summarized existing practice in several states. The percentage of cities in which the developer paid all of the cost of storm drainage or sewers was as follows:

North Carolina (24 cities replying)--75%; Tennessee (38 cities replying)--82%; Connecticut: (cities 10,000-50,000) trunk lines--83%, lateral extensions--83%; (cities 50,000 and over) trunk lines--67%, and lateral extensions--83%.

From the findings of these few studies, it is apparent that the burden of storm drainage installation primarily falls on the developer. The surveys showed that about 80 per cent of the communities charged all of the cost of storm drainage to the developer.

But the question remains, What about the other 20 per cent--are they operating under antiquated regulations that are not in harmony with present day trends? The justification for sharing the cost of storm drainage facilities stems from the belief that subdividers should not be required to pay for oversized drainage and storm sewers, that is, facilities that are larger than the particular subdivision needs.

The issue is stated succinctly in the Urban Land Institute Technical Bulletin No. 27:

"The responsible developer has no objection to installing at his expense such utilities as are required for the site improvements he needs in creating the residential lots of his own project. However, he does object when excessive demands are made for utility installations, street pavements or assignments of area not for the benefit of his own project. Specifications for site improvements must be geared to the type, the size and the price bracket of the project with which the dev-

eloper is working. But, if under specifications of the subdivision regulations, the developer is required, for example, to install and pay for roadways that are to be paved heavier than his project needs, or if he is required to provide trunk sewers and water lines intended to serve areas beyond his immediate project, then the municipality has exceeded the bounds of equity and reasonable requirements."

The ASPO Planning Advisory Service Information Report No. 109 is especially pertinent and generally supports the contention that the cost to the developer should be based on that portion of the drainage facility benefiting the particular subdivision. Three methods are suggested to take care of the cost of that portion of the facility servicing the surrounding tributary area:

1. The city or county government can pay for the excess cost over the capacity of storm sewers needed to serve the subdivided area.
2. The city or county government can establish a revolving fund whereby the government initially pays for the excess capacity. As additional areas are developed and additional connections made to the storm sewer system, the city is reimbursed so that additional funds are available for storm sewers in other areas. The city government thus assumes the financial risk for further development of the drainage area.
3. A third method is to have the contractor pay for the excess capacity for storm water. Reimbursement is made to the developer as further connections are made to the system. Under this plan the developer is taking the financial risk for further development of the drainage area.

(Lancaster County Planning Commission Newsletter, October 1, 1963.)

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Politician's slogan: If at first you don't mislead, lie, lie again.

Committee: A group of men who keep minutes and waste hours.

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The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XII, NO. 12 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., DECEMBER 15, 1963

TAX COLLECTOR GIVES COLLEGIANS AID

Remember back in 1961 when James Walsh, 63 of Exeter, campaigned for tax collector in that borough on a platform that every cent of his commissions would be used to aid students to finance their way through college? Well, Walsh won the tax collector's post and has kept his promise. Tax Collector Walsh reported that last year his commissions totaled \$5,695.75 and that the sum was divided among three Luzerne County colleges for financial aid to 29 students from Exeter.

A total of \$1,859.94 went to College Misericordia, Dallas, where 10 Exeter students each received \$190 toward tuition. At King's College 11 students each received about \$165. Total outlay for Exeter students attending King's was \$1,874.40. At Wilkes College, eight students each received \$225 toward their tuition, for a total expenditure of \$1,859.21.

Walsh, a widower who operates a restaurant at 1246 Wyoming Avenue, Exeter, states that interested college students from Exeter Borough must register to participate in his plan. Student recipients of the tax money are expected to aid the tax collector in preparing tax returns; mailing them out, and keeping accounts of collections.

The tax collector stated that he believes the work is a very good form of practical experience in local government for the college students. "I'm hoping in a few years that other persons in my position of life will take up the idea," Walsh said. "I just want to help the kids. They've got their whole life ahead of them." (Wilkes-Barre Record)

SHORT COURSES

Once again the Institute of Municipal Government will provide non-credit, non-degree educational opportunities for elected and appointed officials. They are presented in cooperation with the Public Service Institute, Department of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania. Instruction by the Institute staff is supplemented by guest lecturers.

During the Spring Semester, the following courses will be presented: Fundamentals of Fire Fighting -- A course designed for those firemen who wish to qualify as instructors of the fundamentals of fire fighting; School Directors -- A general review of the powers, duties and responsibilities of elected school officials; Small Arms -- An introductory course in the care and use of the revolver, including firing for record; Township Supervisors -- A general course that reviews the powers, duties and responsibilities of elected township officials; Youth Control -- A practical course in delinquency control for law enforcement officers. This course is offered under the sponsorship of the Juvenile Court of Luzerne County and the Department of Public Welfare.

TRAINING IN HUMAN RELATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisory personnel from the Texas cities of Mesquite (34, 900) and Irving (45, 985) and the Mesquite Independent School District recently completed a dual training program covering communications and human relations for management. The program and speakers were arranged by the Institute of Management of Southern Methodist University.

Fourteen weekly sessions were held from 4:00 to 6:00 p. m. on Tuesdays with lectures and discussion sessions. The first seven sessions dealt with the communications topics of writing letters, reports, and other materials; personal techniques in speaking; increasing reading speed and understanding; and comprehension, evaluation, and other aspects of listening to all communications.

The remaining seven sessions were devoted to human relations for management, including recent social trends, motivating and evaluating personnel, morale and job satisfaction, behavior patterns and personal conflicts, administrative communications, and origin and development of attitudes.

Speakers for both programs were recruited from university teaching and business, and they gave particular attention to management responsibilities and supervisory relationships in all of the sessions. It is believed that these training programs will enable supervisors to meet critical responsibilities for communicating ideas effectively through report writing and speaking, increasing their ability for oral and written comprehension, and enlarging their understanding of complex psychological factors that motivate people on and off the job. Such understanding is vital in an age of increasing technology and urbanization.

FIRE DEPARTMENT VIOLATION TAGS

In Minneapolis, you don't have to be an overtime parker or careless driver to collect a tag. A unique tag used in this city is handed out by firemen, not policemen, and it goes to violators of fire department codes and ordinances.

Fire Marshal Robert T. Palmer of Minneapolis described this unusual method of securing better enforcement of fire safety regulations at a session of the National Fire Protection Association conference held in that city.

Tagging violators isn't the only modern technique used by the Fire Prevention Bureau which he heads, Palmer explained. They have lie detectors, finger printing equipment and a complete photographic laboratory.

While this equipment is used primarily to investigate deliberately set fires, the bureau conducts extensive training and educational programs in hospitals, schools and industrial plants. The bureau's whole aim, said Palmer, is to stop fires before they start.

REGISTERED BONDS GAIN ON COUPON BONDS

The paperwork haters are making progress in their campaign for the use of registered bonds instead of the old-fashioned coupon bonds. The trend has been pressed by banks, insurance companies, and other institutional investors. A registered bond is recorded by the issuer in the name of the owner, and periodic interest payments are made to him by check in the same manner as dividends on stock. On the bearer type, interest coupons must be clipped and presented for payment, ordinarily through a bank.

A committee of the American Bankers Association headed by Russell H. Johnson, Executive Vice President of the United States Trust Company of New York, has been campaigning for wider acceptance of the registered type.

"There are 300 million coupons each year being cut and counted, recounted, presented, audited, and cremated," Mr. Johnson says. "It is very difficult for me as an operating man to get anything but upset with any system that demands that 300 million pieces of paper be thrown into a furnace every year, and the bundle of waste promises to grow year by year."

Of the 300 million coupons clipped each year, 112 million are from municipal bonds, 15 million from federal bonds, and the balance from corporates. Mr. Johnson estimates that 452 man years of effort are being used just to cut coupons every year. Other advantages for the standard use of registered bonds:

- Reduce insurance and mailing costs by 80 per cent;
- Protect against the use of stolen bonds for loan collateral;
- Allow interest and call notices to be mailed
- Permit direct communications with bondholders; and
- Close income tax loopholes, increase safety and save space (The state of California reduced 1 1/2 tons of paper in the form of coupon bonds to 87 pounds of registered bonds).

Another sign of a growing awareness of the whole paperwork problem is the increasing use of the \$5,000 denomination in the case of municipals, formerly issued entirely in the denomination of \$1,000.

NEW TRENDS

An automatic recorder monitors telephone complaints as well as radio calls to the mobile emergency crews of the water, sewer, and street maintenance branch of the Greater Winnipeg Water and Sanitary District, Winnipeg, Manitoba. This system is a sure way to keep the record straight on all customer complaints and emergency operations handled over the telephone. (Willing Water, March 1962)

Seed sludge obtained from a sewage treatment plant can be used to start a new digestion tank, thus saving the cost of neutralizing chemicals and assuring early production of sludge gas. (Wastes Engineering, January 1962).

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

A woman's chief asset is a man's imagination.

Flattery won't hurt a man, as long as he doesn't inhale.

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