

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION — AGAIN? — An Editorial

When the County Solons switched over from the Supervisor Type of County Government to that of County Legislators, we here in the Town of Andover — as well as many other Towns in the County — lost our direct Representative to the "Fancy Plan" of Three Legislators from District V. (With none of them from Andover.)

Then, last Spring, one of our local residents entered the race as a candidate in the Republican Primary for a spot on the ballot for Legislator from District V.

At that time this Candidate warned County Voters that there was, in his own words: "a Grandiose Scheme" launched by Allegany County Legislators to build a "Taj Mahal" concept of a County Office Building that would cost we Taxpayers an estimated 1 to 5 Million Dollars! He also stated that he believed: "that a realistic cost estimate should be given to the County Voters — and then give them a chance to vote on the project at a Public Referendum". And, at that time, the Chairman of the Building Committee was not able to come up with any accurate estimate of the true cost of the project!

On Primary Day, June 4th, our local Candidate won a spot on the Republican Ballot for County Legislator from District V in the November Elections with the 2nd highest vote of the four Candidates and it appeared as if we would at last have a direct Representative in the County Legislature.

For the Elections on November 6th, our Local Candidate again made this statement: "The Voters must not be denied the right to vote at a Public Referendum, to either approve or dis-approve a new County Office Building after an intelligent estimate of the cost has been made Public and, in my opinion, we must not increase our County Debt — without the approval of the Taxpayers". And, here again, none of the other candidates would come out in the open and make a statement of how they felt on this issue.

Came Election Day, our local Candidate lost out in his bid to represent our District V after a close race as a result of having gained the emnity of the "Pro-Office-Building 'Hill Gang'" who, in our opinion, adroitly manipulated the "Roman-Style" dagger that brought forth the only appropriate classic response of: "Et Tu Brute!" How else could a candidate from a Township with an approximate 96 registered voters be elected as a County Legislator — especially when he, as Chairman of the Building Committee, couldn't even come up with an intelligent estimate of what the proposed new County Office Building was going to cost?

And would you believe — that this same Legislator — who is still Chairman of the Building Committee — couldn't even tell his fellow Legislators how much the County owed up to this point — or how much the next phase of the "construction plans" would cost at the meeting held Monday afternoon? And, could you further believe, that after waiting half an hour for this Chairman to place a phone call to the Architectural Firm handling the project to secure this requested information, that he didn't even read the report himself — but had another County Employee read the figures off to the waiting audience?

Then, could you possibly conceive 12 County Legislators, completely ignoring a petition signed by about 1,000 registered voters opposing the construction of a Multi-Million Dollar County Office Building, and voting YES — to continue the project? Sad, but true! All three of our Legislators from District V voted YES on this project to indebt we Taxpayers for anywhere from 4 to 6 Million Dollars for this 4-story "Taj Mahal" — that could cost Millions more to equip and staff with many more County Employees! How is that for financial irresponsibility?

What can we do? Raise particular HELL with our Legislators and demand a Public Referendum so that we can VOTE on this issue!

News From Albany

by Assemblyman James L. Emery

The office of James L. Emery (R-Geneseo) announced his schedule for the week of June 28th as follows: Mr. Emery will address the children, grades 1 through 6, and the full congregation on June 30th at Faith Bible Church in Little Genesee, New York. It is the annual "God and Country Sunday" held at the church in Little Genesee. On July 4th, the Assemblyman will be in Andover, Allegany County, to help celebrate their Fourth of July Parade and Sesqui-Centennial festivities.



50 YEARS AGO

June 20, 1924

J. H. Backus, Publisher

The Committee in Charge of the arrangements for the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the Town of Andover, met at the Andover Free Library, Wednesday evening and voted to cancel all arrangements and abandon the celebration entirely. The two reasons were the problem of raising finances and a place large enough to entertain the group as it is impossible to rent the auditorium because of other commitments.

Mrs. Randall A. Pease, 77, died at her home June 15. She is survived by her husband. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery, Andover.

June 27, 1924

Angelo O. Tucker, 73, died the first of the week. For thirty-six years he was very active in the Andover High School. His wife, a daughter and a son survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Andover.

Orlo Babcock was killed June 25 while operating the pumps of the Empire Gas & Fuel Company of Allen-own. Arrangements are being made to bring the body to the home of his father-in-law, Frank Nobles, where funeral services will be held Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton Crandall are leaving July 1st for California to take up his new duties with the University of California. His first year in agriculture and engineering course being spent at Davis.

The Forty-Ninth Annual Commencement of Andover High School, was held Monday evening with Principal W. W. Palmer presenting diplomas to the following: Doris Baker, Sara Jeanette Bittinger, Valdetorian, Elizabeth Cannon, Katherine Dean, Gertrude Flynn, Meta Harris, Virginia Hyland, Ruth Parker, Loretta Quigg, Marion Rogers, Alice Smith, Mabel Wagner, Sautorian, Angie E. Williamson, Ronald Gibbs, Richard Harder, Earl Hyland and Howard Leahy.

David and Ezra Slocum are building a garage for L. H. Wildman in Whitesville.

Lynn Trowbridge has moved his family from West Greenwood St. to their new home, recently purchased on Baker Street.

The local ball club received a huge trouncing at the hand of Canadea ball tossers at Canadea, Sunday. The score being 15 to 4. Battery for Andover was Bloss, Howland and Backus.

A daughter, Jane Marie was born to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Burdick of Davis Hill, Saturday. Mrs. Frank Halsey is caring for Mrs. Burdick and baby.

The cyclone of 1920 was brought to mind vividly by the storm Friday, that visited our area but although a severe electric storm no serious damage was reported in this section.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McGill of Eldred, Pa. have been visiting their son, Ray McGill and family this week.

Emmett Dawson left Thursday for Cortland where he completes

County Legislators Say: Taxpayers Voices--Merely Political

by CYBIL E. JORDAN

On Monday, June 24, the Allegany County Board of Legislators held its regular meeting. However, prior to the regular meeting, they held a committee meeting which was described as a continuation of the committee meeting held the previous Friday. (Special Building Committee with entire Board absent.)

The purpose of the meeting was first described as an information meeting. It was a roll call meeting to proceed to a public referendum to build a new County Office Building.

Due to the absence of legislator Phuntner, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Watson. The meeting was held in the County Office Building.

On Friday, Chairman Watson made it "perfectly clear" that the issue would not be discussed at the regular meeting and that they would hold a continuation of the committee meeting on Monday prior to the regular meeting.

This, of course, made it possible to exclude the public, not only from participating in the discussion but also from attending to watch and listen.

The roll call vote to remove the issue from the table was 12 yes, 2 no (Shine and Pfuntner), and 1 absent (Shaner).

Legislator Freeman asked Building Chairman, Watson, how much money it would take to continue through "bidding", then stop and not build.

Mr. Watson could not answer the question and a recess was called to give Mr. Watson the opportunity of securing the information per telephone.

During the recess, Chairman Hale explained that his recommendation to increase the sales tax to finance the new building was only his idea and not necessarily the route they would follow.

Legislator Pfuntner then reported the results of a survey that he personally conducted with nine specific questions. He contacted well over one-hundred people in and around Wellsville and some in other districts to get a broad picture of the peoples' feelings on this issue.

The results of his survey were very definite in the picture they painted. They indicated that the people are "overwhelmingly opposed" to the construction of the proposed new office building and jail complex. There was an indication that many would go along with a new jail which we are told as "State Mandated".

Legislator Watson returned and requested that County Planner Gary Petrocheck present their "new found" cost information to the board.

The total Architect charges are 9.25% of the total construction cost. (In this case the amount is based on the estimated cost of

this, year, a three year course at the New York State School of Physical Education.

Miss Doris Livermore, who was engaged in teaching in Elmira, came to Andover Tuesday to pass the vacation with her grandmother, Mrs. Georgianna Hardy.

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Whitcomb of Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lewis of Young Hickory were in attendance at the funeral of Mrs. R. A. Pease.

Miss Mary O'Leary is home from her school duties to pass the vacation with her father, James O'Leary.

Miss Ella Wright left Tuesday for vacation at her home in Deerfield, Mass. Miss Wright returned to resume her position in Andover High School with the fall term.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wilbur of Cleveland, Ohio are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Wilbur.

J. P. Cannon Company purchased the Mrs. F. M. McNight Store on Main Street, Wednesday, thru the Calhoun Real Estate Agency. This building until recently has been occupied by J. P. Cannon Company as a Shoe Store.

(Continued on Page 3)

3.8 million dollars). Of this amount 20% is for "Construction". There are to proceed through "bid", 30% of the Architect fees would be obligated, or in this case, \$281,260. The County has already paid \$99,000 and currently owes \$67,263 for a total expended to date of \$123,023.

Chairman Hale acknowledged a large stack of petitions that had been handed him prior to the meeting. The petitions were signed by registered voters of Allegany County and they stated objections to the new building and called for a public referendum on the issue.

Attorney, Silkaras was called in for a legal opinion of the petitions and he stated in his opinion the petitions were not valid under the Board of Legislators. He was more than just a lawyer, he was a politician.

Lackey then took the floor and first answered a written question that was handed to him by a reporter regarding his experience with the current "out of control" inflationary spiral we are experiencing. Mr. Lackey confirmed that this is a major problem in his business, but that he was told by a County representative that this was merely in the synthetic product field and products derived from the oil industry.

He then "blasted" the petitions and the signers and referred to one individual in particular whom he knew that signed the petition, as being the type of person who was only interested in "taking from" Allegany County and the only thing that he put back was the taxes he was forced to pay.

He then stated that he was elected by a substantial majority in his district and that if he were forced to go to a referendum on this issue, he would resign.

The roll call vote to proceed with the building again had only two negative votes, (Pfuntner and Shine).

At the regular board meeting, Chairman Hale kept his word and the issue was not discussed. However, as the session drew to a close, Mr. Hale did recognize Mrs. Elsie Bunnell of Belmont, who was active in gathering the petitions.

She expressed "shock" that the board in no way would consider the petitions and the feelings of the people. She stressed the dilemma of the "small people" in this period of "out of control inflation", and she mentioned how families are forced to live within a budget even if it means cutting back on necessities such as food and shoes for the children. She also mentioned the "World Day of Prayer" in April and that many people were praying for our country; that "Watergate" and corruption did not end in Washington but came all the way to Allegany County.

"I realize you are not interested in this. I don't think you listen. I don't think you have any feelings for the people, 'the time is coming when we just can't stand anymore.'"

Chairman Hale adjourned the meeting with no comment to Mrs. Bunnell.

Upon being asked to comment on Mrs. Bunnell's remarks: Hasper — no comment; Hale — no comment; King — likes to hear from the people, to know their feelings; Shine — no comment, she feels as I do, I voted no; Lackey — I think she has a good point, the small guy is getting hurt and we have an obligation to protect them, we are also obligated to others rights; Pfuntner — I think she said very nicely what I tried to say before, the people are very opposed to this building plan, and I think that a major additional expenditure such as this should meet the approval of the people.

William Burt of Cuba, (a leading Concerned Citizen) commented, chastizing the board for neglect in letting current buildings run down as they have. "They are going to shove this building thru regardless of the feelings of the people". He also commented that the Legislators are out of touch as they were on the Zoning issue and they, once again have come on strong for something that the public is overwhelmingly against.

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