

# "Inside The State Capital"

By James L. Emery

## OPENING THE "PORK BARREL"

A great number of top state leaders have paid lip service to the needs of reviving the private sector of our economy. In fact, Governor Carey has been crisscrossing our state saying it is his Administration's highest priority. However, if that is the case, then I cannot logically accept the Governor's proposal for a \$750-million economic bond issue.

There is nothing more important in this state than the expansion of the job market created by private enterprise business and industry. This type of expansion is a growth in permanent jobs, which has a purely positive impact on our state economy.

This contrasts with the bond issue economic stimulation which creates only temporary jobs requiring tax dollars to back their existence. And what happens when the bond issue money runs out and unemployment builds again? Do we then ask for another bond issue? Thus, it is very evident; the detrimental effect on "bond issue-created" economy can have on our state and its workers in the long run.

Instead of committing \$750-million to new taxation for unnecessary bond issues — a point I will further explain in a moment — we should be concentrating on economic expansion through \$750-million in tax cuts so that businesses and permanent jobs would thrive in our state and a more stable economy would be fostered.

Explaining the point of "unnecessary bond issues" which I just raised, allow me to note the fact that Governor Carey has had since he entered office, and still has \$2.4-billion in already approved bond issue monies. This \$2.4-billion, three times more than the amount he now requests, in voter-approved bond issue monies includes: \$382-million left over from the 1965 Pure Waters Bond Fund; \$44 million from the 1965 Outdoor Recreation Development Fund; \$626-million from the 1967 Transportation Capital Facilities Bond Fund; \$1,092-million from the 1972 Environmental Quality Protection Fund, and \$230-million from the 1974 Rail Preservation and Development Fund.

On top of this \$2.4-billion in bond issue funds available, there are further state and federal commitments for the next three years amounting to \$3.25-billion for capital construction projects which include: \$1,250-million from the federal pure waters program; \$750 million in federal public works funds; \$700-million in highway construction projects; \$100-million for the Olympics at Lake Placid; and \$400-million in other various commitments.

This brings the grand total of existing public projects for the next three years to \$5.6-billion without the Carey \$750-million bond issue.

When you look at this tremendous amount already available, you have to wonder what types of games are being plotted by a politician who now says he needs \$250 million of his bond issue for each of the next three years in order to beef up the economy of our state. I have to ask: What is wrong with the \$5.6-billion already existing? Wouldn't the state be much better off if the Governor implemented the \$5.6-billion in programs already existing before we extend our debt any further?

I must also voice objections to the Governor's bond issue proposal based on the fact that there is no specification on what the new money will be used for.

Several weeks ago when the Governor made his initial pitch for the bond issue, he sent throughout the state a list of projects which he intimated would be instituted if the bond issue measure was approved. However, when the proposal was put into bill form for action by the State Legislature, and eventually the people of this state, there was no listing of any



## 50 YEARS AGO

December 24, 1926

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Christmas Programs at our local churches are being held this week. The program at the Presbyterian Church is tonight with the following children taking part: Elsie Wagner, Donald Hardy, Malcolm Brundage, Edward Kemp, Inez Kemp, Florence DeRemer, Laura A. Backus, Jack Saunders, Kenneth Vars, William DeRemer, Margaret Folsing, Dorothea Snyder, Marion Swartz and Helen Vickers.

The program at the Baptist Church will be held Thursday evening with the following children taking part: Dorothy Sweet, Lesne Lehman, Ida Clair William Simpson, Loraine Gee, Audra Gee Graydon Seely, Doris Simpson, Howard Alvord, Raymond Lehman Meda Nicholson, Milton Sweet, Earl Mattison, Vivian Sweet and Maxine Eldridge.

The Seventh Day Baptist children who will take part in their Christmas Program are: Virginia Whitney, Eleanor Baker, Doris Howland, Ruth Whitney, Eleanor Greene, Ida Mae Howland.

At the Methodist Church these children will take part: Dorothy Nobles, Carlton Earley, Jean Mills pauga, Wisner Cook, Marjorie Earley, Roberta Church, Wilfred Gee, Conrad Church, Florence Mullholland, Marion Nobles, Virgellie Nobles, Susan O'Donnell, Bernice Cooper, Jean Baldwin and Leo Nobles.

Christmas at our School Literary Society Program with the following taking part: Lenford Horton, Lillian Holmes, Louis Harrison, Edward Cannon, Francis Cabib, Marguerite Perry, Edna Barrett.

Immediately there was a question raised on the floor of the Assembly as to what happened to the list of projects. We were informed by Democrat Majority Leader Stanley Fink of Brooklyn that legislative leaders and the Governor would meet after the legislative session to decide what projects should be included under the \$750-million bond issue. I begin to smell the old "pork barrel politics" creeping into view.

The people have a right to know exactly what bond issue money will be used for before they vote on the referendum this November. It seems only logical that we should be protected from too much money being used in one part of the state over another, or some legislative districts over others merely because of political considerations. However, the Assembly Majority and the Governor are insisting on the blank check policy.

The entire bond issue proposal being offered by Governor Carey under the pretenses of expanding our economy seems filled with political ramifications. One of the major problems New York State and our nation has suffered under is that too many of our decisions are the result of short-term thinking based on the effect they will have on the next election. I'm afraid that the Governor's proposed \$750-million bond issue is just another "pork barrel" proposal based solely on political motives and not on what is good for the people of New York State.

This is what the facts show: it's temporary jobs backed by taxes vs. permanent jobs created by tax cuts; \$750-million additional in indebtedness vs. the use of \$5.6-billion in existing project monies; a detailed listing of projects for an informed electorate vs. a blank check for "pork barrel" projects.

It will be your decision this November when the bond issue is presented to the voters of New York State for their consideration. I'm sure you will be hearing much more on this subject between now and election day.

Robert Joyce, Gertrude O'Connell, Rose Dawson, Ruby Robinson, Margaret Folsing, Norman Martin, Mary Cable, Carman Youmans.

Over 300 children were present at the Sugar Bowl Wednesday evening when Santa opened up his sack and found a package of homemade Christmas Candy for each and everyone. All children between the ages of 4 and 12 were guests of Manager Karcanes at the auditorium in the evening.

Misses A. Will, Mable Wagner and Mr. Ralph Burgett have been assisting at the Rowe Boyd Store this week.

Word has been received by And over relatives of the death of Mrs. Catherine McCarey at Philadelphia, Dec. 15. She had been frequent visitor in Andover.

Harry Kemp has been appointed Deputy Sheriff by Sheriff Edson Brigham to take office Jan. 1, 1927.

The Spirit of Christmas. A Wood had 4 more Christmas Trees on hand than his family needed, and there being no local market for apples to speak of, he placed an ad in The News: "Trees with a peak of Snow Apples for 25c. Numerous were the orders and he has spent his time since sorting and delivering apples, making several trips thru the snowbanks with the old Benton Cutter to the back timber lot on the South Hill Farm. His purchasers did not have that expression on their faces that they were being 'robbed', but looked joyful that they were getting such a Christmas Bargain. Does Advertising Pay?

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Spicer of Whitesville and Mr. and Mrs. Carol Spicer of Himrods were guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. Spicer of Independence, Friday.

Bryan Doran died at the Soldiers Home in Hampton, Va., Dec. 18. He was born July 9, 1839 at County Mayo, Ireland and on June 17, 1875 he married Bridget Norton who survives. Besides his wife, he is survived by four sons: John, James and Bartly of Andover and Dennis of Brooklyn. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery.

Miss Elizabeth Folsing came from New York City Thursday to pass Christmas at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Folsing.

Mr. and Mrs. John Diffin left Monday enroute for Phoenix Arizona, where they will spend the winter with their sons, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald D. Diffin and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Diffin.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. O'Connell, Mr. and Mrs. Max Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Snyder and Mr. and Mrs. John Cannon were in Hornell on business, Saturday.

Mrs. Leo Dugan of New York City came home today to pass the Holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Gleason.

Miss Elizabeth Cannon is home from Wellesley College to pass the Holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Cannon.

## 40 YEARS AGO

December 25, 1936

Claire C. Backus, Publisher

Miss Evelyn Moland who has been at Wood's Garage in Andover, is taking the place of Mrs. Frances Langworthy at Woodruff Cheese Office.

Miss Cecilia O'Connell is assisting in the Post Office during the Christmas rush.

Virgil Hussey, new School Superintendent of Scuben District No. 4, will make his home at Greenwood. The District comprises the schools of Greenwood, Jasper Troupsburg and Woodauil.

Mrs. Mary Clark, 71, a resident of Andover for the past 50 years died Dec. 21 at the St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell.

Clifford Vars died at his home in Tulla, Texas, Dec. 23. Born in Andover, Oct. 16, 1880, a son of Oliver and Ella Lanphear Vars. On July 10, 1906 he married Marie Wahl who survives with three sons: Donald, Stanley and Clifford Jr., all of Tulla, Texas, one brother Floyd of Andover and one sister Mrs. Walter Grenolds of Westery, R. I. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Andover.

The Faculty of AHS were entertained at a Christmas Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Schwarzenbach. Games were enjoyed and delicious refreshments were served to the guests.

A Community Dinner and Program was enjoyed Wednesday at the Fulmer Valley School House, by Teacher Miss Griggs.

Miss Lenora Dean of Cleveland, Ohio arrived at her home Saturday night for the annual Holiday vacation of two weeks with her mother Mrs. Margaret Dean on South Hill.

Edward Brewster of St. Bonaventure College is spending the Holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brewster.

Miss Ruby Jordan is passing the Christmas vacation with her parents in Friendship.

Miss Beatrice Dickinson is passing Christmas vacation with her parents in Skaneateles.

Clifford Bixby, Carl Honegger, Harold Lehman, John Dolan, John Nobles, Harold Perry, Hugo Honegger and Ellis Horsfall are all employed in the Silk Mill at Hornell, having been called there the past two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Joslyn of Machias and Mrs. Frank Potter of Buffalo were weekend guests at the home of their uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ruger, Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Ruger and Mr. and Mrs. Burr Ruger.

Mr. and Mrs. Claire C. Backus and daughter, Jeanne and son James were visiting her mother Mrs. Jennie Loughhead of Knoxville, Pa., Monday.

Miss Natalie Shepara of St. Paul, Minn., and Miss Eva Shepard of Alfred University are passing the Holidays with their parents, Rev. and Mrs. A. D. Shepard.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. James Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Baker, John E. Cannon and Edward Cannon were in Hornell, Wednesday morning to attend the funeral of Mrs. Mary Clark.

The Christmas Program at the M. E. Church, Dec. 24, the following children took part: Barbara Childs, Ann Marie Greene, James Burgett, Patricia Sackett, Donald Northrup, Virginia Loring, Margaret Northrup, Bessie Muconery and Hazel Burgett.

At the Christmas Program at the Presbyterian Church, Dec. 24, the following took part: Betty Jean Howland, Richard Hanna, Frances Baker, Joann Theetge, Ruth Hardy, Audrey Baker, Edna Kruger, Marcella Carpenter, James Backus, Jean Kemp, Charles Hall, Jean Rogers, Clara Hann Billy Rogers, Marilyn Hardy, Anna Hardy, John Ahrens, Carl Wentworth, Ida Mae Howland, Doris Honegger, Donald Hardy, Craig Snyder, Margaret Kemp, Marion Swartz, Thelma Ahrens, Beatrice Kruger, Letha Callaghan, Dolores Farwell, Nancy Jane Snyder, Jeanne and Laura Backus and Irene Hann.

The Supervisors of Allegany County will get a pay increase next year.

## 30 YEARS AGO

December 19, 1946

Claire C. Backus, Publisher

PFC Dewey Northrup of Saima, Kan., arrived Wednesday night to pass the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Northrup.

It was announced Sunday that by request of his parish, the Bishop has extended the time of Rev. W. D. Shearer in Andover in order that he may do the Traditional Midnight Eucharist. Rev. Shearer will narrate Tazewell's "The Littlest Angel" with Choir and Mrs. Ralph Burgett at the organ.

It was announced by Denzil Perkins, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the decrease rate in 18 towns and seven villages and increases in 11 towns and 5 village Andover comes in the later list this year with an increase of \$1.30 in the Township and \$1.96 in the village which is due mainly to the purchase of land on which to erect a Town Highway Building and payment on the American Legion Home.

Due to Christmas and New Year's falling on Wednesday this year the Andover News will publish on Tuesday for the next two weeks in order that the News force may enjoy the holidays.

At the morning service of the Presbyterian Church this Sunday Rev. Rogers will have a Christmas Message and the Choir will sing Christmas Anthems. In the evening at 7:30 the Sunday School will give a program entitled "The Message of the Carols" in which all the children will take part, after which Santa Claus will make his annual visit.

The American Legion House Committee announces this week that the rest room in the new Legion Hall will be opened to the public this Saturday evening. Negotiations are also underway with the bus company to use the waiting room for regular bus stops.

C. V. Howland is opening a new store on Main St., Dec. 21. Showing a good line of gifts and staple merchandise for Farms and Builders.

Victor Oakes, son of Mr. and Mrs. (Continued on Page Three)

# Legislator Lee Ryan Reports

Allegany County Legislator

In the past months I have had several people ask about the way Town and County taxes were levied on their 1977 bill.

The principal item of concern was the listing of Highway I and Highway IA. (I) is for the maintenance of Town roads and (IA) for construction and improvement of Town roads under the State-aided Donovan program. Up until this year, these items were included in your tax bill, but not detailed. Because of Allegany County going to computerization of the tax roll, they were listed as separate items this year. I might also add that these two items are only paid by residents living in the Town outside of the Villages.

The increase in the amount of money raised from the Towns by real property taxes for the County budget from 1976 to 1977 was \$678,186.

Amount raised 1977	\$2,522,095
Amount raised 1976	1,843,909

Amount of increase \$ 678,186  
Why the increase and where will it be used? A large part of the increase can be charged to the Social Services Department where we not only had to pick up a 1976 deficit of nearly \$250,000 of County money, but had to rationize an increase for 1977.

Revenue sharing funds were used to the extent of \$195,410.56 for the new County office building. 1977 contract with the employees' union amounts to an additional \$100,000 in salaries plus employees' benefits costs.

The operation of the new jail and sheriff's department, mostly because of added jail personnel increased over \$129,000. This was brought on because of new State regulations in regard to visitation which make it necessary to have more deputies on duty.

Also, the mental health budget increased more than \$37,800. These and smaller department increases brought on by inflation are the major reasons for the increase.

A major topic under discussion in the County for the past few years has been revaluation of real property. New York State law requires property assessments to be made at full value. Yet anyone who has ever seen the equalization and apportionment table know that assessments are usually made at much less than full value. We have only three towns in Allegany County that are assessing at 100% of value or better. They are Alfred, Almond, and New Hudson.

The problem of keeping assessments up to date with market value is an old one. A whole new system, involving computers is finally getting it under control. But until the whole State is converted to that system, there will be many differences between assessed value and full value. The system is not imposed on localities, but adopted by them voluntarily.

The problem grows when there is a need to compare the total value of the property in one town with that of another. For example, if two towns are in the same County or school district, they must share the costs of the district according to the value of the real property in each town.

Who knows the value of the real property in each town? The town assessors know the assessed value.

The truth is, that Town (A) has assessed its property at an average of something less than 100% of full value. Town (B) has assessed its property at a different fraction than Town (A). So we need to know what these percentages are if we are to make the tax burden equal.

Some authoritative agency has to investigate the facts and determine that Town (A)'s assessed value represents a certain percentage of real value, likewise Town (B). State law gives this responsibility to the State Board of Equalization and Assessment.

When the State Board gets the facts and determines that Town (A) has assessed, on the average at 50% of real value, everybody calls that percentage the equalization rate. That rate will then be used, along with the rates in other Towns, to apportion taxes, distribute State aid (Donovan plan and State aid to schools) and for other objectives, 27 purposes in all.

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