

PUBLIC PENSION COSTS BREAKING THE BACKS OF NEW YORK STATE TAXPAYERS

Albany, N. Y. — The Citizens Public Expenditure Survey (CPES), the nonprofit statewide taxpayer organization said that public employee costs are "breaking the backs of New York State taxpayers."

John F. Van Cott, the Citizens Survey's president, reported that the Survey had come out in strong support of the findings of the recently released report of the Permanent Commission on Public Employee Pension and Retirement Systems.

Van Cott pointed out that "excessive public employee pension costs utilizes money which should be for items of priority."

"Certainly, hard-pressed taxpayers need a reduction in their taxes," he said.

CPES asked a number of questions: "Is it fair to eat up money which could be used to help the poor, aged, and maintain 'quality' education, and for crime control to make our streets safe? Is it right to have the most expensive public employee pension plans in the nation, and have Willowbrooks?"

"Is it right that the already overburdened taxpayer suffers or reduces his savings for his 'golden years', so as to provide an extravagant pension for the retired public employee?"

CPES pointed out that public employee pension plans in New York State are the only plans in the nation, including those for federal government employees, which do not require employee contributions.

"Is there any justification to the fact that public employees in New York State do not contribute towards their retirement? Since many are better paid than their counterparts in private industry, why not require those employees to contribute towards their retirement?"

CPES is also disturbed that the pensions of persons retiring from private industry are taxed — whereas, state and local government employee pensions in New York State are not subject to the state income tax.

If he proposed plan were enacted into law, literally billions of dollars would be saved in future years as greater percentages of new public employees become covered by the plan, according to the report of the Permanent Commission on Public Employee Pension and Retirement Systems.

"To anyone concerned about the fiscal stability of the state and local government — even a minimum concern — the paramount issue now before the legislature is this "Uniform Public Employees Retirement Plan," says CPES.

Fiscal Year	Membership	State and Local Gov't Costs
1962	237,582 members	\$102.0 Million
1963	254,703 members	119.2 Million
1964	266,179 members	144.8 Million
1965	287,242 members	158.8 Million
1966	314,112 members	167.1 Million
1967	343,467 members	204.9 Million
1968	386,017 members	245.7 Million
1969	425,306 members	269.2 Million
1970	463,939 members	335.8 Million
1971	522,531 members	486.5 Million
1972	546,829 members	590.0 Million

The table, based on Department of Audit and Control figures, indicate that employee pension costs increased nearly six times in the past ten years while membership more than doubled.

It is absolutely imperative that steps be taken to slow down the sky-rocketing costs of public employee pensions in this state — and that inequities be corrected. Let your Assemblyman, Senator, and the Governor know your opinion about Public Employee Pensions in this state.

To anyone concerned about the fiscal stability of the state and local government — even a minimum concern — the Paramount Issue now before the Legislature is this "Uniform Public Employees Retirement Plan."

Call, write or meet with your Legislators immediately!"

THE ANDOVER NEWS

Published Weekly by: The News Printing House, Andover, N. Y.
 Jeanne Backus Allen and Ralph A. Allen, Owners, Andover, N. Y.
 Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Andover, N. Y., under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price \$5.00 a year



50 YEARS AGO

February 9, 1923

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mrs. Lydia Warfield was happily surprised last Saturday afternoon by her relatives, neighbors and friends who honored her on her 82nd birthday.

Mrs. Mary Harrington Dean, 32, died Tuesday, February 8th at the home of her parents in Wellsville. Her husband, Herman J. Dean, two daughters and a son of South Hill, survive. Funeral services were held Saturday with burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Wellsville.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merton Burdick of Five Corners, died February 3rd.

The body of Mrs. James Baker, a former resident of this township, was brought to Andover Saturday from Wellsville, where her death occurred, and interment was in St. John's Cemetery, Andover.

Miss May Dean of South Hill went to Syracuse last week to take up her work in a hospital in that city.

Mrs. M. F. Baker who has been spending the past week at the home of B. S. Baker of Tip Top, has returned to her home in Salamanca.

A baby daughter is a recent arrival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Baker of Elm Valley.

Mrs. Burton E. Smith of Dalton, N. Y., is spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anson Brewster on Barney Street.

Miss Frances Williams left Sunday for Brooklyn, N. Y., where she will enter the Bay Ridge High School as a pupil, and of which Miss Helen Baker, formerly of Andover, is in charge.

Mrs. Earl Bassett returned to Buffalo Sunday after passing a few days with her sister, Mrs. Earl Richardson.

Carroll L. Tucker was called to Andover from Rochester, Wednesday on account of the serious illness of his father, A. O. Tucker.

Mrs. Harry Clark of Kalamazoo Michigan, arrived in Andover Tuesday to assist in the care of her step-father, A. O. Tucker.

The Misses Mae Cocoman and Ellen Driscoll left Monday for Buffalo, where they will begin their training for professional nurses.

Guy Wood returned home Friday from a trip to Racine, Wis. From here Mr. Wood will go to Philadelphia and Rochester to attend Hardware Conventions.

40 YEARS AGO

February 17, 1933

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mrs. Carrie L. Walden, 20, died Tuesday, February 14 at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Mitchell. Her husband, a daughter and her parents survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lynton have rented the house on the corner of West Greenwood and Second Sts.

Mr. and Mrs. John Monahan of Pixley Hill, are the parents of a son born February 9th.

Mr. and Mrs. Denzel Baker are the parents of a daughter, Frances Endora, born Monday.

Saturday evening Carlyle Myers was tendered a surprise birthday tureen supper by a company of friends who came to pass a social evening in honor of his birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Clarke and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tassell of Independence, are attending Farmers' Week at Cornell University, Ithaca this week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Guinn of Wellsville were Sunday afternoon and evening visitors of his mother, Mrs. James Guinn.

Miss Mary Teresa Burns returned Monday after passing the weekend with her cousins, the Misses Dorothea, Margaret and Patricia Joyce on Davis Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Williams, Mrs. T. R. Bassett, Mrs. Bertha Pingrey and Mrs. Jesse Hunt were in Wellsville Wednesday to attend the Grand Chapter, OES.

Leo Snyder was in Lakewood on business several days last week.

ALBANY

open line

by Alex Rankin

Gov. Rockefeller revealed a few more details about his proposed Inspector General for public schools, but the program is still very sketchy.

Primarily it appears to be aimed at school districts where voters do not vote on school budgets.

Translated, that means primarily New York City.

The IG, for example, would not be allowed, according to the governor, to get into the area of sex education in schools as a policy matter. The IG wouldn't listen to or act on complaints that sex education is wrong. He would look into complaints that a particular sex education program is being mismanaged — but only in fiscal terms.

Most legislators are — very privately, of course — heaving a gigantic sign of relief in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision which leaves New York State's present abortion law as it stands.

The cue comes from Republican Assemblyman Edward Crawford of Oswego, one of the prime movers behind legislation to remove the present law from the books and go back to the old law of abortions only to save the life of the mother. Crawford said it would be "irresponsible" for him to introduce a bill that is now patently unconstitutional.

The legislators are relieved because they won't have to sit through another 16 hours of angry heated debate like they did last year, and the year before that, and the year before that — on a bill they know the governor would veto anyway.

Legislators don't have any challengers when it comes to wasting time, but the annual abortion debates were beginning to wear thin on everyone.

Everyone seems fairly convinced that there will be a no-fault auto insurance bill passed this year. As was the case last year, however the question is still how much of a no-fault bill it will be.

The key is the question of a "threshold", that is, at what dollar amount can the victim go back to the present system and sue in court for damages.

The higher the "threshold," the closer the bill will get to a pure no-fault situation. Rockefeller's

original bill had a \$1,000 threshold last year.

There is already talk the bill will contain a clause ordering insurance companies to lower the cost of policies by at least 20 percent — and more depending on the income the companies get from investing the premiums in stocks, bonds, funds, and so forth.

There is strong talk around the capitol that the Legislature will pass a bill delaying the implementation of the Adirondack authority's plan for a year.

Rockefeller said he is opposed to a delay and will probably veto any such bill.

Jan. 30, 1973 — Legislative leaders unveiled a so-called "no-fault" auto insurance bill in Albany and the plan is apparently to ram it through before any opposition develops.

That's evident because no public hearings are planned for the measure.

The sponsors of the bill can be forgiven the reluctance to face citizens because hearings have been held for the past two years on the subject, but not when they present a bill that will give the average motorist a saving of only \$14 on the cost of his policy.

That was the estimate provided by Republican Sen. Bernard Gordon of Peekskill and Republican Assemblyman John McCarthy of Huntington Station. \$14. Insurance premiums go up by more than that every year anyway.

Gordon got a big laugh at a press conference when reporters, not believing their ears, asked him repeatedly if he really thought the bill could be called a "no-fault" measure. "This is a modified true bill," he said.

While one of the prime objectives of no-fault auto insurance is to clear court congestion and cut down on legal fees, this bill would actually seem to increase lawyer's business. That's because it provides no definition, for example, of the terms "significant" disfigurement in accident injuries and what constitutes "reasonable and customary" charges for medical services of all kinds. Lawyers will be in court for years since every injury is different and has a different effect on different people. The same is true of the cost of medicine and medical services.

February 7th at Hutchinson, Kan.

Mrs. Mathilda Raufenbarth, 83, died at her home on Church Street Tuesday, February 9. A son and three daughters survive. Funeral services were held Friday with the Rev. Charles Keller officiating. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Lee Wade Silsby, 8 month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Silsby, died Friday, February 5. His parents, a brother and both grandparents survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

H. W. Jackson of Elm Valley, left Wednesday to attend the General Northeastern Milk Meeting in New York City for the remainder of the week.

Mrs. Cary Rogers, David and Donald of Independence, were guests of her mother, Mrs. Belle Snyder of Belmont from Wednesday until Sunday.

Mrs. R. B. Church of Voorhees Hill, spent from Friday until Monday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. W. Kruger, who is ill, on Meservey Hill.

Mrs. Harriett Hoover is spending a few days guest of Mr. and Mrs. James Hoover of Wellsville.

Mrs. Richard Stewart and two daughters spent from Thursday until Monday with her brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tracy of Scio.

Arling R. Baker accompanied by Charles Hyle of Carter's Hardware in Wellsville, are attending the Annual Hardware Convention in Syracuse this week.

(Continued on Page 7)

Charles Spicer of Independence was a Monday visitor at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Crandall.

Miss Neola Swain of Wellsville spent the week-end with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kemp.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Harris of Buffalo, spent the week-end with relatives and friends in Andover.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Briggs and family of Penn Yan, were guests over the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Briggs and family.

Mrs. Lucy Wells of Nile visited at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Livermore several days last week.

30 YEARS AGO

February 11, 1943

Claire C. Backus, Publisher

Miss Betty Ann Greene of Independence and Bernard Bertrand of the Floyd Bennett Flight School, were united in marriage Monday, February 8th by Rev. Helena Champlin. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spicer were their attendants.

Miss Agnes Joyce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Joyce, and Edward Demerly of Buffalo, were united in marriage at the All Saints Church in Buffalo, Saturday, January 30th.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Greene of Railroad Valley, are the parents of a son, Edward Ernest, born Sunday, February 7th.

Colonel and Mrs. Clarence W. Hardy announce the arrival of a