

GUEST EDITORIAL

by Dave Heknows

When members of the New York State Police Benevolent Association signed a contract in March 1976, with no wage increases, troopers pointed out they were more interested in maintaining adequate state police coverage than they were in getting a raise in a tight budget year.

Fine. But the State of New York has turned on its heels through new budget cuts since then. The state police service we now enjoy will be drastically cut back.

Item: Five million miles would be cut back in patrol coverage.

Item: Some 404 state police vehicles would be cut.

Item: Some 270 positions would be cut through attrition, severely curtailing patrol coverage we now enjoy. To say nothing of 735 other positions, long recommended, but never created nor filled. That's over 1,000 individuals absent right now from the public safety scene.

Clearly, state cuts are being made in the wrong area. If anything, state police coverage should be bolstered, not cut.

Apparently, even members of the State Legislature did not know the full impact of cuts suggested by its new fiscal staffers.

Why not, right now, pick up the telephone. Call our Senator and Assemblymen and tell them both you want adequate state police coverage, not less. And the only way to accomplish that is to reinstate the budget cuts of the regular state budget, by putting back the money in the new supplemental budget.

Editor's Note:

In areas of high density of population, perhaps cutting back in patrol coverage to save mileage might be feasible, however, in our sparsely populated area that covers hundreds of miles in Allegany County alone — how can mileage be cut without destroying the efficiency of the State Police?

In rural areas where there may be only one Police Car on Patrol, how do you cut this car by 1/4 or 1/2 — and still have a 4-wheeled car available? What is a State Police Officer supposed to do if he is called to the scene of a violent crime, a burglary, or an accident and his mileage allotment is expended part of the way to the call? Is he supposed to radio Headquarters and say: "I'm going to have to park the car — and take care of this call tomorrow?"

To double up on the use of Police Vehicles to attend Official business conferences, schools, and routine inspections is commendable. But, to cut back in mileage in actual Patrol coverage by fiscal staffers, would appear to be suicidal to the efficiency of the State Police as far as Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention is concerned.

We residents out here in the "boon-docks" shouldn't have to be relegated to second class Police Protection from the State Police just because Congressmen in Albany want to save all the money they can to send down to New York City to satisfy the "worms" in the "Big Apple"! Should we?

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS BASIC TO ALL YOUR AMERICAN FREEDOMS! Only as your Newspaper is free to print the facts, can you be free to know them. Only as you know the facts, can you act wisely in the best interests of your Community, as you see them. In America, there is plenty of room for opinions. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!

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., 11806, under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Subscription Price: \$5.00 per year

"Inside The State Capital"

By James L. Emery

For the second year in a row, the Democrats in the State Assembly have refused to take any action on legislation which could broaden the state's present capital punishment law.

For two years now the Democrat-controlled Codes Committee has held the bill in respectance of public opinion polls showing state which clearly indicates growing sentiment in favor of expansion of the current limited mandatory death penalty law.

The committee has repeatedly dismissed the bill at the expense of its sponsors. That the people's representatives would be given the "day of the donkey" in the Assembly by the Democrats in open defiance of the elected representatives of the people. Instead, the committee Democrats have buried it by refusing to report it out.

This Assembly's inaction is the only course of action remaining open to us and I filed a motion to discharge the bill from committee, a legislative procedure that allows the full Assembly to vote to bring a measure to the floor without clearance by a standing committee.

I wish I could report that the motion was upheld, but despite what I consider to have been convincing arguments in favor of the motion it was rejected when, true to form, the rest of the Democrats in the house lined up shoulder to shoulder with their committee brethren and used their muscle to produce the negative result.

Present law in this state requires a sentence of death if a defendant is convicted of the intentional murder of a police officer or correctional employee or where the killing is committed by a "lifer" while confined in prison or during an escape attempt.

The bill which the Assembly Democrats have now rejected would expand that statute to mandate the death penalty where there is an intentional killing committed during the commission, attempted commission or while in flight from the crimes of robbery, burglary, kidnapping, arson, rape in the first degree, sodomy in the first degree, sexual abuse in the first degree and escape in the second degree.

Additionally, the measure requires the death sentence for the intentional killing of peace officers as well as police officers during the course of their official duties; any person slain for the purpose of preventing his or her testimony in criminal proceedings; and where a person is murdered under a "contract killing".

Public opinion polls taken by newspapers, not only in New York but around the nation, tell us that the majority of citizens want the criminal who commits the ultimate crime of murder to pay for his transgression against society by being assessed the ultimate punishment.

We know that the U. S. Supreme Court of 1972 made the death penalty unconstitutional in certain cases, ruling against the discretionary powers given to juries in deciding the death penalty. I hesitate to say that I have never ruled the death penalty per se is unconstitutional. Many of my colleagues feel that the kind of death penalty legislation Assembly Republicans have tried to have enacted the past two sessions would find favor in the courts.

At this point in time my concern is not so much with the merits of this legislation as it is with the road before reaching any definite conclusions on all provisions of the bill. I believe there is no reason why this matter should not be brought before the full State Assembly for thorough examination and debate. If the Assembly party which controls the Assembly is opposed to such a measure, let the Democrats vote it down when the measure reaches the floor. However, to deny all Assembly members the right to debate and vote on this issue at this full Assembly session is an act of gross domination and control over so-called "legislative reform" touted by the Democrats over the past 17 months.

FIGHTING CABLE TV SALES TAX PLAN

It may strike you as ironic, in this bicentennial year that a state official is seriously suggesting what amounts to a form of "taxation without representation" but that is essentially what a recent decision by State Commissioner of James F. Gorman, Jr. to all New Yorkers amounts to a cable television sales tax.

Under the plan, cable television subscribers statewide and on all future subscribers, that is, it means to be a "taxation without representation" and I do not like that decision one bit. At the very least, no appointee of the Governor should ever have the right to start collecting new tax monies unless specifically authorized to do so by the Legislature. The commissioner's opinion that cable TV is somehow not a means of providing entertainment is subject to legal questioning at best and a very shaky foundation for his further claim to the right to collect new sales taxes.

In response to the commissioner's announcement, I have joined with more than 30 other assemblymen in helping to sponsor a bill which would say clearly that, under law, cable TV service and installation is indeed within the category of entertainment and entitled to the same tax exclusion now given to other charges for entertainment. The commissioner's attempt to redefine the nature of cable television service in order to squeeze some additional tax dollars out of New Yorkers leaves him in the ridiculous position of maintaining that if a live concert were to be broadcast over cable TV, the people in the concert hall would be watching a tax-exempt entertainment while the people watching the exact same thing at home were utilizing a taxable communication service. One group would be exempted from a sales tax while the other would have to pay it. That sort of situation is ridiculous and I want to see the Legislature go on record as saying so.

If the bill I am sponsoring is not permitted to come up for debate in the Assembly before adjournment, then the people should know that the Democrat leadership of that house, by failing to do anything, have effectively passed a new tax merely by avoiding their responsibility to act as the people's representatives on all questions involving the imposition of taxes.

It should also be noted that, once again, the Carey Administration is attempting to throw the burden on the rural, upstate resident. The usage and necessity of cable television in some of our rural cities and towns is far different than what is needed in the major metropolitan areas. There cable TV is pretty much a matter of choice to enhance the number of channels available, but has little or nothing to do with reception. A matter of you know, cable television transmitters is necessary for any kind of good reception, and that was one of the main reasons for its original use.

Thus, a tax on cable TV would hurt us most, would have little effect on television owners in metropolitan areas, where reception is not a factor and cable television becomes simply a matter of choice and, of course, it would have almost no effect in New York City where cable TV is certainly needed. It is an unfair tax in many ways and must be prevented.

Commercial Printing at The News Printing House.



Olivia Hal Greene, daughter of Benajah and Catherine Buckley... died in Herndon, Va. on December 23, 1975. She was married to... Greene Wamsly, died in... is survived by one son,...

The regular meeting of the Literary Society held on April 29 had a program on "Why We Celebrate Our Birthdays" by the following: Mildred Seely, Fanny Perry,...

The Senior Class has selected their motto: "Saber es Pater" meaning "Knowledge is Power". The colors are gold and orchid and the flower, Yellow Rose, were chosen.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Snyder of New Valley are parents of a daughter, Anne Marie, born April 29, 1976. She was a daughter of Timothy and Sophie Bates Baker. Her husband, Charles, one son and two daughters survive.

The children of the Library are being rebuilt this week, with Dell Hawkins doing the work. Word has been received in Andover this week of the change of address of Fay E. Boyd from Tulsa, Okla., where he has been for seven months, back to the Chicago Office.

An Eastern Star farewell party was held Tuesday evening at the home of L. M. Trowbridge for Mrs. Lynn Trowbridge who is leaving Andover this week to join her husband at Warwick, New Jersey.

R. E. Temple came from Oriskany Falls Sunday to assist in the packing of their household goods. Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Temple left Andover for their new home. Their household goods followed by truck.

Word came to Andover friends of the death of Clair Langworthy of Chicago, Illinois. Funeral services are being held in Alfred...

The Annual School Meeting of District 7 was held in the Elm Valley School House, Tuesday evening and the following officers were re-elected for the coming year: Trustee, John Dodge; Collector, Margaret Jackson; Treasurer, Harman Jackson; Clerk, Walter Downer.

Dr. and Mrs. John Cannon and son, Robert, were calling on Mrs. Edith Henderson at Andover Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burger and Mrs. George Wereley were in...

(Continued on Page 3)