

Hoboken fears teacher strike

The attorney for the Hoboken Board of Education said today he fears the city's teachers may go on strike.

He blamed the state-imposed "cap" on school boards' spending throughout the state.

To comply with the cap, the Hoboken board has adopted a budget eliminating raises, promotions, accumulation of sick leave and all other teachers' benefits that the board is not required by law to provide.

Robert Taylor says this makes it impossible for the board to

"negotiate" with the teachers, because it has "nothing to negotiate with."

The board attorney added that he "hopes" the possibility of a strike is "remote."

However, in a letter to state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke, Taylor wrote: "I am concerned and pray that no strike will develop in our district."

The president of the Hoboken teachers' union, Michael Donofrio, commented today that Taylor was "going out on a limb."

A strike is "not in the minds of the teachers right now," Donofrio said. "But I am not ruling out the possibility of a strike. If the board remains adamant in not moving off its present inadequate proposals, the teachers will have to take some action."

Many procedural steps remain to be taken, however, he added, before a situation came about in which the teachers would have to "act."

The cap is a maximum limitation of 5.7 percent on increases in boards' expenditures for the 1978-1979 school year.

Taylor said this is unrealistic because unavoidable expenditures are up much more than 5.7 percent and some of these increases are "mandated by regulatory agencies."

Fuel and insurance costs are up 30 to 40 percent, Taylor declared.

Contributions to Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage of employees are up 17 percent, and contributions to Social Security are up 30 percent—"to mention a few," he added.

Donofrio, a 5th grade teacher at the Connors School, disagreed with Taylor's argument.

He charged that the board wasn't really trying to have the cap waived, as it might, because the board secretly didn't want it waived. That, in turn, he said, is due to the fact that "the city administration" wants the cost of the schools held down.

Asked whether he meant Mayor Cappiello, Donofrio said he did.

"The board members are all mayor-backed people, and they're in with the administration," he averred.

Donofrio pointed out that Burke has said the board has failed to supply facts and figures to justify waiving the cap, and that if such information were furnished to him, he might call for a special election at which Hoboken voters could vote on waiving the cap.

Even if the waiver is voted down, Burke can override the voters and waive it on his own, Donofrio said.

Taylor reiterated today that he has given the state all the information it requested, and without delay.

Donofrio said he has information to the contrary. "Someone is lying," he added.

The question of whether he did or did not submit the required data is a sore point with Taylor.

The Jersey Journal came into

possession of a letter sent by Taylor to Burke in which he sharply rebukes the commissioner. In it, he insisted that the board had made a request for a cap waiver of \$3,500,229 on Dec. 1, accompanied by an analysis, and it submitted additional material on Dec. 15.

Then, when the county schools superintendent (a subordinate of Burke) raised further questions, Taylor said he sent him a full explanation on Jan. 18.

When the board received nothing but silence from Burke in response to all this, and thus no waiver of the cap, on Feb. 7 the board proceeded to delete \$2,576,513 from the previously adopted budget, Taylor related.

His letter to Burke continued: "Commissioner Burke, I am of the opinion the school district cannot function with these deletions."

"Very frankly, I personally believe that your suggestions concerning a special referendum will get nowhere. The time to have acted on the cap waiver request was from Dec. 1, 1977. The voters in Hoboken will not tolerate such action by the board."

"The time to have acted, Mr. Commissioner, is gone and wasted. I reject your position that sufficient information had not been submitted by the district."

Donofrio said mediation and then fact-finding should be resorted to before the board and the union give up hope of negotiating an agreement for the coming year.

The present head of the board's negotiating committee, Donofrio said, is a newly elected member who hasn't yet had time to familiarize himself with the budget situation, but a negotiating meeting will be called soon.

"The board's budget proposals were very harsh, to say the least," Donofrio said. "They would take away all our benefits, and would eliminate practices that have been followed for at least 10 or 15 years."

Hoboken parks

It is welcome news that Hoboken is increasing its budget appropriation for parks and playgrounds this year, but the city's playgrounds and parks are maintained so poorly that one may wonder whether more money is all that is needed.

Parks and playgrounds are generally dirty.

Equipment is missing or frequently broken, and allowed to remain that way. Toilets are not regularly available. Drinking faucets are out of repair.

Debris and trash is permitted to become a permanent part of the landscape.

Sandboxes are not properly protected.

Each park and playground has people assigned to take care of it, but often they are not on the scene.

Better supervision appears to be the answer . . . perhaps, more supervision of the supervisors.

Cappiello coordinates plan

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he will meet "continually" with the various agencies involved in the renovation of the Erie-Lackawanna area in order to coordinate all the information on the program.

The coordination of information has been so difficult thus far, according to the mayor, that one of the units — Community Development Agency — is putting out a newsletter containing only information on the downtown Hoboken project.

"We're concerned that as more and more people and agencies get involved in this, the chances increase for duplication of effort and conflicts between different groups," Cappiello explained.

Some of the agencies involved are the CDA, the Department of Environmental Protection, Port Authority and its PATH and Marine Terminal divisions, the state Department of Transportation and the state Department of the Treasury.

In addition, Conrail is expected to get into the planning soon, Cappiello said, because it is going to be the chief tenant in the area.

Now, he asserts, more emphasis is being put on parks and recreation programs; he points to the creation of the mayor's advisory commission on recreation as an example of this change in attitude. In 1933, under the commission form of government,

parks and recreation were separate from Public Works.

The increase for this year — if the council leaves it in when the budget is adopted — will be used for spring and summer sports events, and for improvements at Church Square Park and the park at Willow Avenue and 13th Street.

In addition, the Little League

field at Stevens Park will have new fencing, repairs in the dugouts, and a patch-up job to repair the turf, which was resodded last year but chopped up by winter football leagues, Farina said.

The city is hoping to get federal funds for improvements at Elysian Park, Farina added.



Hoboken Council President Martin Brennan, left, waves his shilleagh to the crowd and Mayor Steve Cappiello is right behind him with another. As for Cappiello, isn't everyone Irish on St. Patrick's day?

Fight looming on civilian dispatchers

A dispute is brewing between the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association and the city's administration over the possibility of increased use of civilians in police jobs.

The friction arose yesterday when Business Administrator Edwin Chius disclosed that the city proposes to break in civilians as dispatchers, thus freeing one policeman per shift for street duty.

When asked his reaction to this, PBA President James Behrens replied, "Oh, they haven't told us that."

Behrens acknowledged that it is "management's prerogative to use personnel any way it wishes," but questioned the move in the light of past policies regarding dispatchers.

"At one time," he explained, "they said only sergeants could be dispatchers because they need someone with responsibility on the job. Now they are going to switch to someone with no responsibility to the department?"

Behrens added that he thought Chius was just "throwing logs on the fire."

Mayor Steve Cappiello, who is director of Public Safety, said, however, that the city is "looking for civilian personnel to do whatever possible to free uniformed policemen for patrol."

Neither Chius or Cappiello could say when the dispatchers might become civilian, if the city decides to follow through on it, but Chius said he feels that some of the operators whose work load was cut because of the new center telephone system may be capable of taking over the chore with only a little training.

The Fire Department already uses civilian dispatchers.

Chief George Crimmins said he sees "no problem" in using civilians as dispatchers. "They're doing it all over the country," he noted.

Crimmins said that the directive about sergeants that Behrens referred to was made by his predecessor.

"The rank and file is always going to look for fellow union members to get positions," he said. "The civilians wouldn't be members of the PBA."

Behrens said he'd have more to say on the matter when the PBA is officially informed.

Amato and Chius in equipment row

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato charged today that Business Administrator Edwin Chius was "lying" in a dispute over who should have ordered public works equipment Chius said it was no lie that he had asked Amato last December to give him specifications for a payload and backhoe needed for the department.

Amato turned in the information on Tuesday but was told by Chius that the council already approved the ones submitted by the business administrator and that bids are due at Wednesday's council meeting.

Amato declared that "I wasn't told by anyone to submit bids until the council directed me to do so about four weeks ago."

"The specifications he wrote made it almost impossible to get the kind of backhoe I want and I'm going to fight it when it comes up in the council meeting," said Amato.

Chius said "I told him in December — in fact it might even have been November — to give me specifications for all the equipment he needs. I did tell him, but I didn't put it in writing. I didn't think I had to because he is always talking about how much he needs equipment."

Amato also pointed out that the subject wasn't on the agenda for the March 1 council meeting, so he had no way of knowing it would come up. He said he wasn't at the caucus before that meeting because he had an emergency with a fire hydrant.

"But I could have been reached in a few moments," he asserted.

Chius said Amato should have been at the caucus.

"We pay a lot of people a lot of money as supervisors and they could have handled that emergency with the fire hydrant," he said.

Chius' reason for going ahead with the specifications without Amato was that the contract must be awarded on the backhoe before March

31 to meet the deadline for the grant from the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods Program, of which he is in charge locally.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said both sides have valid points, but that the important thing now is to meet the deadline for the grant.

"This seems to point up the need for an assistant for Amato," Ranieri said. "He's a great man in the field, but he is sometimes a little slow with his paperwork."

Amato has been calling for a deputy director or some assistant to help with his administrative and field work.

Chius agreed, "He needs an assistant, but why didn't he make a request in his proposed budget for the department? He has never officially requested it to the mayor or me."

Ranieri also suggested that Amato tell the vendor, to whom he has been speaking about the backhoe, to submit his bid and explain to the council next week all the advantages in his equipment.

"If he can show that the advantages make up for whatever the additional price is," Ranieri said, "the council could possibly accept it even if it isn't the lowest bid."

Slowing crime

In these days when fear of violent crime is so widespread, it is heartening to learn that Hoboken's major crime rate has diminished for the fourth year in the last five.

The city's police chief says the crime rate has receded in proportion to the increase of foot patrolling.

The value of foot patrols in Hoboken's case seems clear. Other municipalities that have not experienced a comparable drop in major crime might well look at what Hoboken is doing.

Foot patrols cut Hoboken crime

For the fourth year in the last five, Hoboken had a decrease in the rate of major crimes last year, and the city's police chief credits the latest drop to increased foot patrol.

Chief George W. Crimmins says

See Editorial: SLOWING CRIME On Page 22.

the city now has 38 uniformed policemen of various ranks patrolling the residential and business areas of Hoboken; he calls this a major reason for the 1.6 percent drop in the crime rate last year.

Crimmins says the rate dropped three years in a row before an increase of less than one percent in 1976.

The rate is determined by the frequency of seven major offenses: Murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, break-in, entry and larceny and auto theft.

The total of major crimes reported last year was 1,735, down from 1,763 the previous year.

That drop was accounted for in

the decrease in break-ins, entries and larcenies, which fell from 752 in 1976 to 548 last year.

The lower break-in total was balanced by a jump in auto thefts, which increased from 254 to 306.

The value of stolen property increased last year by 14 percent, from \$1,058,009 in 1976 to \$1,225,948. The increased auto thefts were the reason: The value there increased from \$445,850 in 1976 to \$719,900 last year.

On traffic statistics, the report found that more accidents occurred on Monday than on other days of the week. There were 158 auto accidents on Mondays during the year. A total of 155 occurred on Saturdays while Fridays had 148. Wednesdays were the safest days, with 106 reported. There were no fatal accidents in the city and the 967 reported represented a decrease from 1976 when there were 1,132.

The Police Department consisted of 141 employees plus three temporary patrolmen, one police matron, eight civilians from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act and 39 school crossing guards.

They made 1,529 arrests on 2,131

charges, a decrease of 4.4 percent from the 1,634 arrests and 2,490 charges the previous year.

A total of 345 arrests were juveniles, but 95 were handled through the juvenile bureau.

The department issued 74,194 summonses, a decrease of 1,863. Crimmins would not place too much significance in the decreased rate, noting that communities all over the country are experiencing a decline in major crimes.

"But we're happy with the way it's going, and we're always trying new ways to handle crime."

One such way, he said, is to assign patrolmen to special duty usually handled by detectives, though not investigative. He said he doesn't want the details publicized, however.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, the public safety director, expressed the hope that the lower rate of major crime in recent years would help make Hoboken more attractive to residents and prospective residents.

Dog-catcher issue 'biting'

Animals Need You, a Hudson County group, objected today to a move by Hoboken to engage a Newark-based organization to provide dog-catcher and other animal care services for the city.

The group will meet Monday night, following the city council caucus, with Health and Welfare Director James Farina, and Councilmen Thomas Kennedy and Robert Ranieri to discuss Farina's hiring of Associated Humane Societies for the job.

Susan Long of Animals Need You says the city shouldn't use a group from as far away as Newark.

Farina says the city isn't committed to the Newark group, but must be shown that another outfit would be better.

Ms. Long yesterday protested to Farina about reports that the city was negotiating with Associated Humane Societies, claiming that Newark is too

far away to take the animals that are picked up.

She said Animals Need You believes that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Jersey City could do the job just as well.

"We don't want them taking animals to Newark where people without cars will have difficulty getting to the shelter," she said.

Farina replied that she would have her chance to make a case for the SPCA at the meeting Monday.

"If they can do the job better at a reasonable cost, we'll consider them," he said. "But we've heard good things about the Humane Society, and they are handling the animal warden duties on a trial basis now."

The Humane Society has a \$3,500 contract with Hoboken through April to be on call 24 hours every day, Farina said.

If the society is hired beyond April, however, the cost would \$1,000 per month plus expenses, and the group would have an animal warden on call 20 hours per week and be on patrol around the clock.

The city council would have to approve the arrangement.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius says he favors the Humane Society proposal because it would cost more for the city to the job itself, and the society's contract would contain a monthly renewal clause, so the city could terminate it if the services aren't satisfactory or the funds aren't available.

The city doesn't have a problem with the society now, Farina said, but in the past it has encountered difficulty getting service from animal wardens, especially on weekends and holidays.

"We want to be certain we have a reliable group to serve our needs on a 24-hour basis," Farina said.

Let him speak

The ejection of that chronic critic from Hoboken's City Council meeting was perhaps understandable, but it has set a bad precedent.

This particular critic may have invited ejection because he seems to habitually fail to familiarize himself with matters on the council agenda as adequately as he might, before delivering vehement pronouncements.

He has been known to ask the council to explain what this or that item was all about; and then, after receiving a capsule explanation, proceed to make an on the spot, off the cuff judgment.

A board should have the right to exercise some control over its meetings. Otherwise every meeting would drag like a United States Senate filibuster. However, it should use that right sparingly.

To Hoboken's credit, it should be pointed out that its City Council has been liberal in giving residents an opportunity to be heard.

But barring a speaker in advance as punishment for what was deemed as objectionable harangue at a prior meeting, does not appear to be the board's right.

Hoboken's City Council should listen to anyone who wishes to speak, allowing him sufficient time to make his point. He persists in being objectionable, should be ejected, but don't eject him before he has a chance to open his mouth.

What is Hoboken school vote all about?

By William H. Taft

When Hoboken's board of education comes up for a second time for approval or rejection by the voters this month, how will the voters form an intelligent judgment on it — when the officials who presumably have familiar with the budget have such differing opinions?

For the answer, The Jersey Journal called up the board to ask how the

voters might obtain information on the budget and get the answers to questions about it, so as to understand what they were voting on, to help decide whether to vote "yes" or "no."

Since the board's secretary is the one who runs the board's elections, a call was made to his office, the phone number of which has been publicly announced by the board as 420-2162.

No one answered that phone. (It has gone unanswered ever since the first week Hoboken's new public office phone system was installed in January.)

Next, the board's number was looked up in the telephone book (where most voters could be expected to look for it) and again it was given as 420-2162, the one that doesn't answer. To cover all the bases, it was

dialled again, and again there was no answer.

The caller then dialed "operator" and asked her to try the number. "Operator" got through to the secretary's office, by calling a second number (known to her) which rings a phone on an adjoining desk.

The phone was picked up by the secretary of the secretary. The question was put to her.

"Call Mr. Taylor, the board's attorney," she answered.

It was explained to her that The Jersey Journal at this time was simply trying to establish how the voters themselves could obtain, from a responsible source, whatever information they wanted concerning the budget.

It was also pointed out that there are some 18,000 registered Hoboken voters, all of whom could not possibly get through to Mr. Taylor.

It was additionally pointed out that simply placing a copy of the budget on a counter in the board's office and allowing voters to look through it would hardly help — the bare figures would be meaningless to the voters without the detailed information the figures summarize.

Not in the least disagreeing with all this, the secretary's secretary said she would contact Mr. (Robert W.) Taylor and call back.

An hour later, when she had not called back, she was reached again, and she said she had not yet contacted Mr. Taylor but would do so.

After still another hour, she was called again.

"I'm sorry," she said, "but I can't get Mr. Taylor today. He's in Compensation Court."

Then she added: "We (meaning her office) have nothing to do with the elections this year."

She was reminded that the state law requires the board's elections to be conducted by the board's secretary — Thomas A. Gallo, who is also a state assemblyman.

"True," she replied. "We had it last year, but not this year. Mr. Taylor is handling it."

"What about the voters and their ability to get information on the budget?"

"Well, if they'll call us, whatever they ask, we'll transmit it to... Mr. Taylor."

So that's how the voter stands.

The budget was defeated in the first election, Feb. 14. That election was voided by the state Education Department last Friday after the county schools superintendent said the public had been misinformed because the figure given on the voting machines was \$4.073 million when it should have been \$3.3 million.

(The state contends it should have been \$3.5 million.)

The new election has to be held not later than March 28. The exact figure to be shown on the voting machine is still in doubt but it will be somewhere from \$3.3 to \$3.5 million.

Hoboken school budget waits word on 'cap' waiver

The Hudson County superintendent of schools is awaiting word today on whether a "cap" waiver has been granted by the state for a revised Hoboken Board of Education budget so it can be introduced at a meeting tonight.

Russell Carpenter took the proposed budget, which calls for a \$500,000 waiver of the "cap" limit, to Trenton yesterday.

The new budget was proposed after state Education Commissioner Fred Burke ruled that the Feb. 14 election on the budget was invalid since the absentee ballots contained a \$6 million tax levy figure and the voting machines carried a \$4 million figure.

Burke has given Hoboken until March 28 to hold a new election on a revised budget. The exact amount of the revisions was not learned, but it was reported that the district was faced with a \$3.5 million ceiling.

Meanwhile, Councilman Robert Ranieri warned that if the waiver is granted and the budget is turned down by the voters, it will face a slashing by the council.

Ranieri is a member of a three-man council committee that is conferring with the board's finance committee on the makeup of the budget.

"We will not go for a waiver," Ranieri exclaimed. "I would rather wave goodbye to Robert Taylor (the

board's attorney) then to waive the 'cap.'"

Ranieri said the councilmen had pressed the finance committee to seek out the county schools superintendent and find out how he arrived at figures showing that the board's original budget was actually below the "cap" and did not require a waiver.

Taylor, said he had delivered to Carpenter the latest version of the board's proposed budget, seeking informal approval, so as to permit the board to formally adopt the budget tonight.

Carpenter took this version to Trenton with him yesterday to discuss it with Vincent Calabrese, assistant state commissioner of education.

Ranieri will fight school budget

The budget adopted Thursday night by Hoboken's Board of Education will increase taxes \$60 for every \$10,000 of property valuation, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri declared today.

Ranieri is mapping strategy with other councilmen to knock down the school budget, which has to go before the city's voters for ratification, and which, if defeated at the polls, the city council will then have the opportunity to slash.

He pointed out that the board did on 11th Street (turnaround in adopting a budget requiring a tax levy of \$4,021,262.40. Earlier in the day Otto Hottendorf, the board's president, and Robert Wendelken, the chairman of its finance committee, which revised the budget, both announced that the budget to be passed would be \$3,500,000 less.

"A \$3.5 million tax levy for schools, which these men promised earlier in the day, would have tabilized the city's tax rate," Ranieri said. "A \$4,021,262.40 levy will add \$6 to the tax rate, which is already \$104.65 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation — one of the highest anywhere."

"Someone has misled the sincere people on the board into believing that they are now in a position to negotiate the backing of the mayor and council," Ranieri asserted.

"The idea is that the board will all the mayor and council. Although we have adopted this big budget, we are willing to modify it downward — halfway down to \$3,500,000, making it about \$3,000,000 — if you'll agree to for that."

Ranieri said he was surprised by the fact that the higher budget was voted by board members close to Mayor Cappiello, although the mayor has been insistent on holding down the tax rate.

The council's School Budget Committee is comprised of Martin Brennan, the council president, Walter Cramer and Ranieri.

The board voted Thursday night to send dismissal notices to all non-tenured employees. It was said there are 82 non-tenured teachers, about a fifth of the teaching staff.

The board voted to rescind a previously adopted current expense budget of almost \$17.7 million and to replace it by nearly \$2 million to \$1,937,400, which will require a tax levy of \$4,021,262.40. Monday was set for a date for a public hearing on the budget. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Wallace School, at Clinton streets.

Unless there are further changes, the board will go to the polls March 28 to vote if the budget should be rejected, as was its predecessor, or accepted.

Contrary to what Hottendorf and Wendelken had earlier said would happen, the six board members attending Thursday night's continued meeting (adjourned from Tues-

day night) decided—after an hour-long caucus—to accept a \$3,000,000 "cap" waiver granted by State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke.

If Burke's offer of the waiver had been rejected by the board — and city administration officials were hoping it would — the amount to be raised by local taxation would have been only \$3.5 million.

Ranieri, an observer at the session, said the trustees are "playing Russian roulette with the fiscal structure of the city."

"I can see the 'For Sale' signs going up in every residential area of the

Hoboken fed grant

By WILLIAM BETZ

Sen. Harrison A. Williams and Rep. Joseph A. LeFante announced yesterday a federal grant of \$60,000 to Hoboken to help continue the city's planning program for long-range economic growth.

Under the terms of the grant, Hoboken will contribute \$27,000 in matching funds to the program, a spokesman for the two New Jersey Democrats said.

The total sum will be administered by the city's Community Development Agency (CDA), according to Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Fred Bado, director of Hoboken's CDA, said the major emphasis of this year's program will be to continue efforts to keep industry in the city. Plans call for an industrial promotion campaign and the preparation of a brochure describing Hoboken's advantages to industry.

Attracting new industry will be of only incidental concern to the CDA this year, Bado said, since it is often the case that attempts to attract a new business to an area result in the loss of several others through neglect.

In the last few years the general exodus of businesses from Hoboken, a problem of major concern in the late 1960s, has slackened, Bado said.

Bado pointed to the grants received from federal public works administrators for the rehabilitation of the Erie-Lackawanna Terminal as the CDA's major accomplishment.

city," Ranieri said. "I can excuse the younger, more naive (board members), but there is no excuse for the older, more experienced members of the board," he added, noting that the budget had been approved unanimously.

But Hottendorf, executing a 180-degree turn Thursday night, predicted the revised budget would pass.

"When people hear about impending layoffs, they will be persuaded that the board is doing all it can to economize, and they'll vote for the budget," Hottendorf added.

Nobody on the board nor its top staff knew how many total non-tenured employees were on its payroll, but the members did say there were 82 teachers working without tenure, whose annual salaries and benefits were estimated at nearly \$1 million, and who comprise about 20 percent of the board's instructional staff.

"However," Wendelken later told reporters, "it shouldn't be inferred that only teachers will be let go, nor should it be assumed that any specific number of employees will be laid off."

Members Richard England and James Monaco said there may be "no layoffs at all" if the budget passes, but Wendelken hastily qualified that, saying, "Realistically, we have to expect some layoffs."

The exact number, he said, will depend on the budget's fate, retirements, and upcoming negotiations with five employee bargaining units. The notice of dismissals, he said, "is just a precautionary measure; it's not designed to intimidate anybody."

By state law, the board must alert non-tenured personnel by March 31 about possible terminations in the fall, said Wendelken. Otherwise, he said, "we'd have to carry them on the payroll in September."

One small sign of austerity was reflected last night when the board voted against granting one-year extensions of employment to two school clerks, Minerva Butler and Evelyn Hopper, who, together, collect an estimated \$25,000 annually. Wendelken says there is money budgeted for replacements, but the board may elect to use those funds for other purposes, he said.

During a pre-meeting closed caucus, the members heard board secretary Thomas A. Gallo's request to hire Joseph Schultz, presently on loan to the board from the office of the county superintendent of schools, as his assistant.

The state has advised the board to delegate its fiscal and legal affairs to different persons rather than leave both areas in the lap of board counsel Robert W. Taylor. That means that Gallo, as secretary, would have to assume some new duties.

But the board deferred acting on the request and allocated no funds in the budget to hire an aide.

Cappiello acts to help teachers

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that teachers expected to be laid off by the city's school system would be given priority for jobs at a new pre-kindergarten day care center to be opened by the city in September.

"There will be 12 positions available in the new day care center," Cappiello explained, "and while the pay is not what a teacher gets in our schools, it should be comparable to a parochial school teacher's salary."

The mayor announced that the day care center is scheduled to take over the Multi-Service Center at Second and Grand streets from Day Care 100, which will move them to the Downtown Recreation Center on Jefferson Street.

The new center won't be opened until September because it will take that long to get the recreation center ready for Day Care 100, Cappiello said.

The funding for the new center is being provided by the state through the Community Development Agency, the mayor added.

The Board of Education expects to have teacher layoffs — as many as 82, according to board President Otto Hottendorf — as a result of budget cuts being considered as means of reaching the state budget "cap."

Cappiello said he is completely in favor of avoiding any increase in the school budget, and that the impact of the layoffs would be softened some by the city.

"I hate to see anyone laid off," he said, "but we just can't spend all the money anyone wants to. We've got to make long-range plans, however, because the enrollment in the schools is dropping rapidly — 15 percent in the past four years."

Hoboken overtaxed property owners for schools in '77

Hoboken's board of education over-taxed the city's taxpayers \$497,831 for "current expense" last year, says Vincent B. Calabrese, assistant state commissioner of education.

But the board also under-charged the taxpayers \$3,933.50 for payments it made on its debts, Calabrese said. The net result of the two mistakes was an "over-levy" of \$492,027.50 — and the board must now reduce its tax levy this year by that amount, Calabrese declared.

His findings were in the form of a six-page "Report Concerning the Fiscal Crisis of the Hoboken Board of Education."

Calabrese corrected a dozen calculations made by the board. His main conclusion was that the board's "legal" and "fiscal" offices must be separated.

Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney, has been doubling as the board's fiscal officer. He receives additional pay for his fiscal services.

"Fiscal practices in the Hoboken school district are confused," Calabrese charged. "A major problem appears to be the combination of legal and fiscal offices. It is absolutely essential that the fiscal and legal offices be separated and that the legal office be relieved of the responsibility to prepare fiscal material on a day-to-day basis."

The board had said several weeks ago that it might have to close the city's schools next month because it was running out of money.

Calabrese sharply disagreed with this in his report, asserting that "funds could very well be on hand to complete the year."

That conclusion, he continued, "is

based on statements by district officials that funds equal to 10 percent of monthly payrolls are being transferred to an escrow account.

"These transfers plus the available free appropriation balance would exceed \$1,000,000."

At a meeting Jan. 24, he went on, board officials "agreed that at least \$150,000 in savings could be realized in the current budget year."

"These savings, coupled with available funds from the escrow account and balances would permit the district to complete the current year without a major disruption of the academic program."

"Due to the lack of specific fiscal information, an inspection of accounts has been scheduled, to assure that funds will be available to complete the year."

"Upon the completion of the current fiscal inspection, more detailed recommendations concerning the business operation of the district will be submitted."

"In the interim period it is recommended that the board review current assigned functions with the goal of reorganizing the business office and sharply defining all fiscal responsibilities."

Calabrese said Taylor had "indicated" at a meeting last Dec. 22 that the board had borrowed \$1,500,000 from a bank because it had no money to send the teachers their pay checks last summer.

He commented: "There appeared to be no legal authorization for such a loan; and in any event, the passage of Assembly Bill No. 3439, Chapter 152, Laws of 1977, July 11, 1977, permits the board of education to solve the problem over a five-year period."

"Those present were notified to immediately repay the loan and to follow existing statutes in borrowing funds in the future."

"A request was made (at the Dec. 22 meeting) for additional information concerning salaries, number of employees, miscellaneous revenues, details on the loan agreement, and specific information on amounts budgeted in the salary line of the budget."

"A request was also made for a detailed five-year plan from the board of education on the resolution of the summer payment plan problem."

"To date, this has been formally submitted. It is necessary that such a plan be submitted and approved, since this plan requires monitoring by the commissioner of education."

Recounting the dozen calculations in the maximum current (1977-78) expense budget which he said were incorrect, Calabrese said that in computing that budget the board "used an original cap notice dated 1/19/77 rather than the revised notice of 1/29/77."

(He noted that the board contends it did not receive the revised notice.) "The revised notice," he continued, "resulted from the commissioner's decision restoring \$22,367 to the 1976-77 budget. The 1977-78 net current expense budget computed on the basis of the original notice was \$10,262,646, (whereas) the 1977-78 budget computed on the basis of the revised notice would have been \$10,282,140."

Next, Calabrese said Line B (Transportation) on the 1977-78 budget cap worksheet as prepared by the board "lives \$100,360, while the appropriation side of the budget reads \$126,690."

He went on: "Line B, Miscellaneous Revenue, the district listed a figure of \$667,460 but did not reflect this amount in the revenue section of the budget."

The foregoing "adjustments," Calabrese said, "resulted in a maximum permitted current expense budget for 1977-78 in the amount of \$11,396,693. However, the district's adopted budget for 1977-78 was \$12,121,210."

Thus, he commented, that budget exceeded the maximum permitted by \$724,517.

"Other state aid of \$60,727," Calabrese continued, "was not budgeted as revenue, but the expenditures were included in the total advertised budget."

"The tax levy certified for the 1977-78 current expense budget was \$4,186,623. However, the correct certification should have been \$3,688,082, for an over-levy of \$497,831."

"The amount levied for debt service was \$47,689 rather than the correct amount of \$53,582, for an under-levy of \$5,893."

"The net result of the foregoing adjustments would result in a net-levy of \$492,027.50 which must be adjusted by reducing the levy for the second half of the 1977-78 school year and in the 1978 calendar year of the municipality."

"The municipality failed to remit a previous levy against the 1974-75 school year of \$222,000, and this matter is currently under litigation."

"The \$127,577 amount overcap was reduced by \$69,727 for revenue not included in the original cap calculation, making the net amount overcap \$57,850. Due to the current fiscal crisis, this tax levy adjustment is deferred until the 1979-80 school year."

Hoboken school board plans budget over 'cap'

Hoboken's school board again is preparing a budget which exceeds the 5.7 percent "cap" placed on budget increases by the state, Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney, said today.

Taylor said the board would send the latest version of its proposed budget to County Schools Superintendent Russell Carpenter Monday, for his consideration. Along with the budget will be a request that the cap be waived.

However, even if Carpenter likes the budget, he is powerless to approve it if it exceeds the cap. He would have to send it to State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke.

If Burke personally approves granting the requested waiver, he can ask the state Education Board formally to waive the cap. If the state board does so, the Hoboken board then will be free to advertise the budget, hold a public hearing, and have an election in which the city's voters will pass on it.

Even if the state waives the cap, it will not give Hoboken any additional money for the budget, Gary Deutsch, Carpenter's assistant, said today. The city's taxpayers will have to make good, in full, any appropriation higher than the cap, Deutsch said.

Taylor said the board is hoping for a favorable reply from the county and state officials by late Tuesday. This would require unusual speedy action by Burke—if a request for a cap waiver is involved.

Meanwhile the Hoboken board's finance committee will meet with the Hoboken city council's ad hoc committee tonight to go over the proposed revised budget.

If the voters turn down the budget, the council then has the right to reduce it. If the board doesn't like

the reductions, it can appeal to the state.

Regardless of whether the budget exceeds the cap, an election has to be held. Burke has ordered the board to hold it not later than March 28.

Hoboken greening looms for spring

The greening of Hoboken should begin this spring.

That's the estimate of the city's arborist, providing the city council accepts a recommendation from Mayo-Lynch Associates and awards contracts that call for the planting of 364 trees throughout the city.

The lowest of three bidders on the project, Rickert Nurseries of Yardley, Pa., pegged the cost of the project at \$113,551.50 for 348 trees around the city and \$3,280 for another 16 trees for the island on 11th Street.

The money for the project will come from the federal government through the Community Development Agency. Arborist Robert Hill, an employee at CDA, designed the project and recommended the types of trees to be planted.

Joseph Lynch of Mayo-Lynch said the trees would be placed at scattered sites throughout the city, with the heaviest concentration on Garden and Hudson streets and Willow Avenue. The plantings will be primarily downtown, he said.

Lynch explained that the city received many requests from residents for trees in front of their houses, and gave the requests priority on a first-come basis in selecting the sites.

The locations are already pinpointed on a series of maps, he said.

The 16 trees on 11th Street, between Willow and Washington, will be part of an overall job that includes cobblestones and other plantings to spruce up the street's center island.

Ten types of trees will be used, as Hill recommended: Red Maple, white ash, linden, plane, pin oak, gingko, Norway maple, caliche pear, honey locust and sweet gum. Red maple will be the most numerous.

The recommendation by Mayo-Lynch still has to be approved by CDA Director Fred Bado before the council acts on it.

Now Hoboken board waives 'caps' waiver

By Patrick Ford

After a lengthy successful battle to get a waiver on a state-imposed budget "cap," the Hoboken Board of Education now proposes to "waive the waiver" and adhere to the cap, which will mean laying off all 82 non-tenured teachers, the board president said today.

Just one day after state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke informed the board that he would approve a \$500,000 increase in the cap — which would mean levying \$4,021,262 in taxes for the schools — board president Otto Hottendorf said the board has changed its mind and would probably try to set the tax levy at \$3.5 million, the top figure permitted before the waiver.

Robert Wendelken, chairman of the board's Finance Committee, which is preparing the budget, agreed with Hottendorf except to add that the figure of 82 teachers could be reduced by retirements—possibly to as low as 50 teachers laid off.

"But even if we set the budget at the maximum amount allowed by the waiver," Wendelken declared, "it would still probably mean some layoffs."

Neither official was certain about layoffs in other areas. The board meets tonight at 7 to re-introduce the

budget, which was rejected by the voters Feb. 14 and thrown out by Burke because of irregularities in the voting procedure.

Wendelken explained that the board would probably bypass the waiver and go for the lower budget figure because it wants to eliminate any increase in the tax rate.

The \$4,021 million would represent a decrease of \$170,000 in the tax levy from last year if the board decided to accept the waiver, but Wendelken points out that this would still be a \$2.40 per \$1,000 increase in the tax rate because of the city's loss of \$5 million in ratables this year.

"We had hoped to arrive at a compromise figure somewhere between \$3.5 million and \$4.021 million," Wendelken explained, "but it is clear that the city council — and the voters — want us to avoid a tax increase this year."

Both men stressed that the board has not yet made a firm decision on rejecting the waiver, but their positions—president of the board and chairman of the finance committee—make their opinions more than speculation.

The total appropriations with the cap waiver would be \$15.8 million, and at the cap would be over \$15.2 million.

Total appropriations for 1977-78 are \$12,405,670.

\$4.7 million OK seen for Conrail Hoboken lines

TRENTON — The State Commuter Operating Agency is expected to approve a resolution tomorrow to provide \$4,761,000 in state subsidy funds to Conrail to continue Hoboken Division service from April 1, 1978, through June 30, 1978.

The allocation is subject to the availability of funds at a rate provided during 1977 until the agency approves its calendar year 1978 budget.

The COA authorized payments to Conrail for essential rail commuter service June 22, 1972, for the period July 1 to Dec. 31 last year, and on Dec. 12 it authorized payments to Conrail from Jan. 1 to March 31 this year.

Meanwhile, the agency received from Conrail Jan. 4 a budget for the Hoboken division for rail service during calendar 1978. It is being analyzed and reviewed.

Hoboken police swearing halted

The state Civil Service Commission has stymied Hoboken's plan to swear in 10 new patrolmen this week by ordering the city first to appoint a Hispanic candidate and pay him retroactive salary from Jan. 18.

The candidate, Cesar Velez, of Hoboken, failed to appear for a physical test last year, according to Hoboken officials, but the state apparently administered the test itself and said he passed.

The instructions to the city were to hold up the new appointments because they are being made from a new Civil Service list, and the Velez appointment must be made first to clear up the old list.

The state ordered him appointed as of Jan. 18 because other policemen were appointed that day, and the state says Velez should have been with them.

Paul McGlynn, the Civil Service supervisor of certification, who gave the order to Mayor Steve Cappiello, Hoboken's public safety director, could not be reached for comment. Cappiello said he is checking into the order to "get clarification."

Police Chief George Crimmins said the city has no discretion in bypassing him, noting he's a veteran and ranked higher than some who were appointed.

Policemen's Benevolent Association, said the appointment was forced by the Civil Service's "double-standard" in favor of blacks and Hispanics.

"It was definitely done because he's Hispanic," Behrens asserted. "If he wasn't black or Hispanic he wouldn't have been allowed to take the physical test after not showing up for the first one."

"And on top of that," he continued, "they are going to rip off the taxpayers' money by paying him from Jan. 18 when he never performed any services."

Several sources brought up a case of a white temporary policeman, David Matthews, who passed the written and medical tests, but failed

the physical test when he didn't get over a wall.

He said it was because of the intense, 100-degree heat in the testing room, and asked for a new test. Civil Service turned him down, the sources say.

Behrens, while not referring to Matthews by name, alluded to his case and said, "If he was a Hispanic, he would have been allowed to take the test over."

Crimmins, meanwhile, said it normally takes eight weeks to clear the background and fingerprints of a prospective policeman. He said this would have to be expedited to cut down on the delay in swearing in the 10 new men, who are slated for street patrol.

Cappiello to fight relocation rule

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today denounced a new state regulation requiring municipalities to pay thousands of dollars to a family when it is relocated to permit housing rehabilitation or replacement, and he announced that he would lead a drive to have the legislature amend or repeal it.

Cappiello said developers "are reluctant to come in, because of the relocation burden they have to take on."

"We are an older city, with old tenements," he continued. "We are reluctant to get involved in the program."

The mayor recalled that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development paid Hoboken families \$4,000 apiece in 1971 in a large relocation project. But HUD is no longer doing this; and current state policy, he said, is to get the cities to pay.

"People would destroy their property in order to be relocated," he declared. "If you had a house that was really only worth \$500, it would pay you to tear out the plumbing and the wiring and get the city to relocate you—so you'd collect a lot of money."

"The state is after us to budget for relocation expenses," Cappiello

said. "Some towns have done it, others have not. We feel it will impede our progress. I feel that HUD should take the responsibility for relocation."

He added that Hoboken is being sued by a relocated tenant, and the case is coming up next week.

The mayor and officials concerned with relocation met to discuss the issue in his office yesterday.

"I'm going to pursue the matter," he declared. "I shall talk to State Sen. Musto and Assemblymen Gallo and Jackman, and I shall seek the support of the other Hudson mayors."

Plan would let CETA hire union workers

Hoboken officials are working on a plan that would enable the city to use skilled union labor as working supervisors for employees hired for special Comprehensive Employment and Training Act programs.

George W. Crimmins Jr., director of Hoboken's CETA office, said today that the first such union worker to be used would be a painter to help with the "Municipal Facilities Beautification" project in which

CETA is repairing and painting many city buildings.

Crimmins admitted that some juggling may have to be done to allow the union men to receive the salary required by their locals.

He said that the unions would be required to submit a list of Hoboken residents who meet CETA eligibility regarding unemployment — they must be unemployed for 15 weeks before beginning CETA work.

The union men would then receive the maximum CETA salary — \$10,000 — and would be raised to union scale — around \$12,000 — with administrative funds added to special CETA grants.

In the beautification project, Crimmins explained, the amount of the grant is \$68,300, with 7.5 percent set aside for administrative needs, such as salaries, equipment and sundry expenses.

Thus, if a union painter is hired,

he would be paid from the set-aside \$5,000 to bring him up to union scale.

The beautification project began in January and will last until October. The CETA workers have already painted parts of the Multi-Service Center and the sewage plant.

The bulk of the work, however, will be done on the city's four firehouses, Crimmins said. A study is going on now to determine how much has to be done in each of the buildings.

Crimmins met last week with Mayor Steve Cappiello and two leaders from the painters and masons locals, Al Lemme of the International Brotherhood of Painters, Local 577, and John Gemma of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International, Local 577.

Hoboken Ed Board waives cap

By WILLIAM BETZ

After a public hearing last night, during which criticism was leveled at the Hoboken Board of Education for playing politics, the board voted unanimously to propose unamended the budget it presented last week. The budget calls for the raising of \$4,021,382.40 in city tax revenues.

The board, therefore, will take advantage of the waiver of the state cap limitation.

Robert Ranieri, a city councilman and a member of the council's school budget committee, protested the acceptance of the cap waiver. School Board President Otto Hottendorf had said early Thursday the board would reject the cap waiver, but at the meeting Thursday night it was inexplicably included in the budget figure, which was unanimously approved.

A new election on the budget is scheduled for March 28. The last school board election was Feb. 14. The budget was defeated on that date, and a new vote was ordered by State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke because of a discrepancy in the budget figures both on the voting machines and on the absentee ballots.

Ranieri, in his criticism of the board, claimed the problems the city is having in funding its schools are administrative. He charged the school board with "living in a political world that doesn't lend itself to education but to favoritism."

The board of education last week announced, at the time of its approval of the proposed budget, that all non-tenured personnel within the city's school system would be sent letter of termination by the end of the month. Included in the category of non-tenured personnel are 82 teachers and a similar number of other employees in custodial, clerical and other positions, board members said.

In spite of the fact that the state cap limitation was waived in the amount of \$600,000, the amount to be raised locally is still nearly \$175,000 less than the amount raised last year, board members said. Overall appropriations, however, which are supplemented by state and federal money, bring the budget above the mandated five percent cap.

Other Dem leaders want Fusilli out, says Cappiello

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello confirmed today that County Clerk James Quinn will be on the Democratic ticket for reelection, and said the decision to dump Freeholder Vincent "Jimmy" Fusilli was not his alone.

That decision to eliminate Fusilli, reportedly in favor of Cappiello, was denounced by Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti as "an outrage" and an act of "stupidity."

Cappiello said he has no reservations about Quinn's ill health, the result of a stroke last year.

"If he wants to be the candidate he'll have our full support," Cappiello declared. Quinn said last week that he

plans to run again. He's been clerk for 10 years.

When asked to comment on why Fusilli would be dropped, Cappiello said, "The selections are the result of meetings with the Democratic leaders of the city and freeholder district. I'm merely following the mandate of the leadership."

When asked whether he, in fact, is not the leadership, the mayor replied, "I'm the leader, but the decision was not made by me alone. I met with many people on this."

He wouldn't say who the people were.

Malfetti, meanwhile, blasted Cappiello for what he called his "disregard for the welfare of the people of Hoboken."

"The city of Hoboken is faced with many problems that require the attention to a full-time mayor. Keep in mind that he is also public safety director. How many jobs does he want?"

Malfetti praised Fusilli for his "outstanding record."

Cappiello deals for those cars curbing sweeper

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today offered a deal to the owners of the many cars that appear to have been abandoned on the city's streets — before, and during or after the snowfalls that iced them in during the long winter.

If the owners will call the police auto squad at 426-2155 and offer to turn over their ownership certificates, the city will forego any attempts to catch up with them and prosecute them for abandoning the cars, Cappiello said.

The reasons for the "amnesty," he explained, is that he would like to get going on clearing the streets so that the sweeping program can be resumed after the winter layoff.

Starting Monday, the mayor announced, the alternate-side-of-the-street program will again be in effect.

"We ask the public to cooperate in removing cars from the curbs," Cappiello said. "We are going to start sweeping the pavements — not with

mechanical brooms at first, but with manpower, elbow grease."

The city's sweeper truck will not be put back in operation until the hand-sweepers clear away the "debris" that would clog and break the truck's mechanism, he explained.

Car owners "whose cars have gone dead on them" and who don't intend to move them from the curb will find it to their advantage to deal with the auto squad, the mayor declared.

"The city will save money," Cappiello continued, because we will be spared the trouble and expense of issuing summons for abandoning the cars, and we will not have to advertise the cars before putting them up for sale at auction and pay for storing them after towing them away, pending the auction.

Space in which to store such vehicles has become very scarce, he added.

He said he hopes to buy new sweeper-trucks, which would do a better job than the lone one the city still has.

Ranieri blasts walkway proposal

Hoboken Councilman Robert A. Ranieri today blasted as "a fantastic demonstration of bureaucratic waste" the plan to build a \$5,000,000 accelerating walkway 300 feet long between the Erie Lackawanna Railroad concourse in Hoboken and the rear end of the PATH platform.

"They will make Hoboken the laughing stock of the nation," Ranieri declared. "We are a hard-core urban community, desperately fighting for

survival — how could we justify spending six million dollars for a thing like that?"

See Editorial: WASTEFUL On Page 28.

"People have been walking those 300 feet for 70 years with never a complaint."

"This thing will certainly be of no benefit to Hoboken. It will be designed, created and assembled outside the city and then shipped here — and then it will be used entirely by out-of-towners."

"Take a look at Madison Street between Second and Third streets — or half a dozen other spots reeking with inhuman stinking conditions that could be abolished with six million dollars."

Ranieri said he met U.S. Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Patricia Harris on a week's visit to Washington last week, and he intends to invite them to view Madison Street "and tell me whether this walkway is a good investment."

The walkway, or moving sidewalk, would be built by the Port Authority for the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission.

\$28,000 needed for firemen's overtime

By Patrick Ford

The Hoboken City Council will have to appropriate an additional \$28,000 for overtime for firemen because the amount originally budgeted for the year has been used up, mainly in the first big snowstorm of the year, the city business administrator said today.

Edwin Chius, the administrator, said that the Fire Department was forced to call in all available men for the first storm because the streets were impassable, and it was felt that the men would need to walk to a fire.

The city originally appropriated \$28,000 for overtime for firemen, he explained.

The city was criticized for its

poor snow removal in the first storm on Jan. 20, but must agree to perform well in the second major storm Feb. 4. All firemen were not called in for the second storm, Chius said.

The new money would be added to the department's overtime allotment as part of a \$130,250 transfer of funds on which the council is expected to hold a public hearing this week.

The council held a public hearing on the budget last Wednesday, but no date has been set for final adoption. The city is still waiting to get approval on the budget from the state Division of Local Government Services.

Other snow-related increases in appropriations include \$65,000 for

snow removal in the Public Works budget; \$10,000 in the sweeping appropriation; and \$15,000 in overtime in Public Works.

The amendment also calls for \$12,000 to be added to the police overtime because of a miscalculation, and \$250 to the line item for acquisition of property.

The \$130,250 will be deducted from areas where the original appropriations are no longer considered essential, Chius said.

The bulk of the decreases would be in Public Safety — \$80,250.

The \$21,500 appropriation for a new public safety director was cut by \$10,000, because there is no way a

man will be selected before July, Chius said.

Mayor Steve Cappiello now serves as public safety director at no extra salary, but hopes to appoint someone this year.

Similarly, \$40,000 was cut from Fire Department salaries, and \$24,000 from police salaries, because appointments in each department which were budgeted from Jan. 1 still haven't been made.

In addition, \$15,000 was deducted from administration, \$5,000 from Health and Welfare, \$15,000 from Public Works and \$5,000 from Revenue and Finance.

These budget transfers will have no effect on the tax rate, Chius stressed.

Hoboken agency revamp planned

The Hoboken Public Works Department will be re-structured, beginning Monday, to make working foremen responsible for specific functions, Director Andrew Amato said today.

The move is being made to increase productivity, Amato declared, and if efficiency doesn't improve "heads will roll," he asserted.

The new system will put foremen in charge of crews with specific responsibilities, such as the repair gang, street cleaners, mechanics, truck drivers, heavy equipment and

motors, Amato explained.

The general foreman, Fred Vassallo, will still supervise the entire operation, but now Amato can be certain exactly who is responsible for each function.

"Our old system has allowed the working foremen to hang around the garage and waste time," the director said.

"I met with all the men this week and I told them that if this doesn't work heads will roll — I will go through the Civil Service if I have to."

Hoboken greets spring with clean-up campaign

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today announced the start of Operation Cleanup, an anti-litter campaign, tomorrow, the first full day of spring.

The mayor asked all shop owners, residents and visitors to "clean up."

"I am hoping that people will get involved by taking care to use trash receptacles rather than toss things on the sidewalks, and that they will sweep and wash down their properties and secure their rubbish for disposal," the mayor said.

Operation Clean Up is being coordinated by the city's Manpower Office, and its director, George W. Crimmins.

Also, involved in Operation Clean Up is the Hoboken Retail Merchants Bureau and the Hoboken Environment Committee.

The involvement of Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) personnel in Operation Clean Up will include the assignment of a pushbroom crew to provide seven days a week care of Washington Street. Also, First, Eleventh and

Fourteenth Streets will receive an intense cleaning on a four day a week schedule by pushbroom crews.

There are fifteen CETA employees assigned to this project group he added.

Mailings have been sent to all Washington Street Merchants by Crimmins, making both an appeal and an invitation to help "Hoboken to be a cleaner place to live and work."

In the developing stages is a proposed poster contest for school children that is being undertaken by the Environment Committee and the Merchants. In addition to this, Operation Clean Up will pick out residents who are observed acting in the spirit of Operation Clean Up. These individuals will be awarded gift certificates for their deeds. There will be weekly winners, with a grand prize winner named at the project's conclusion. The gift certificates are being donated by the Hoboken Retail Merchants and the Environment Committee.

Public housing costly, Cappiello complains

Hoboken's public housing projects cost the city \$1 million in services in return for the \$31,170.30 it provided in revenue for last year, Mayor Steve Cappiello charged yesterday.

Cappiello received a check from Andrew H. Scherer, the authority's chairman, yesterday, but earlier in the day said he'd just as soon do without the projects.

"Between police, fire and schools," he explained, "it costs a \$1 million; in return we're supposed to get 10 percent of the rents as payment in lieu of taxes."

Cappiello had complained to a reporter last week that much of the city's crime problem, including prostitution generated from the housing projects.

Joseph Caliguire, executive director of the authority, at first refused comment, but then called the mayor's charges unfair.

"We provide safe, decent and sanitary housing for low-income residents," he asserted. "That's

what the federal government asks us to do."

He would not comment on the crime matter. He explained that the \$31,170.30 appears low because the cost of fuel and utilities are deducted from the gross amount before figuring the city's percentage.

Hoboken tabbed for relocation

A ruling by Superior Court Judge Thomas S. O'Brien that Hoboken must pay the relocation expenses of a tenant evicted by the city from a building with municipal housing code violations could cost the city approximately \$48,500.

The judge granted a motion by Gregory Diebold, counsel for Mrs. Josephina Rodriguez, requiring the city to pay her relocation expenses estimated at \$3,100.

However, since it was a class action involving her in a group of 15 tenants evicted from various places and relocated elsewhere in Hoboken, the total relocation bill to the city could be approximately \$48,500, according to estimates by informed sources.

Hoboken claimed the State Community Affairs Department, also a defendant, should pay the relocation costs, but the state said the city should pay.

McFeely retiring as Hoboken's schools chief

By Ronald Leir

A fixture in Hoboken's public school system for 43 years, including 34 years as the city's top education official, Thomas F. McFeely will depart as superintendent of schools June 30.

In a letter made public at last night's Board of Education meeting, McFeely said "personal health and family concerns have weighed heavily on my decision to retire."

McFeely's announcement comes at a time of great fiscal turbulence for the school board, which convenes again tomorrow at 7 p.m. to consider some unfinished business and to re-introduce its proposed 1978-79 budget.

A \$500,000 cap waiver granted by the state apparently won't significantly change the amount to be raised by local taxation, according to calculations by state officials.

Following a closed caucus last night on the budget between city administration representatives and the board's finance committee, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, a participant, said that layoffs of board employees still had to be reckoned with as a possibility.

Asked if teachers might be fired, Ranieri said: "I leave it up to the board. We haven't really gotten that far yet."

Have the budget figures changed? "Nothing is changed at this point," said Ranieri. "The city has suggested economy in all areas, but the final decision is up to the board." He declined to go into specifics.

Ranieri termed the discussions "congenial."

Ranieri, Business Administrator Edwin Chius and Mayor Steve Cappiello held the talks with newly elected trustees Robert Wendelken, James Monaco and Richard England — all of whom ran with the mayor's endorsement. All three happen to be on the board's finance committee. Also sitting in was board president Otto Hottendorf.

State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke yesterday advised the board that it has been granted a "cap increase" for 1978-79 of \$600,000.

That means the board can work with a "maximum permitted total current expense budget" of \$15,781,937.40, according to Burke's letter to the board.

Burke goes on to say, "If for any reason the Sept. 30, 1978, enrollment increase (of 200 as projected by the board) is not realized, your district will be notified to reserve an appropriate percentage of the increase granted for appropriation in the 1979-80 budget."

What this all boils down to, according to Hottendorf, is that when Hoboken residents go to the polls March 28, the figure that will appear on the ballot as the amount to be raised by local taxation to support local schools will be \$4,021,382.40.

The figure on the Feb. 14 ballot, said Hottendorf, was roughly \$4,073,600.

The board was ordered by the state to conduct another vote — just on the budget — when it was learned there was a \$2 million discrepancy between the figure that appeared on the board's absentee ballots and the figure on the voting machines.

Tomorrow night, the trustees will take up some financially-related matters they tabled at last night's session. They include:

• Authorization to clear an estimated \$100,000 in claims.

• Hiring of four teacher aides assigned to the state compensatory education program. The aides are listed as Carmen Sebasta, Mildred Bloomberg, Alicia Santiago and Maria Corcoran.

• Appointment of Frank Caliguire as a driver assigned to the school lunch program at \$10,225 a year.

• Granting a one-year extension of employment to Miriam Butler, clerk assigned to the Kenley School opportunity program; and to Evelyn Hopper, clerk assigned to the Connors School.

• Approving a leave of absence without pay from May 1 to Sept. 30, 1978, to Antonio Cammarano, engineer assigned to the Kenley School.

The board did vote last night to pay an arbitration judgment of \$61,182.70 to the Pinal & Pinal Construction Co. in connection with work done on the Calabro School, a portion of a total of \$13,000 in judgments among 13 coaching personnel and accept letters of retirement from Adeline Mancari, Brandi School guidance counselor, and McFeely.

Hailed as the "dean among public school superintendents in New Jersey" by Hottendorf, McFeely entered the Hoboken school system as a business teacher at what was then Demarest High School in 1935. Among his students there was George Meier, who, as the present assistant superintendent, would normally be next in line for the board's top administrative post.

McFeely's rise within the Hoboken system was swift.

After seven years of teaching, McFeely was promoted to principal of School 9 in 1942 and two years later, he was named superintendent of schools, the post he's held under five city administrations beginning with that of the late Bernard N. McFeely, his uncle, and continuing under the late Fred M. DeSapio, the late John J. Grogan, Louis DePascale and Cappiello.

School board accused of keeping election quiet

Hoboken's business administrator today charged that the school administration has deliberately tried to prevent a large voter turnout for Tuesday's budget election to give the question a better chance of passage.

Robert W. Taylor, school board attorney, vigorously denied the charge and called it "scandalous."

Edwin Chius, the business administrator, said he and others in the city administration expect a small voter turnout Tuesday.

"The school administration has done everything it can to avoid a large voter turnout," Chius declared. "There were no notices in the paper, poor publicity on the date of the election and the details of the budget and no sample ballots."

Chius refused to name any particular administrators, although he said later that "the board doesn't scrutinize matters properly because it's all left up to the board attorney."

Taylor criticized Chius for making the comment and said that "he didn't name anyone in particular because that person would have sued him for libel."

Taylor said that the board and ad-

ministration are doing "everything we can under the circumstances."

He said the advertisements on the budget could not be sent out until the board approved the budget Monday night.

Chius pointed out, however, that the board could have set a date earlier because it knew the election couldn't be held after March 28 on orders from state Commissioner Fred G. Burke.

Taylor said no date could be set until the budget was approved. The approval was held up because the board applied to Burke for a waiver on the state budgetary "cap" and didn't get a response until March 14.

Burke approved the cap, allowing the board to list \$4,021,262.40 as a current expense tax levy on Tuesday's ballot.

Meanwhile, Chius said he is preparing an emergency resolution to present to the council at a special meeting next Wednesday that would cut \$500,000 from the municipal budget if the voters approve the school budget.

"The council has shown that it wants to keep the tax rate down," he said. "I'm going to give it an option if

the city is stuck with the school tax increase."

He said his amendment, if the council wanted it, would cut into vital services such as police, fire and sanitation.

When asked whether he was trying a scare tactic, Chius replied "yes."

"The city has been tightening its belt for several years, but the school board has not tightened its belt at all. I'm prepared to offer the council an alternative to a tax rise if the school budget is approved."

Meanwhile, Councilman Robert Ranieri, who spoke against the school budget at a public hearing on Monday, said he has not had an answer to his charge that there is \$900,000 "floating around" between the board's budget and its audit.

"I would have expected that the board would have agreed with my viewpoint or would have refused it, but my argument stands," he said. He predicted that by Monday half of the school board members who voted for the budget and its \$4 million tax levy will publicly ask for its defeat at Tuesday's election. The city had asked for a \$3.5 million tax ceiling, Ranieri said.



Sheila Handler, a bilingual puppeteer, gives her last performance to Ibon Perez and Brenda Vega, students of the Calabro School, Hoboken. Mrs. Handler took part in a four-week artists-in-residence program at the school.

Artists brighten school days

It's not often in an elementary school that you find children becoming puppeteers in a puppet show or becoming members of a live professional band.

That was the scene, though, at the Calabro School in Hoboken these past four weeks. Sheila Handler, a bilingual puppeteer and Mario Rizzo, a composer-conductor, were brought to the school as part of an artists-in-residence program sponsored by the New Jersey Council on the Arts. They'll be moving the program to the Rue School next week.

The Hoboken school district was one of nine in New Jersey chosen to participate in the program, which sends various artists to school districts.

Mrs. Handler used puppets

familiar to many of the children in the Calabro School—they were from the television show "Sesame Street." There was a little twist, however. Instead of Ernie and Bert, they were Ernesto and Roberto, their Spanish speaking counterparts.

Anthony Costello, Hoboken superintendent of music, said Mrs. Handler works with small groups of children at a time, giving each child a chance to be a puppeteer. He said the bilingual shows revolve around the theme of brotherly love.

According to Costello, "the reaction of the kids was fantastic. We had English kids who never spoke Spanish, ordering dinner in that language and vice-versa."

Costello said a small group of children in the Calabro School were in

"sort of a shell" and did not respond to conventional teaching methods. Some of them, he said, were able to be motivated by Mrs. Handler and are now doing better in school.

The school's other artist-in-residence, Rizzo, gave students an opportunity to play a rhythm instrument with his four-piece band. Rizzo and his band taught the children about Latin music. Costello said the music program was a big success.

Rizzo is a former pianist, musical director and arranger, for the Bob Hope Show and was associated for eight years with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

The two artists made a lot of children at the Calabro School and to see them go, but they will soon make a new bunch happy at the Rue School.

Hoboken police check fingerprints for school vandals

Hoboken police are checking fingerprints and other evidence as they try to solve the latest case of vandalism in city schools.

Detectives are seeking clues to the identity of vandals who ravaged the high school over the weekend, causing an undetermined amount of damage.

Eight classrooms and a boiler room were ransacked, police said, after the culprits entered the building by breaking through a wire-mesh safety glass pane in the door at the northwest corner on Ninth and Grand streets.

Walter Fine, the high school principal, said the costliest repairs would be for wooden panels on five doors and a desk kicked in by the vandals.

In addition, said Fine, glass was broken on another door. He noted, however, that nothing was taken from the classrooms or other rooms; the vandals mainly just threw papers around.

Police are looking for juveniles, probably younger than high school age, because the intruders seemed to have little sense of what was valuable.

"They were probably just looking for money, and never bothered with anything else," Fine said. "They found no money here, I'm certain of that."

The incident took place sometime between Friday and Sunday, police said, but it was probably sometime Sunday around 6:30 to 7 p.m., because the break-in was discovered when a fire alarm was pulled in the building at 7:03 p.m. Sunday, according to police.

Fine pointed out that they apparently spent much of their time in the classroom of the senior class moderator, the only classroom that would normally have any money — from collections for the senior prom or other activities.

But the principal said that money is usually put in the bank as soon as possible to avoid theft.

The school is closed this week for spring vacation, so no activities or classes were disrupted by the incident.

This break-in comes just a week after the Sadie Leinhardt School was vandalized for the fifth time in two months. The vice principal there, Richard Del Bocco, urged the school board to improve security by installing an alarm system in his school.

He estimated that the savings from cutting damages from break-ins would make up for the cost of the alarm system. No action has been taken yet on his recommendation.

He urges Hoboken revaluation

Hoboken's chief tax assessor declared today that the city desperately needs a genuine, comprehensive property revaluation.

Woodrow Monte, the assessor, said a revaluation could reduce the city's tax rate from last year's figure of \$104 per \$1,000 assessed value to \$65, which would attract new

residents.

The assessments now are "totally out of whack" with the real value of property in the city, he asserted.

"The city has never had a genuine revaluation," one city official declared. "There was an alleged revaluation in 1969, but that wasn't a genuine one. All they did was double the assessments and cut the tax rate in half."

Monte cited examples of how far off the current assessments are — in both directions.

The city is now involved in a tax appeal on one property which had been assessed at \$2 million but sold for \$400,000. It was later sold for \$300,000 and an appeal was launched.

In the other direction, a house assessed at \$23,000 recently sold for \$80,000, according to Monte. He pointed out that the city wasn't allowed to raise that assessment because it would have been con-

sidered a "spot assessment," which is not allowed.

He said the city is also getting hurt on tax appeals because of the low ratio of the tax rate to true market value. Hoboken now has a 62.54 percent ratio which means a home with a market value of \$30,000 should be assessed at \$12,000.

The ratio is based on an average of sale prices in a given area. Monte claims this is unfair to Hoboken now because assessments are so far off. If the value of that \$2 million building were dropped to \$2.54 million, it would not only drop the ratio to 84.6 percent, but would cause a tremendous decrease in the ratio due to the difference between market value and assessed value.

"People worry about taxes going up after a revaluation," Monte said, "but in this case, while it might hurt for a little while, the lower tax rates would attract many more residents and eventually save the individual taxpayer money."

He admitted that a comprehensive revaluation would be costly and time-consuming, however. In fact, he said, if a revaluation were to begin next month, it wouldn't be completed until 1980.

The cost would probably be in the

area of \$150,000, he said, but he feels that cost could be recovered in the first year.

Communication property — telephones and Western Union — is separate from the general ratables, with that property taxed on exactly 62.54 percent of its true value.

The telephone property is worth \$2,200,737 now, and wouldn't be revalued if the city was, he explained. The taxable value with the 62.54 ratio is \$2,601,770. Thus, if the city could tax the communication ratables at 100 percent, it would pick up more than enough to pay for the revaluation, he said.

The assessor also cleared up the confusion over the city's ratables; there had been some question as to exactly how much the city is losing in ratables this year.

The total ratables for last year — including the communication ratables — were \$114,113,953; they dropped this year to \$108,948,377, a decrease of \$5,165,576.

The situation is actually even worse than that, he said. The 1978 ratables include \$2,500,400 in railroad assessments which will probably be dropped from the ratables this year.

The city is collecting payments in lieu of tax for this property — mostly pier property — and therefore cannot include this in the ratables because that would constitute double taxation, he explained.

The dropping of the railroad assessments would affect next year's tax rate, he said, because this year's figure is already official.

The bulk of the ratable decrease was in foreclosures on piers at Fifth, Sixth and 10th streets. Foreclosures accounted for \$2,814,200 in lost ratables, he said.

Tax appeals resulted in \$790,200 being knocked off the ratables. He reduced another \$121,000 on his own authority.

Ranieri still sees feasible budget cuts

Are Hoboken taxpayers being asked to come up with nearly \$1 million in taxes more than is necessary to pay for the 1978-79 school budget?

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri says they are. Board counsel Robert W. Taylor says he could answer the charge, but won't for now. Board members aren't saying anything.

When Hoboken residents go to the polls March 28 to vote on the school budget, the figure they'll see on the ballot will be about \$4 million, the local tax levy needed to pay for that part of the roughly \$15 million budget that isn't covered by other revenues, mostly state and federal funds.

Despite Ranieri's plea to pare the local tax levy by more than \$800,000, the board last night voted after a public hearing on the budget to reaffirm the levy set last Thursday.

Here's how Ranieri puts together that \$800,000:

• The board's published budget, he says, lists \$882,000 as "free appropriation balance," which he says translates freely as budgeted surplus, but an audit for the last fiscal year shows about \$941,000 as the surplus figure. That additional \$241,000 could be pared from the tax levy, Ranieri says.

• The board has budgeted about \$8.7 million for teachers' salaries, but

Ranieri says last year's audit shows only \$6.4 million actually spent, and he argues that the difference is another \$300,000 that doesn't have to be raised.

• The board is anticipating carrying over a debt service account through 1979 of some \$121,000, Ranieri says — while at the same time asking the city to come up with \$105,000 for debt service rather than touch the \$121,000. Using the funds in that account would be another \$121,000 the city needn't raise, he says.

• Finally, says the councilman-at-large, last year's audit shows \$298,000 in "current expenses" as part of the overall surplus, and that should be available to the board to reduce the tax levy, he says.

Of the four speakers on the budget, two — Ranieri and Charles DeFazio Jr. — opposed it; one, Robert King, urged its passage; and one, Thomas Vezzetti, was undecided.

Ranieri added that only with "tight, modern management" could the school district emerge from an "anarchic, political, deteriorating" condition.

"There is no shortage of money," declared Ranieri, as he prepared to zero in on an audit analysis of the board's "balance of appropriations."

"The problem is how the funds are administered," he said.

Ranieri advised the trustees to "find the areas where people are getting big money for doing little and abolish them." When asked later to name those people, Ranieri told a reporter, "I'll let the board come up with its own conclusions."

The kind of fiscal management the school board is using, said Ranieri, "tends itself to hiring more teachers than needed, to favoring certain teachers over other and to giving the favored ones a very light workload."

Board President Otto Hottendorf answered, "The only teachers we favor are those he (Ranieri) recommends us to favor."

Ranieri added that Dr. Russell W. Carpenter, county superintendent of schools, told him over the phone that the "schools could be run at \$3.4 million" (in local tax levy), but Robert Wendelken, board finance chairman, said the board had nothing in writing from Carpenter to indicate that.

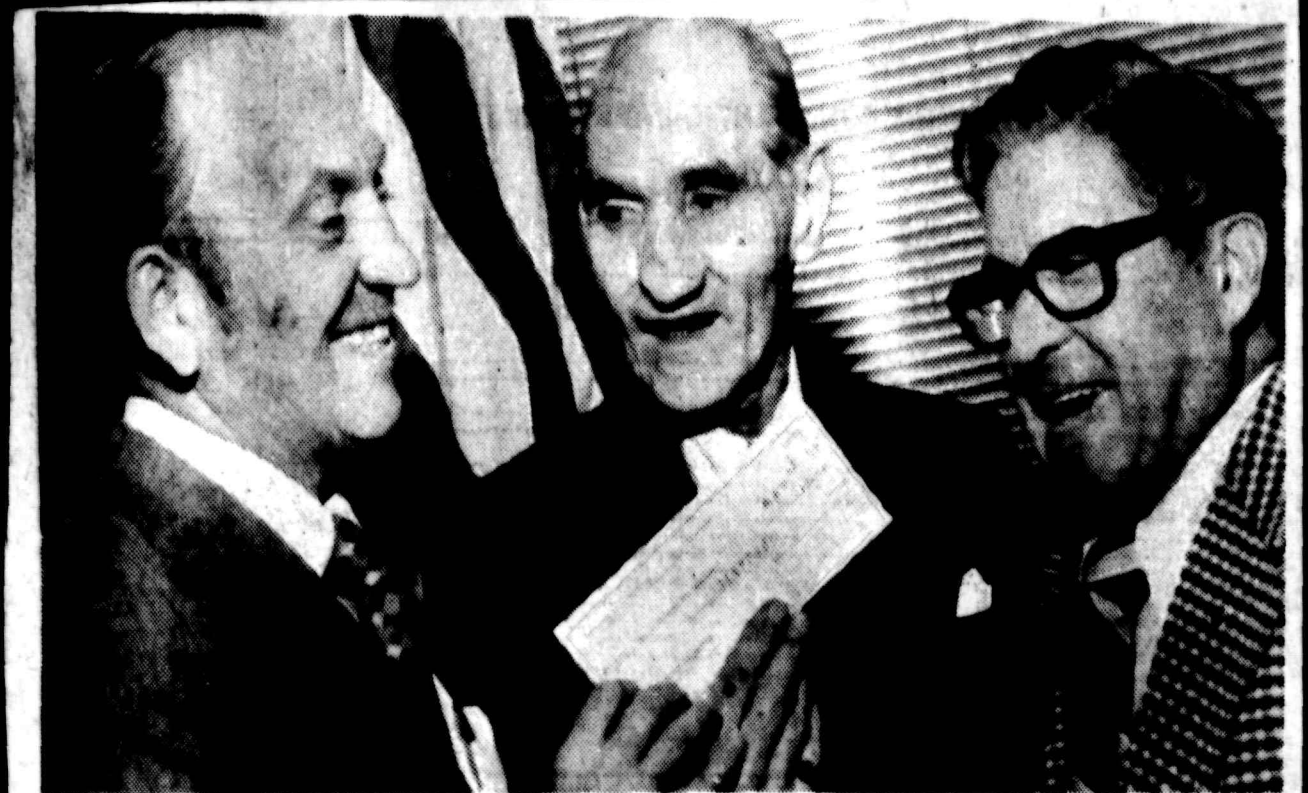
Answering a question by Vezzetti about possible layoffs of non-tenured board employees (82 teachers and 59 other job categories), Wendelken said: "Under this proposed budget,

there should be only a minimum of layoffs."

He said the number also would depend on how many employees retire in June. "Some of our teachers retiring may get up to one year in pay because of a particular benefit clause in their contract."

The "bank day" provision, as it's known, allows teachers to accumulate an unlimited number of sick days, and at the time of retirement, cash them in for one-half-day's pay each. Thus, if a teacher amassed 300 sick days, the teacher could convert them into a full-year's pay, Wendelken said.

Mayor Steve Cappiello was a silent observer at last night's hearing.



PICKING UP THE CHECK — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello accepts a \$31,173.39 check for the city from the Hoboken Housing Authority in lieu of taxes for the year. From left are, Cappiello; Andrew M. Scherer, chairman of the authority, and Joseph A. Caliguire Sr., manager of the authority.

Hoboken cop candidate has arrest record

By Patrick Ford

The Hoboken police candidate whose placement by the state on the police hiring list has delayed the appointment of 10 new officers was arrested by a Hudson County sheriff's officer in 1974 for possession and use of marijuana.

The county clerk's files show the case involving Cesar Velez still open,

but county Prosecutor Joseph T. O'Halloran said he doesn't know why it was never disposed of.

The charges against Velez, 24, listed as living at 1163 Washington St., Hoboken, are disorderly person charges, nondescript offenses, and are only being handled by the prosecutor because the arrest was made by the sheriff's office.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello

and Police Chief George Crimmins said they weren't sure if the offense was enough to disqualify Velez from the police department.

"We'll do everything by the book to avoid problems with affirmative action groups," Cappiello explained.

O'Halloran said he didn't know whether the offense could bar Velez, but informed county sources indicated that a disorderly person

charge would not be enough unless there was a further record.

Crimmins said the investigation is continuing.

Velez, 20 at the time and a member of the Army, was picked up by sheriff's Capt. Edward Zloty at Columbus Park, Hoboken, at 10:30 p.m. on May 22, 1974.

He was charged with possession

posed to have been sworn in Wednesday, and said his seniority should be counted from Jan. 18, the date of Hoboken's last appointments.

Cappiello said the city has gone ahead with psychological testing that was scheduled for the 10 candidates prior to their entering the Police Academy, and said he hopes the delay will not be too long.

"It shouldn't be more than two weeks until they are sworn in," he said.

of two marijuana cigarettes, and being under the influence of the substance. He appeared before County Court Judge Frank Verga and was released on his own recognizance under a \$1,000 bond.

The sheriff's office has no record of the arrest; Zloty is on vacation and unavailable for comment.

The Civil Service Commission ordered Hoboken to put Velez on the police list ahead of 10 who were sup-

Budget defeat seen in Hoboken

Political experts in Hoboken agree that two things are almost certain in today's special school budget election: The voter turnout will be extremely light and that the voters who do show will reject the budget.

The polls are open from 2 to 9 p.m. The voters are being asked to approve a tax levy of \$4,021,262.40, a figure that exceeds the state budgetary cap maximum by \$500,000.

State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke gave the board permission to exceed the cap after he had ordered today's special election to clear up irregularities in advertising

the original budget voted upon in February.

Most observers say the turnout today will probably will not surpass 1,500 voters. There are about 16,000 registered voters in the city.

The cost of the election has been estimated by one school official at approximately \$13,000, but another termed that figure too high.

If the voters reject the budget — and even board members have predicted they will — it will go to the City Council where some members — led by Councilman Robert Ranieri — are rubbing their hands in antici-

tion of making cuts, possibly the entire \$500,000 that Burke allowed the board to add.

Board President Otto Hottendorf, however, had vowed to appeal to Burke for full reinstatement of the cuts if the City Council is unwilling to compromise.

Hottendorf said the board is willing to compromise on a lower figure, but not as much as \$300,000 off the proposed levy.

The \$4,021,262.40 represents only the amount to be raised by taxes for "current expenses," the operational part of the budget. An additional

\$103,000 must be raised by taxation, but that goes for debt service and is not subject to referendum.

The total proposed budget is \$16,392,449.90, an increase of \$1,707,110.13 over last year.

The proposed tax levy has drawn fire from the city administration, including Mayor Steve Cappiello, because, although it is \$174,000 under the figure from last year, it would increase the tax rate by over \$4 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The reason for an increased levy is that the city lost \$4,175,700 in ratables — the base for figuring the rate — since last year.

Hoboken council revising budget

The Hoboken City Council will hold a special meeting a noon Thursday to amend the municipal budget, award contracts for the purchases of a payloader and a backhoe for the Public Works Department, and to make arrangements with auditor Frank T. Italiano regarding several projects.

The council was to have held the emergency meeting earlier, but had to wait on the budget amendment until the state certified its approval of the budget. That approval was received late last week.

He was wrong

Mayor Cappiello could not have been thinking carefully the other day when he said Hoboken would be better off without its public housing projects.

The projects provide decent adequate housing for several thousand people, most of whom certainly do not give the city any more trouble than the average resident.

These housing developments were built with federal money, and federal money still contributes to their maintenance.

It is understandable that the mayor was annoyed by the drop in the housing authority's annual payment in lieu of taxes. But Hoboken would be worse off financially if it had to put up with the sordid tenement houses the housing projects have replaced.

Hottendorf cites board's budget compromise try

By Patrick Ford

Hoboken school board president Otto Hottendorf said today that the board had been willing to compromise on a lower budget, but that the possibility of compromise was eliminated when the board's chief critic, Councilman Robert Ranieri, refused to budge an inch.

Hottendorf added that if the voters reject the \$4,021,262.40 tax levy required for the budget Tuesday and the city council is then unwilling to compromise on a lower figure, the board would appeal to state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke to have the full amount restored.

Burke has already granted the board permission to spend \$500,000 beyond the budgetary cap set by the

state, and since the budget does not exceed the \$500,000, Hottendorf said he believes Burke would reinstate any amount cut by the council.

Ranieri, who met with finance committee of the board as part of an ad hoc City Council committee March 10, charged that Hottendorf agreed to hold the tax levy to \$3.5 million and later changed his mind.

Hottendorf today said "I never opened my mouth" that night, and that Ranieri took that as tacit approval.

Hottendorf later told a reporter that he felt the board would "waive the waiver," but says now that he was guessing at the attitudes of board members, not giving his opinion.

"It was Ranieri who wouldn't compromise," Hottendorf asserted.

"It was demeaning to the board members for Ranieri to try to dictate to us, so we didn't cut it."

While he said that he "realistically expects" the voters to reject the budget, Hottendorf would not rule out the possibility of it passing. If it is rejected, it goes to City Council, which decides how much to delete.

Hottendorf said the board is now compiling facts to support the budget, and vowed to "negotiate with facts, not with emotion."

"We'll bring all the facts to the hearings (if the budget is rejected)," he declared. "We want to show Ranieri that the school board is not an appendage of the city council, as he seems to think we are."

Ranieri has been a constant critic of the school board and its budget, and his remarks have been mainly directed at Hottendorf and Robert W. Taylor, the board attorney.

The councilman challenged Hottendorf to back up his statement last Monday that "the only teachers we favor are those he (Ranieri) recommends that we favor." Hottendorf made his comment in response to Ranieri's charge that the board gives favored teachers a lighter workload.

"I ask him to publicly retract his statement," Ranieri said yesterday. "I challenge him to name one teacher about whom I've spoken to him," Ranieri added.

"He never has," Hottendorf admitted. "But he made the statement that there was favoritism; I'm unaware of it, so if he knows about it, he must be guilty of it."

Hoboken voters turn down school budget

By Ronald Lehr

Nearly 12 percent of Hoboken's 18,000 registered voters turned out last night to soundly defeat the city Board of Education's proposed \$4

See Editorial:
NO SURPRISE
On Page 2B.

million local tax levy by a 2-to-1 margin.

Board secretary Thomas A. Gallo announced the final tally as 1,003

against the budget and 598 for the budget, including absenteees.

Now the school board must notify the City Council that the budget has been defeated and within 15 days from that date, the city lawmakers must tell the school trustees how much to cut the budget, according to Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri.

Many political observers took for granted that the board's budget would be rejected at the polls long before the machines were set up for yesterday's balloting.

One city official watching the

returns come in to the makeshift election headquarters in the basement of the Wallace School told a reporter that city firemen and policemen readily helped circulate anti-budget handbills when they were told there'd be "no money in the municipal budget" for them.

Otto Hottendorf, board president, who'd been the lone forecaster of the budget's passage, at least among his colleagues, voiced outrage about the "Vote No" campaign. Shaking one such handbill, Hottendorf griped that the "organized attempt" to lower the

budget — in the absence of any campaign to the contrary — was "not exactly (playing) cricket."

For the board to "remain within its 'cap' and to maintain the present tax rate," said Councilman Ranieri, the school trustees would have to pare the amount to be raised by local taxation to "below \$3.5 million."

The lawmaker said the soon-to-be-revised budget would also reflect certain administrative changes. Which ones? "The names will come out in the budget," replied Ranieri.

One of those anticipated changes is said by one city source to involve board counsel Robert W. Taylor, who appeared disconsolate by the vote on the budget and who remained unresponsive to questions from the press.

Taylor, the source said, is soon to see his range of board duties — particularly in fiscal affairs — formally limited by a board resolution — a move, according to the source, that's expected to trim Taylor's fees secured by voucher.

Taylor's salary as board counsel is around \$25,000 a year. If the council, as it's expected to

do, pares the budget, will the board appeal to state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke to restore the cuts?

Said Hottendorf: "If the cuts are unreasonable . . . Asked to define that in dollars, Hottendorf said: 'That's something to be negotiated.'"

Hottendorf maintains that the budget's downfall pretty much guarantees eventual layoffs of board workers. "Even if the budget won," he said, "there'd have been layoffs. It was a budget already designed for layoffs."

How many? Hottendorf doesn't know.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, another tally-watcher last night, told newsmen, "The people have spoken and I don't think we should in any way alter the mandate of the people. If the board appeals, it would be a slap in the face of its constituency and I'd have to support the people."

Besides Hottendorf, the only board member to show up at the Wallace School — and he arrived late — was Richard England, a member of the board's finance committee.

Hoboken cleanup drive hits snag — no sweepers

By Pat Ford

While Hoboken is supposedly in the midst of "Operation Clean Up," which Mayor Steve Cappiello billed as a massive effort to clear the streets of filth and debris, the city's only two street sweepers are sitting idle in a factory garage awaiting repair.

One of them has been there since last summer, according to Public Works Director Andrew Amato; the other went back last Friday after the city shelled out \$2,400 for repairs.

The city council approved the \$2,400 payment March 15 on the recommendation of Amato, who said yesterday that he knew the machine hadn't been properly repaired the first time.

The director said he pushed for payment of the bill because when he called the company to tell them the machine broke down again after only a short use, a spokesman told him no work would be done until the \$2,400 was paid.

Yesterday Amato called the company, Cummings, of Garwood, to find out what was wrong with the machine returned last Friday. He was told a piston was leaking, and that it could cost another \$5,000 to repair it, he said.

Amato yelled into the phone that the machine broke down after only a day and a half of use since it was fixed last summer, and that the company should fix it now that it has been paid.

He said if the company doesn't agree to repair the machine by today, he would get the city's Law Department after it.

He did not say why he hadn't alerted the legal department prior to paying the bill, however.

Edwin Chius, the business administrator, said he held up the bill until earlier this month because he had heard the machine wasn't functioning properly. He said it was paid after Amato requested that the council do so.

Council President Martin Brennan said that the council "assumed the bill had been checked and that the equipment was repaired properly or the bill wouldn't have been submitted for us to pay."

Bado hears music on Erie ferry slips

By Ronald Lehr

It is a bright, sunny day in summer as scores of persons—the old and young — relax on benches by the water's edge listening to the strains of a pop concert from an amphitheater.

Long Beach? Belmar? The Atlantic City Boardwalk? Nope, it's the Hoboken waterfront — or at least part of it — if the city's application for some \$1 million in state Green Acres funds is successful.

Fred Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency, told members of the City Council at last night's open caucus that he's hoping they'll authorize him to file the application by passing a resolution at tomorrow night's council meeting.

The waterfront plan, as outlined by Bado later, calls for the city to acquire the parking area fronting the Erie Lackawanna ferry terminal to develop as a circular "plaza" with trees and benches and to acquire two long-vacant ferry slips in the terminal's northern end to develop as a "passive recreation" area.

Initially, said Bado, the plan would be to clear away the remnants

of these slips, and in their place, link two barges about 100 feet across to form a temporary decking for a bandshell. Later, said Bado, the barges could be replaced by landfill.

There would be enough space to accommodate perhaps 100 people initially, estimated Bado.

CDA hopes to get \$500,000 in Green Acres money and \$250,000 from the federal Bureau of Outdoor

Recreation while contributing \$100,000 itself to develop the waterfront plaza and amphitheater, said Bado. CDA would also supply \$100,000 more, matched by Green Acres, to get title to the property from the state, "if that's necessary," Bado added.

Of more interest to Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer, however, is the status of CDA's Green Acres application for money to

renovate Elysian Park and Stevens Park.

"You told us you'd filed the application already," said Cramer, but Bado said that wasn't possible and city business administrator Edwin Chius said \$200,000 has been placed in the CDA budget for repairs to the city parks.

Bado said he intends to apply for matching Green Acres funds for both parks, but, if by April he hasn't heard from the state, he'll have to decide whether or not to proceed with less work at half the cost.

If these applications are favorably acted on, said Bado, the city would be able to put in new sod, improve the park walkways, install more lights and replace some playground equipment at both parks.

In other business, Councilman-at-Large, Thomas Kennedy, head of the council's health and welfare committee, charged the city's Board of Local Assistance with "being unfair to Jerry Forman and the citizens of Hoboken" by not proceeding with board hearings into the case of the

suspended welfare director. Reached at home, John Link, board chairman, said the panel had scheduled dates for two hearings recently but he said Forman's attorney had cancelled them.

At tomorrow's 7 p.m. meeting, to be followed by an 8 p.m. municipal budget hearing, the council is expected to act on:

• Introducing an ordinance to increase the \$1.25 flat rate cab fare within the city to \$1.50 at the urging of the Hoboken Taxicab Association and of First Ward Councilman Anthony E. Romano, head of the council's transportation committee.

• Approving payment of some \$47,000 in snow removal fees to 11 private contractors for work performed in the two big winter storms.

He expects to have that job done next week.

Hoboken Arts Council opens guitar workshop

The Hoboken Arts Council is offering a guitar workshop, with a trained teacher to instruct beginners, intermediate and advanced players individually or in groups.

Julio Fernandez, who has played guitar for 12 years and studied music theory in high school and college, will be the teacher. He is a student at a music school in New York, studying jazz styles.

He will give instruction in music theory, ear training, reading and rhythm exercises, chord structure

and the development of technique on an instrument.

All ages are welcome for the afternoon or evening classes, according to the arts council, which will share in a percentage of the fees. Appointments can be made by calling 800-9916 after 6 p.m. or 420-2221 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The lessons will be given at St. Matthew's Church, Eighth and Hudson streets, which is the headquarters for the arts council.

Hoboken to send Moody's data on city's bond credit

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that city officials will promptly send Moody's Investors Service the data it requires in order to rate the city's bond credit.

Moody's has withdrawn Hoboken's bond rating because the city failed for two successive years to send in the required data.

Cappiello said he understood the omission was an oversight. "Hoboken looks forward to an im-

proved rating, not a lower one," he declared. "We are aware that the financial stability of the Hoboken Parking Authority's garages affects our rating."

The P.A. has been paying off larger amounts on its indebtedness to the city each year.

Cappiello added that the city administration "welcomes any rating agency that wants to look into our city's credit standing."

Fusilli wants payroll lists to check welfare frauds

Hudson County Freeholder Vincent Fusilli is sending to Hudson County State Sen. William Musto and Walter Sheil a New York legislative bill he thinks would go a long way to curbing welfare fraud in New Jersey.

The New York Assembly last week passed a measure requiring all employees to file wage information with state welfare authorities so that it can be checked against welfare rolls.

New York City officials have indicated that such a bill will save that city \$2 million the first year and as much as \$60 million statewide by 1982.

According to Fusilli, the reporting system calls for businessmen to file quarterly reports listing names, Social Security numbers and salaries of workers. The files would be cross-checked with welfare rolls to

see who was collecting a salary and welfare payments at the same time.

Fusilli, who is chairman of the Hudson County Freeholders Welfare Fraud Committee, said that New Jersey's privacy laws presently make it very difficult for the state to gain access to employee records to check welfare fraud. If such a law came into effect in New Jersey, Hudson County and other counties would benefit tremendously since local computers could get the information immediately from the state, he said.

Amato claims sewer work saving

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato said today that his department has completed the reconstruction of 24 feet of sewer on Jackson Street, a job that he claims saved the city over \$10,000.

"This type of job is normally put out for bid," Amato said. "But we completely rebuilt the section of sewer near First Street, and it would have cost the city about \$13,000 if a private contractor did it."

Amato figured his cost to be about \$3,000 including man-hours spent on the job.

His men used 15 concrete planks and additional concrete to mold it, and had to do much of the work while water ran along the ground beneath them, according to Amato.

The director went into the sewer himself to direct part of the operation.

Meanwhile, he is working on another project that he says will save the city more money.

An elbow in a 16-inch water line is being replaced at Willow Avenue and 15th Street, and Amato is having his men repair that as well.

That's another job that is normally contracted out, and the director is confident he can save at least \$5,000 and perhaps \$10,000 on this job as well.

No residents are losing water as a result of the break in the elbow, Amato said.

"This is a bypass pipe," he explained, "and the valve is closed. There is no problem as long as the main doesn't break."

He expects to have that job done next week.

Cappiello running for freeholder

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello made it official today when he confirmed reports that he would be the Democratic candidate for freeholder in the district now served by Vincent Fusilli.

The incumbent, however, would not rule out the possibility of running against Cappiello for another term. While Cappiello's decision appears to have been a foregone conclusion, the mayor had been refusing comment on the matter.

He had also refused to deny or confirm a report from a source close

to him that he didn't really want to run and that City Council President Martin Brennan might be the candidate.

The mayor still refused to comment on that report yesterday, except to say that "the decision was made by the leadership of the district, and I'm just following their wishes."

Cappiello refused to identify "the leadership," and when pressed, replied that "it wouldn't be politically

concern will be with county obligations to my district."

Concerning Fusilli, Cappiello again refused comment. "He's my friend," he said. "I'm not going to say anything against him."

Cappiello's salary as mayor is \$20,150; the salary for freeholders is \$12,000.

Fusilli yesterday reiterated his claim that Cappiello would not be as effective as he is, because he is able to work full time as a freeholder.

Cappiello is also public safety director in Hoboken, for which he receives no salary.

Cappiello brushed off the question of time. "I don't plan to get involved in any outside committees," he explained. "The most important thing is to represent your district, and my

Ranieri warns trustees to cooperate on budget

With budget negotiations between the Hoboken Board of Education and City Council set to begin at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the city clerk's office, Councilman Robert A. Ranieri has issued a stern warning to the board members: If they appeal the council's cuts to the state, it could cost them their posts.

Ranieri's ad hoc council committee on the school budget will handle negotiations for the city, while the board's finance committee will give the board's side.

The council committee, which also includes Council President Martin Brennan and Councilman Walter Cramer, met this morning prior to the City Council meeting to arrange strategy.

The finance committee, chaired by board member Robert Wendelken, also has Richard England, James Monaco and John Rasiowsky as members.

The two sides will be discussing

how much the council should cut from the school budget that was rejected by the voters in a special election Tuesday.

That budget would have required \$4,021,262.40 to be raised by local taxes. Ranieri said he is certain that figure will be cut to \$3.5 million — the maximum allowed by the state cap, before the cap was waived by state Commissioner of Education Fred G. Burke.

The cuts may go even further, Ranieri said, depending on the negotiations with the board.

"The public rejected the school budget twice in a little over a month," Ranieri stated. "Our responsibilities are clear — the tax levy must be brought within the cap so it doesn't jeopardize the stability of the tax rate."

Furthermore, the councilman said, the board is not likely to appeal the cuts to Burke, who has the power

to restore any cuts made by the council.

"Our negotiations with the board will be based on the premise that no appeal will be made. After the voters spoke twice, to challenge the cuts and allow the state to raise the Hoboken tax rate would be most dangerous to board members," he said.

When asked whether "dangerous" meant that their positions would be lost when the board returns to the appointive type in September, Ranieri said, "That's the idea."

"I'm assuming that the board members are now willing to accept their destiny — and destiny is the key word — that they must live within the cap and hold down the tax rate."

Ranieri would not personally have the authority to make appointments to the board. That authority will rest with Mayor Steve Cappiello, who was unavailable for comment on the statement.

No surprise

To say that the turnaround of Hoboken's school budget by the voters yesterday was not unexpected would be an understatement.

They defeated it once. When it was submitted again, it was not that much different to be a bargain.

Then, too, this is the last year in which the Hoboken taxpayers will vote on the school budget. They already approved a return to the appointive board of education and, under that system, the school budget does not go to the public for a vote.

Now that the budget is defeated again, it is up to the city council and the school board to work out a budget. If they cannot, it goes to the state education department.

It will be better for the schools, as well as the rest of the city, if everyone concerned understands that the harsh realities of today's economic facts of life must be recognized.

Hoboken concedes defeat in pothole war

Hoboken officials today are raising the white flag in the city's war on potholes, and throwing down the gauntlet in their battle to get two street sweepers repaired.

The war on potholes had been declared two weeks ago by Public Works Director Andrew Amato, who said crews would "fill in every one of the city's 300 potholes within a week-and-a-half."

The effort failed and Amato says there is nothing he can do about it.

He says his crews have filled in close to 300 potholes, but there were many more than that around. Meanwhile, he says, the crews had to be used to clean up the streets of the debris left by the melted snow, and 15 workers from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program joined them.

In addition, Amato asserts, many of the potholes retained salt and water from the melted snow, and can't be filled in until the new water from the weekend rains dries up.

Visitors to Hoboken who enter the city from Jersey City via Observer Highway, which runs along the city's southern border, don't have to wait long to experience the pothole problem.

There are at least four major ones — capable of damaging a car that hits them at normal speed — within the first two blocks on

Observer Highway east of Jersey Avenue.

Even Mayor Steve Cappiello calls the pothole situation "horrible," but agrees with Amato that, for now, the city can do nothing about them.

Amato adds that when his crews do start filling potholes again, they would be using rollers on the large ones to press in the asphalt to avoid

having them break open soon afterwards, which he admits is a serious problem in Hoboken.

Meanwhile, on a different battlefield, Amato said yesterday that he still had not heard from Cummings Co. of Garwood, the firm which has both of the city's street sweepers, as

to when they would be repaired and for how much.

The director said he wants the Law Department to take some kind of action to get repairs for one of the sweepers — one that the city paid \$2,400 to fix only to have it break down again after only two days' use, according to Amato.

Both sweepers were turned over to Cummings last summer, Amato said, and one of them was repaired and used for two days. It then sat in the garage for several months while Amato tried to get the company to agree to repair it without further charge.

It was taken back to Cummings March 17, after Amato recommended payment of the bill by the city council March 15. He admitted that he knew the machine wasn't working when he recommended payment, but said the

company would not take the machine back until the first bill was paid.

Now, he said, a spokesman for the company told him by phone last week that it might cost another \$5,000 to repair a leaky piston and other problems. Amato told them to call him back to tell him if they would want more money, in which case he threatened to take them to court.

They never called back, Amato said, so he wants the Law Department to follow through.

He also has never been given an estimate of damages for the other sweeper, which hasn't moved from Cummings since the summer.

A secretary at Cummings said the spokesman involved in this case was unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the city's Law Department said yesterday that the matter hadn't been turned over to his office yet.

'Rec' center bidding put off

The Hoboken City Council, which was to have received bids at today's meeting for the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Street Recreation Center, called off the bidding because the state has not yet approved the plans.

The council is setting a new date of April 19 to accept bids for the work which will include a new roof, clean-

ing and restoration of exterior masonry work, interior alterations, heating and air conditioning and electrical work.

The council is also approving the use of federal public works funds for the purchase of new windows at city hall.

Sweeper dispute costing Hoboken ticket revenues

There appears to be a lack of communication between the Hoboken Public Works director and the company he hired to repair the city's two motorized street sweepers, and the dispute is costing the city valuable revenue from alternate-side parking violations.

Director Andrew Amato wants the city's Law Department to sue Cummings Co. of Garwood to force it to repair one of the sweepers at no charge because the city paid the company \$2,404.07 March 19 for supposedly complete repairs.

Robert Steuhler, president of Cummings Co., said yesterday, however, that, while the machine needs a hoist for its refuse dump and a few other small parts, it works now and could be used while the city decides whether to repair it again or not.

"It works," Steuhler said. "My men swept the pavement by our building and it was picking up the dirt. The ram (or hoist) is leaking and should be replaced, but this machine could work for many days if maintained properly."

The ram was rebuilt by Cummings when it repaired the machine the first time, Steuhler said. It wasn't replaced then because city officials were pressing to keep the cost of repair down.

Rebuilding had cost \$48 but replacing it will cost about \$680, plus labor, Steuhler said. He added he doesn't know why one of his employees would have told Amato last week that the repair might cost \$5,000.

"We hadn't even checked out the machine then," he said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Law Department said he is awaiting documents from Amato on what parts were fixed in October, when the machine was fixed by Cummings. He said the city would contact

Cummings to determine whether the company is charging to repair parts it fixed last time.

Amato said yesterday he was not planning to call Steuhler.

"He's wrong," the director declared. "He agreed to fix the machine completely. If it had cost more than \$2,404, we would have paid it, but we wanted the machine fixed once and for all."

"So he gives it back to us, I have my best driver operating it for a day and a half, and it's not working right," Amato continued.

"You don't pay \$2,404 for a complete repair and have it go bad a day and a half later. I don't care whether it's the same problem or not. No matter what the problem is, it should have been fixed."

Cummings Co. still has not given an estimate on the other machine, which was taken there last summer.

Meanwhile, although Mayor Steve Cappiello announced that alternate-side parking would be in effect starting last Monday, it is not being enforced because there is no sweeper.

However, city officials are not certain how much the city is losing from money on tickets because no one can remember the last time the sweepers worked for a full week.

The Violations Bureau, the court clerk, the business administrator and the director of Comprehensive

Employment and Training Act programs — CETA workers issue the tickets — were all asked how much the city makes in a week from street cleaning tickets, and none could tell unless a specific week was provided. Unfortunately, no officials — including Amato — have any idea when the city last had street cleaning on a regular basis.

They never called back, Amato said, so he wants the Law Department to follow through.

He also has never been given an estimate of damages for the other sweeper, which hasn't moved from Cummings since the summer.

A secretary at Cummings said the spokesman involved in this case was unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the city's Law Department said yesterday that the matter hadn't been turned over to his office yet.

Hoboken Ed budget rejected

By WILLIAM BETZ

For the second time this year, Hoboken voters yesterday overwhelmingly rejected a proposed Board of Education budget, and sent it to the City Council for revision.

The budget, which would have required a more than 4% increase in local taxes, was defeated by a vote of 1,065 to 406, a 3-to-1 margin.

Yesterday's special election was required after the February election, declared invalid by the state because of inaccuracies, was also turned down.

Board of Education President Otto Hottendorf called the budget's defeat a "loss" for the people and the children of Hoboken.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, a major opponent of the proposed school budget, saw yesterday's vote as a vindication of the earlier vote.

"The people made it clear they meant what they said the first time," Cappiello declared after the results were tallied.

In spite of what was considered to be a tight turnout, both Cappiello and City Councilman Robert Ranieri said they saw the result as a firm statement by voters.

"If this had happened in a city election there would be a new mayor and a new city council," Ranieri said.

Ranieri said the vote meant two things to him: First, that the city's voters want "stability" in their tax rate and second, that the Board of Education "should be living within its budget."

Ranieri had earlier charged the board with poor judgment and mismanagement in handling its financial responsibilities.

Voicing anger at the \$20,000 expense Cappiello said the election would cost the city, the mayor asserted that the city would no longer be willing to negotiate with the education board. Prior to yesterday's vote, Cappiello said, the city had been willing to bargain, but the board proved to be inflexible in its decisions.

Hottendorf refused that charge, saying, "We have always been willing to negotiate with the city council. They have been unwilling."

Cappiello said the cost of the special election should be borne by the state, since the state ordered the new vote. He said he intends to speak to state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke today to see what can be done about reimbursing the city.

Burke apparently has the authority to return the budget to the Board of Education unchanged. This, however, would probably require a direct appeal by the board. Hottendorf said he has "no immediate plans" to make such an appeal.

School board vote for higher budget has mayor unhappy with 3 he backed

Mayor Steve Cappiello is disappointed in the three Hoboken Board of Education members whom he hand-picked for election last month.

He said today that when he gave them his backing he asked only one thing in return: Hold down the tax rate . . . but they didn't.

The mayor had been asked for his reaction to the decision by the board to exceed the state budgetary "cap" by over \$200,000, which would increase the taxes on property owners by that amount.

"I don't send signals to the board as some have alleged, and I think this proves it," he replied. "All I ask in return for my support is that the board members fight to keep the tax

rate stable so as not to drive away residents or potential buyers in Hoboken."

"Now I'd have to question whether they are concerned with the fiscal stability of the city."

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri has said the \$4,021,352.40 budget the board voted will raise the tax bills \$8 per thousand dollars of assessed value, but Business Administrator Edwin Chius put the increase today at only \$4.40.

Since three of the four members of the board's finance committee were elected with Cappiello's help in last month's school election, and considering that two other board members — Board President Otto Hottendorf and Vice President James

Farina — are considered "solid Cappiello men," it would have seemed likely that his wishes would be given more than cursory consideration.

Indeed, Hottendorf told a reporter last week that the board would "waive the waiver" that was granted on the cap by state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke earlier in the week and force in at the cap maximum of \$3.5 million.

But the board didn't, and Cappiello seemed a bit hot under the collar on that point.

"If we lose the tax stability, the city is going to go down," the mayor declared. "If the city goes, all the agencies around will go down with it."

By "going down" the mayor said

he is referring to the deterioration of the city because of the loss of working class families.

Cappiello said he doesn't believe the board needs all that money. "I'd like to see what they pay in other communities for services similar to ours," he said. "I'd bet most school boards with the same number of students get by for much less money."

When asked whether he had spoken to any of his wayward supporters on the school board, Cappiello shook his head no; he looked sternly over the top of his glasses.

"This proves that they are not under my thumb," he said, sounding as if it had been proven to him as well.

Hoboken budget changes OK'd

By WILLIAM BETZ

Amendments to the 1978 Hoboken municipal budget were approved yesterday at the regular meeting of the City Council.

The \$18,126,725.51 budget does not represent any increase in the previous budget, only a realignment of various items in the city's budget, which was approved Feb. 8.

City Council President Martin Brennan, before the vote on the amended budget resolution was taken, moved that city salaries, as of yesterday, be considered frozen.

Both the salary freeze motion and the resolution to approve the amended document passed unanimously, with two councilmen, Bernard Scrivani and Nunzio Malfetti, absent.

Two ordinances were passed at yesterday's meeting — one to approve the establishment of a \$1.50 flat fee for taxi fares anywhere within the city and another to provide for consolidation of the installation, operation, and maintenance services of alarm systems connected to the city police department.

Both ordinances will become law in 30 days.

Thirty-three resolutions were introduced and passed yesterday. The two most controversial had to do with the employment by the city's Community Development Agency (CDA) of a Washington-based consultant whose purpose is to aid Hoboken in winning federal grant money and the approval of an agreement between the city and the United States for a grant of \$80,000 "to plan and implement economic development activities in the city."

Both resolutions, after heated debate, were passed by the council.

The former resolution, which had to do with the Washington firm of Krivit & Krivit, was defended by the majority of the council as necessary. Employing the consultants as a "tool" was very helpful in the CDA's efforts to obtain financial aid from the U. S. which the city might not otherwise know about, said Councilman Robert Ranieri.

In responding to a suggestion by Hoboken resident Robert King that local congressmen should be able to do a similarly effective job, Brennan said a congressman would have a conflict of interest in representing one municipality in favor of another.

The only member to vote against the resolution was Councilman Anthony Romano.

In discussing the other controversial resolution, which would authorize an agreement between the city and the U. S. Department of Commerce for \$80,000 in community development funds, Ranieri said the city already had a quarter of a million dollars in the bank earmarked for just such a purpose. He defended the resolution, but said he felt the city should begin using the money.

"It's time," said Ranieri, "to either fish or cut bait."

After objections by King, who said the city, the state, and the federal government have never learned how to spur economic development and that feeding the problem with money has never proved to be a solution, the resolution passed unanimously.

In other action before the council, a resolution approving the closing of a section of Shore Road in order to use it for a bicycle path on Sundays from April 16 through Sept. 17 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. passed unanimously.

School budget now Hoboken council's baby

By WILLIAM BETZ

Hoboken's school budget, which was defeated for the second time last Tuesday in a special election ordered by State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke, has been turned over to the city council for revision, Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri said yesterday.

The council is now in the process of paring the budget at work sessions in an effort to bring it into compliance with the state-mandated limitation of a 3 percent increase over last year's expenditures, Ranieri said.

A public meeting of the city council and the board of education is scheduled for Friday, according to Ranieri. The councilman said the city is attempting to work closely with the board in adjusting the school package.

The cap (limitation) had been waived by Burke shortly before the most recent budget was presented. The city's school board voted unanimously to accept the waiver on March 16, the same day board President Otto Hottendorf had said the waiver would be rejected.

The defeated budget represented a total package of \$18,126,725.51, more than \$4 million of which would have had to be raised in local taxes.

The city's voters overwhelmingly rejected the proposed budget last week by a majority of more than three-to-one.

The first election on Feb. 14 also resulted in a budget defeat. Shortly after, however, Burke ordered a new vote because of inaccuracies in the budget figures: both on voting machines and absentee ballots.

"The people have spoken," Mayor Steve Cappiello said after the latest vote was tallied.

Cappiello and the Hoboken City Council are on record as saying they feel the school budget can be reasonably adjusted to fall within the cap.

Hottendorf, however, described the budget's defeat as a "loss" for the people and children of Hoboken.

Ranieri, a member of the council's school budget committee, said the vote represented a lack of confidence on the part of the electorate in the education board's ability to manage its finances efficiently, a situation he said the council will try to correct.



Herbert Belshof, who plays the part of Nathan Rothman, the "grandfather," in MGM's upcoming movie, "Voices," acts in a scene being filmed at Asen's Cleaners in Hoboken's uptown area.

It had to be Hoboken, script writer insists

By WILLIAM H. TAIT

For the first time since the memorable "On the Waterfront" with Marlon Brando and other film greats, Hoboken will be on stage in the eyes of the nation within a year with the showing of "Voices," a Metro Goldwyn Mayer movie production.

Hoboken is the setting for the story because the script writer has a fond attachment for the city. And at his insistence MGM arranged to do the filming of the greater part of it there.

"I spent a lot of time in Hoboken—I used to play cards there," says 29-year-old John Herzfeld. "I wanted the Hoboken atmosphere for this picture. It had to be made in Hoboken, to get

the real feeling of the story."

The main focus of the movie is at the corner of 12th and Garden streets, in and outside Asen's cleaning shop. MGM's artists painted a weatherbeaten sign changing the name to Rothman Cleaners.

The particular location was picked because it is just the kind of building and shop the script calls for, and the background views are what was wanted; and since it is on a street corner, it affords the cameramen elbow room.

Crowds gathered as the shooting started yesterday. The movie people expect to be there the rest of the week. Cameras, lights and reflectors take up the walk on the 12th Street side. Police bar all traffic from the intersection while the cameras are in action.

The actors arrive at about 7 every morning in six large campers which are parked on the street nearby. They leave at about 5.

The proprietor of the cleaning shop leased it to MGM for the duration and went away, leaving his equipment. Pants still get pressed there but by people who had to learn how for the occasion.

While the setting-up goes on, which is most of the time, the inside of the shop is literally jammed with people—there are 65 to 70 participating.

On April 20 the movie crew will be working in the Orchard Lounge at 241 Sip Ave., Jersey City.

On the 21st, 22nd and 23rd they will again be in Hoboken.

It's back to Jersey City on the 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th when the filming will go on at the Stanley Theater in Journal Square, continuing on the 28th at the end of Johnston Avenue on the bay.

The following day the shooting scene shifts to the Goodwill knicker deli at 815 Broadway, Bayonne.

In between, on the 17th, 18th and 19th of the month, "Voices" will take over Landmark II on Route 17 in East Rutherford.

The stars of "Voices" are Michael Ontkean and Amy Irving. Ontkean is cast as Drew Rothman, a singer in his late 20s. He meets and falls in love with a young woman who dreams of being a dancer but is a teacher in a school for the deaf.

Drew lives in a Hoboken flat with his family, helping his father and grandfather run the cleaning shop when time permits.

A younger brother, 14, is mixed up with a bad gang, the Gladiators. The movie will show him on the street on fashionable Castle Point Terrace a few blocks away, where scenes were shot a week ago, along with some on Hudson Street and in Elysian Park.

Amy's home is supposed to be in Hoboken too, but actually the scenes depicting it were made in Rutherford.

A scene will also be shot in the old Military Park Hotel in Newark.

Ontkean was last seen in "Slap Shot" with Paul Newman. He has

starred in the TV series, "The Rookies."

Amy had a principal role in "The Fury."

The producer, Joseph Wizan, made "Jeremiah Johnson," starring Robert Redford.

"Voices" is director Robert Markowitz' first feature movie. He has won television awards.

Other major roles in "Voices" are played by Alex Rocco and Barry Miller.

Script writer Herzfeld was born and brought up in Newark, West Orange and Maplewood.

Hoboken firm gets grant for solar heat

An \$89,633 grant was received from the federal government by the Applied Housing Corp. of Hoboken today to install solar hot water heating for the 55 apartments at 1305-1307 Bloomfield St., known as Bloomfield Manor, in Hoboken.

This is the first Hudson County grant in the fourth phase (Cycle 4) of the Solar Residential Demonstration Projects conducted by the federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD).

A similar project in Cycle 3 was authorized for the Clock Towers apartment house in Hoboken.

The Clock Towers system is now operating, using 213 solar panels on the roof to capture the sun's energy. The grant for that system cost \$147,000 and is expected to save the owner only about \$2,000 per year in fuel bills, but Cycle 4 projects such as Bloomfield Manor are expected to benefit from the experience obtained in the earlier project.

George Kohn, Applied Housing's executive director, said today that the existing oil heating facilities for hot water will remain, to be used on sunless days.

If the solar facility proves feasible, Kohn said, "it should stabilize, and probably somewhat reduce, hot water heating costs." The federal rent subsidy for the apartments, he added, would likewise be stabilized.

Kohn said he expected to have the materials in 30 days, after which it would take about three months to install the solar collection plates on the roof of the building.

Bloomfield Manor was acquired and rehabilitated by Applied Housing about three years ago. It is five stories. In applying to HUD for a solar energy grant, the firm chose Bloomfield Manor over its numerous other rehabilitated holdings because of its small size.

Aiding the needy

Hoboken's anti-poverty agency will help needy Hoboken residents obtain up to \$250 in federal money per family to pay unpaid gas and electric bills.

The beneficiaries must prove they are in debt to the utility company and that they are unable to pay. People who have paid their bills are not eligible.

One is reluctant to criticize a program intended to aid the unfortunate. One may wonder, however, whether this program for the needy is not itself in need of improvement.

It penalizes those who manage to stay out of debt even if it means withholding necessities from themselves and their families.

And it gives the habitual deadbeat a chance to try to chisel and possibly get away with it.

The program means well, but it needs more consideration . . . and that is too painfully true to be a pun.

Hoboken trustees discuss cuts to be made in budget

Faced with the prospects of a reduced budget, members of the Hoboken Board of Education held a general discussion of budget and personnel matters last night.

A spokesman said, however, that no final decisions were made on areas to be cut in the budget but that several were taken under consideration.

The school tax levy of \$4 million was rejected by the voters at a special school election on March 28. Committees representing the school board and the city council have reportedly compromised on a budget of \$3,621,640.

This is \$168,000 higher than the council had said it was willing to approve but it also is \$400,000 lower than

the figure which the school board sought at the polls.

The finance committee officially reported on the compromise at a closed meeting of the school board last night.

At 7 p.m. Friday the council and the board are scheduled to meet together publicly at the city council chambers. At that time the board will formally present its reduced budget to the council.

The council is then expected to meet next Tuesday to recommend that the school board adopt a budget with the \$3,621,640 tax levy. If that is acceptable to the board the long budget controversy in the city will be ended.

Hoboken OKs \$400G cuts in school budget

By WILLIAM SETZ

The Hoboken education budget for the next school year was trimmed by \$400,000 last night in an agreement between city officials and the Board of Education. The budget exceeds the state cap limitation by \$100,000, but the city was previously granted a waiver of the cap by State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke.

The \$15,381,640 budget was presented at a special city council meeting last night. Hoboken will be required—if the budget is approved at a special meeting of the City Council next Tuesday—to raise \$3,621,640 of this amount in local taxes. The remainder of the budget will be composed of grants from state and federal governments.

The new figure represents a compromise between the city, which favored staying within the cap, and the school board, which voted unanimously to exceed the cap by \$500,000, the amount Burke had granted.

The previous school budget, defeated by a three-to-one margin in a special election late last month, would have required raising more than \$4 million in local taxes. The defeat sent the budget to the City Council for revision.

The special election had been called by the state after the original budget was defeated Feb. 14 in an election clouded by ballot irregularities.

Robert Wendelken, speaking for the Board of Education last night, said there will be no appeal on the agreed figure.

In the past when a school budget was defeated, the Board of Education had occasionally gone to the state and requested it returned intact.

The board indicated it would not file such a request in the case of next year's budget.



WHAT DOCTOR ORDERED — Anthony Pescatore, left, a staff member for the Hoboken Organization for the Prevention of Economic Stress, gets into the driver seat of a new station wagon purchased by HOPES to transport seniors and handicapped clients to doctors or medical facilities. Making the trip are Theresa Schneider and Richard Peluso.

Hoboken hiring Washington lobbyist

Over the protest of Councilman Anthony H. Romano, Hoboken City Council voted yesterday to hire a Washington, D.C., firm to lobby for Hoboken's interests in the capitol, for a fee of \$15,000 a year.

The council also adopted a 1978 municipal budget providing for a tax levy \$362,023 lower than last year's, and Council President Martin Brennan announced that all salaries are now frozen for the next 12 months because the appropriations are final.

Robert King, a resident, objected to the hiring of Krivit and Krivit, the Washington firm, to represent the

city's Community Development Agency, on the ground that "they represent too many cities."

Pressed by Councilman Thomas Kennedy, King was able to name only two municipalities, Bayonne and North Bergen, which the firm represents.

Asked why Fred M. Bado, the CDA director, a lawyer, could not represent the CDA in Washington, Brennan said Krivit and Krivit was being hired not as a lawyer but as a consultant.

Councilman Walter Cramer interjected: "You have to be down there in

Washington, D.C., to know all the ins and outs."

Responding to another critic, Charles DeFazio, Brennan said the council was "hoping for preferential treatment for some of our projects."

"Within the law?" DeFazio inquired.

"Yes," Brennan responded. DeFazio was of the opinion that the local congressman should represent Hoboken.

"Congressmen don't have the time, or the staff," Brennan answered.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, entering the fray, commented:

"These are technical advisers. The CDA is responsible for very important projects in Hoboken. We can't cut them off from very important tools."

"If the projects don't come through, they could come back and tell us, 'We told you what we needed.'"

The tax levy for 1978 comes to \$5,061,450.28. The budget total is \$18,126,725.51, an increase of almost \$3,000,000 from last year's \$15,460,341. Most of the increase is offset by anticipated revenues from state and federal programs.

Hoboken councilmen, trustees progressing on school budget

Committees representing Hoboken's City Council and Board of Education are making progress toward an agreement on the size of the school budget. "We feel it will be resolved on a friendly, businesslike basis," Councilman Robert Ranieri predicted last night.

The two sides met at City Hall to

discuss the \$4 million tax levy defeated by the voters in a special election on Tuesday. A new budget figure is being worked out and Ranieri said both sides will meet again next week.

Ranieri and Councilmen Martin Brennan and Walter Cramer conferred with Robert Wendelken,

chairman of the school board's finance committee and two board members. James Monaco and Richard England. Mayor Steve Capriello and Otto Hottendorf, board president, also sat in on the conference.

10 will be sworn today as Hoboken patrolmen

The shortage of policemen in Hoboken will be relieved when Mayor Steve Capriello swears in 10 new patrolmen late today, the first in a long time.

The rookies will go to work tomorrow.

Their appointment had been held up because of uncertainty surrounding the status of another man who had become eligible for appointment and had been certified by a state Civil Service Department.

Among the 10, all Hoboken residents, is Dennis Edgar, a "third generation" policeman. He is the son of the late John Edgar and a grandson of the late Michael Murphy, both

Hoboken policemen. He has a brother, Sergeant Robert Edgar, also on the force.

The other nine are Nicholas Ascolli, Albert Benz, Joseph Cicala, Salvatore DeMeo, Edward Canning, Robert Lin, John Roman, Frank Sasso and Daniel Simone.

The 11th man, Caesar Velez, also of Hoboken, was not appointed because authorities are still investigating the case of his arrest on a charge of narcotics violation, which has not been disposed of.

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins said today that the 10 new men will bring the strength of the force up to 100, which, however, in-

cludes five men on unpaid leave of absence, three on terminal leave, and two under suspension, one of them without pay and the other with undetermined status.

The authorized strength of the force is 104 patrolmen, Crimmins said. There are three temporary policemen, whose status is being challenged.

On location in Hoboken

By WILLIAM SETZ

In the wake of the most recent presentation of the Academy Awards, Hollywood's annual extravaganza, film buffs in Hoboken may be gratified these days to see a film crew on location at various sites throughout the Mile Square City shooting scenes for a film scheduled for release next year.

"Voices" is the story of a young man aspiring to a singing career, according to Ann Guerin, unit publicist for the current Metro Goldwyn Mayer production. But the character of the young man, who quickly pointed out, is not based on that of Frank Sinatra, Hoboken's most famous son.

Rather, "Voices" is a contemporary love story. Mrs. Guerin said, focusing on the aspirations of Drew Rothman, a 29-year-old man who meets and falls in love with a young woman who teaches in a school for the deaf. The object of Drew's affection is herself deaf and an aspiring dancer.

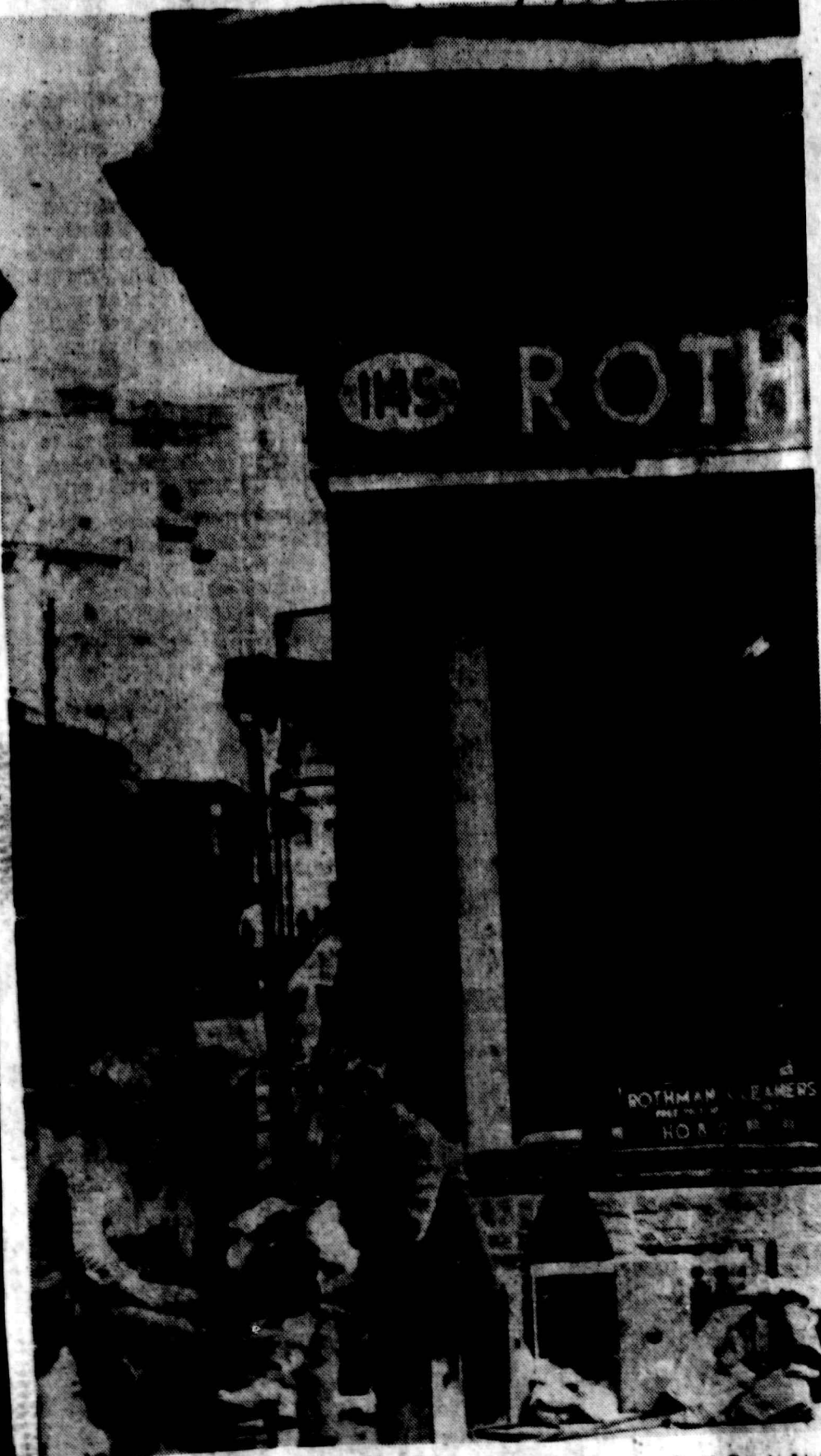
Scenes are being shot this week at Asen Cleaners, 1145 Garden St. The storefront has been given a phony facade so that it now reads Rothman Cleaners, the store owned by Drew's fictional father.

Much of the film's action takes place at the dry cleaning shop, Mrs. Guerin said. In addition to Drew's father, the young man's grandfather and younger brother also work at the shop—as does Drew himself when his nightclub schedule permits.

The leading roles are being played by Michael Ontkean, as Drew Rothman, and Amy Irving, as his paramour. Ontkean has appeared in "Slap Shot," and Mrs. Irving starred in "The Fury." Robert Markowitz is directing the film.

The film is the first major Hollywood studio project filmed in Hoboken since "On the Waterfront" was shot there more than 20 years ago.

Studio scenes are being shot at Video City Center in Newark, Mrs. Guerin said. Other location shots are scheduled for various sites throughout Hoboken, according to the publicist.



Dispatch Photo by Bob Kist

Crew members sit among the lights and film equipment on the corner of 12th Street and Garden in Hoboken yesterday during a break in the filming of the movie "Voices."

Hoboken landlord told to give cash to tenants

Acting on a tenants' request for a rent decrease because of poor living conditions, the Hoboken Rent Leveling Board last night directed that the landlord of buildings at 66 and 70 Washington St. give cash allocations to each family equal to two months rent with the provision that the families vacate the buildings by June 30.

Joseph Hottendorf, board chairman, said the landlord informed the board the buildings are being sold and the city is interested in seeing that the apartments are not occupied again until they are rehabilitated.

Hottendorf said it was the first time the board had taken such action which gives the tenants "the rent decrease they sought" and also gives them an incentive to leave the buildings.

"The most important thing is that we're acting to have the buildings cleaned up or boarded up," said Hottendorf.

He said the 20 families were paying rents averaging about \$100 a month and both the landlord and the tenants who attended the hearing appeared to favor the decision.

In another matter, the board decided to review a recent decision which awarded a landlord at 831 Hudson St. rent increases of \$10 a month for hardship and an additional \$15 for capital improvements.

Another application for a hardship increase was filed but Hottendorf said no action will be taken until the board reviews its original decision.

Cappiello moves to get the sweepers running

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today sprang into action in a move not only to get the city's idle sweeping trucks a-sweeping, but also to get city janitors sweeping too.

The mayor called in department heads for a briefing in his office.

Responding to a Jersey Journal editorial proposing that he personally intervene to get the two \$40,000 mechanical brooms back in action, Cappiello ordered the Public Safety Department's chief mechanic dispatched to the factory where they are reposing.

Police Sgt. Mario Mercado, the mechanic, will size up the nature of the repairs (and the cost) which the sweeping trucks may need. At present they are simply parked at the factory, waiting for the company and the city to settle a dispute over payment.

An aide to Cappiello said the

mayor would tell the department that the city government itself must set a good example for home owners.

The aide quoted the mayor as saying:

"We tell the home owners to go out and sweep their sidewalks, and it's up to us to do at least the same in front of the city buildings."

The mayor spelled out the obligation to include not only the City Hall and other municipal buildings but also all affiliated agencies including the schools.

The aide said Cappiello explained he meant that not all the janitors on the city payroll were exerting themselves sufficiently in the way of pushing brooms on the sidewalks.

Ranieri urges activating city economic agency

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri of Hoboken today called on his fellow officials to activate the city's Economic Development Corp., which up to now has been a paper organization.

Ranieri pointed out that on Wednesday the City Council accepted on behalf of the city an \$80,000 grant—the third in three years—for operating expenses of such an agency.

In addition, he pointed out, the 1976 budget of the city's Community Development Agency provides \$100,000 for an EDC, while the CDA also has available \$150,000 in leftover unused funds earmarked for the EDC in its 1977 budget.

Ranieri explained that the main purpose of the EDC is to "provide loan guarantees for industry." If a bank were reluctant to make a loan, the EDC could step in and be a co-signer.

The councilman quoted U.S. Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps as telling him and other visiting municipal officials:

"We are more than willing to help the older urban centers, but we want them to come and ask for help."

As a first step toward making EDC a reality, Ranieri called on Mayor Steve Cappiello to "invite heads of industry in the city to a series of dinner meetings, with perhaps eight or ten persons at a time."

The mayor "would outline the objectives of the EDC," he said, and "would attempt to have a component board of directors created from among the industrialists."

With the board's approval, he continued, the city administration "would appoint a staff of qualified professionals to man the new agency."

Hoboken's school board agrees to budget cuts

The Hoboken Board of Education assured the City Council last night it will accept a \$400,000 reduction in its budget and will not appeal to the state commissioner of education to have any of the funds restored.

The decision meant that the city's tax levy for school purposes will be \$3,621,000 in the Board of Education budget of \$15,361,000 for the 1976-79 school year.

A compromise was worked out by committees of the school board and the council after a tax levy of \$4,021,000 was turned down by the voters last week.

Robert Wendelken, finance chairman of the school board, officially reported to the council that the board would live with the lower

amount and there are no plans to appeal to the state. No final decision has been made on where the cuts will take place, he said.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, who acted as spokesman for the city, said a special meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday to adopt a resolution amending the school tax levy to the reduced amount. The school board also will formally adopt the lower budget.

Commented Ranieri: "This was a most difficult evening for all of us and ends a most difficult time. We have all lived up to our obligations and we shall continue to do so with a stabilized municipal budget which breathes a ray of hope for the future of the city."

Hoboken sets tax levy for schools

The Hoboken City Council last night officially set the school tax levy for 1976 at \$3,621,000 after receiving word that the Board of Education, which also met last night, had accepted the figure reached last week through a compromise.

The voters turned down a tax levy of \$4,021,000 in a special election on March 25. The council had sought a base figure of \$3.5 million but in talks with the board's finance committee

agreed to \$3.6 million—a reduction of \$400,000.

"We found we could do that and still hold the tax rate," Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of an ad hoc committee, reported.

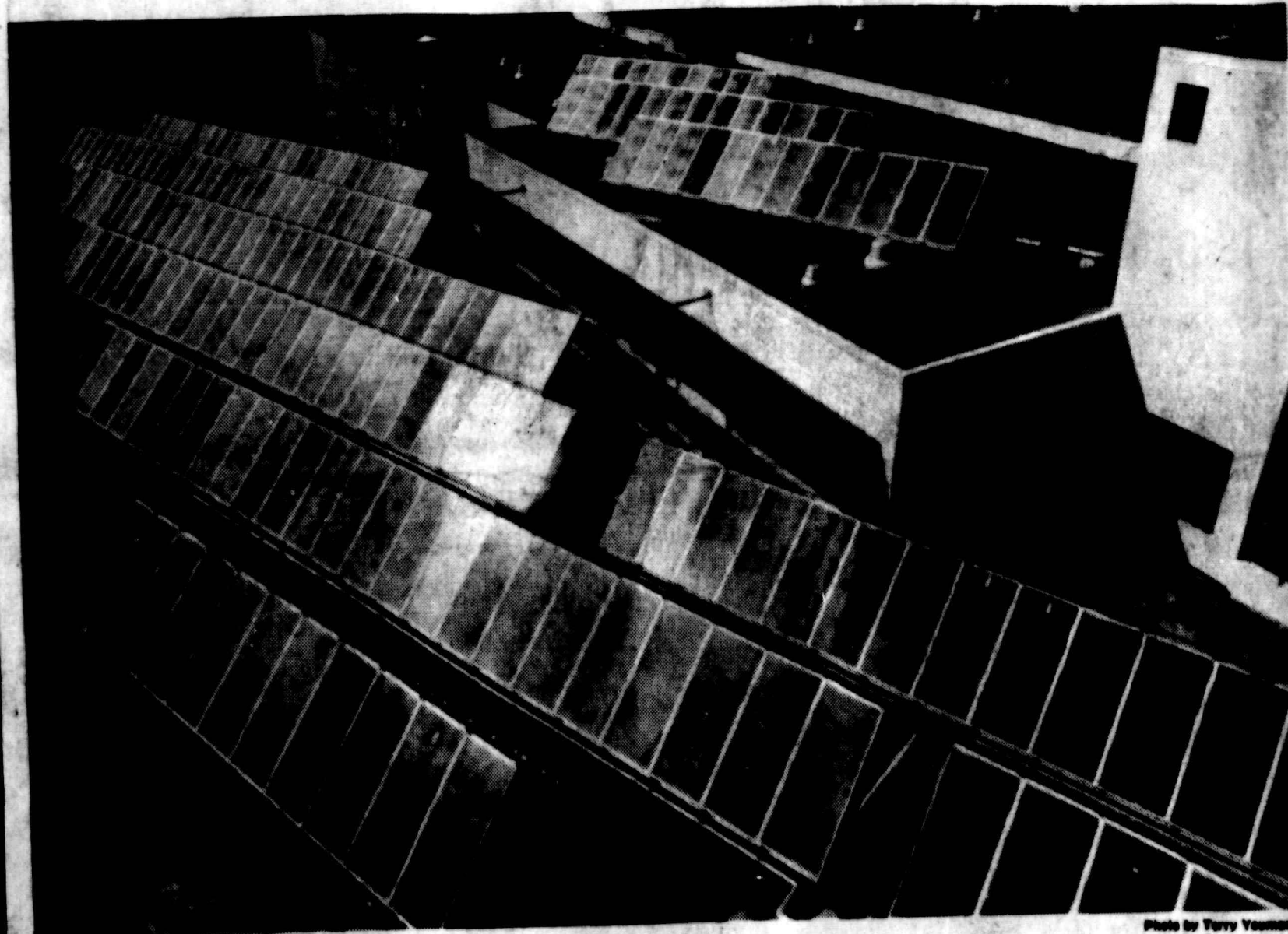
In the resolution adopted at the special council meeting, the governing body said that in its opinion, "various and sundry items are over-priced and should be reduced by the amount of \$400,000."

It directed the board secretary

to apply the total \$400,000 reduction in current expense operations to the various appropriations "as they are determined by the Board of Education."

The action by the board and council last night ended a controversy between the two bodies over the size of the school budget. It also meant that the school board will not appeal to the state to have funds restored as it has done in previous years.

Is solar panel system already in hot water?



Solar panels used to collect the sun's rays line the roof of the Clock Towers apartment building in Hoboken. Each of these panels contains several thin copper pipes through which water runs and is heated by the sun.

By Pat Ford

Clock Towers in Hoboken got its name from the huge timepiece that has adorned its roof since the days when Koutel and Esser ran a thriving factory in the building.

Now that it has been converted to a six-story, 173-unit apartment building, Clock Towers may become well known for something else on its roof—solar panels.

With the federal government picking up the entire tab, Clock Towers' owner, Jefferson Adams Corp. of New York, has installed a solar heating system for its domestic hot water, a system that is ready for full implementation.

For the \$147,000 it cost the federal government, however, the project will save the landlord a little, it may become

eligible for Sen. William Proxmire's "Golden Fleece" award.

Based on current fuel prices, the system will save only about \$2,000 per year on energy bills, according to Robert Rabkin, vice president of Jefferson Adams.

In other words, says Rabkin, if the owner had shelled out the \$147,000, it would take the company about 74 years to

make it profitable.

But Greg Walter of Boeing Aerospace Corp., which is managing solar heating contracts for the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, asserts that the value of the projects being done now is in the technology advances that should come from the practical use of the systems.

In addition, he maintains, the systems have saved as much as 80 percent on energy bills on smaller projects in private residences.

Rabkin said his company would never have paid for the system itself, but that he's happy to have it.

"We're mainly looking to the future," he explained. "If the price of oil doubles again, our savings would double."

The system is not used for heat at all, but only for helping to heat hot water. It works on a simple procedure.

Water comes in from the city lines at about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Normally a boiler has to heat it to 140 degrees, the temperature of hot water when it reaches the consumer's sink.

In this system, the water goes from the city line into a 6,000 gallon tank under the building. From there, it is pumped up to the roof, where it circulates through one of 213 solar panels—called collectors—in small copper pipes.

The trip through the six-foot panel raises the temperature to about 120 degrees, and it travels back down to the tank.

After mixing with the water in the tank, the water drops to about 80 degrees, at which temperature it is pumped into the building's boilers. There it is heated to 140.

Thus, what the system does is require the boiler to heat the water only 60 degrees instead of 140 degrees. In the summer, or warm days of spring, the system can heat the water as high as 140 degrees, in which case the boiler would not kick on and the system would save 100 percent of the cost of heating water.

Although Rabkin estimates that the system would save about \$4,000 per year in fuel oil costs, he claims the electricity for the two pumps would cost \$2,000, leaving a net savings of \$2,000.

To make the system powerful enough to provide heat as well would require about five times as many panels, or more than 1,000, according to Anthony DiBari of Graphic Building Systems, New York.

DiBari's company handled the conversion of the old Koutel and Esser factory into an apartment house and installed the solar heating system.

Saturday marks the second anniversary of the opening of Clock Towers. Can the tenants expect a rent decrease on the anniversary because of the solar system?

Rabkin said no, but added that it will cut down on future increases.

Walter said the HUD grants are being given in five phases, with the first three cycles completed. Owners of private residences can get the grants, he said, no matter what size their buildings are.

Mysterious goings on at Hoboken 5th St. pier

By William H. Taft

A mystery has cast its shadow over Hoboken's 5th Street Pier. It is not a matter of murder, but it has to do with dollars and cents.

The mysterious facts are: The city turned down a prospective tenant who offered to rent the pier for \$1,000 a month... and then quietly rented it to a Bayonne contractor who pays only \$150 a month.

Not only that, but some people say they have seen the contractor's men disposing of scrap metal which was already on the pier—scrap metal which is the city's.

The former Holland America Line pier had been bought from the city by an outfit with the remarkable name of Mervyn's Midnight Waterfront Beauty, Inc. Mervyn's stripped down most of the superstructure, which it sold for scrap, then stopped making payments to the city on the \$70,000 purchase price. The city then took the pier back by foreclosure.

The pier didn't do so badly in 1977. The owners of a ship that was berthed there without the city's permission were forced by Revenue and Finance

Director Frank Bartolotta to pay \$15,125 in belated rent to the city.

Mervyn's, however, wanted to use the pier for tying up tugboats which its owners operated under another corporate name—River Towing. And according to Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, Mervyn's offered the city \$1,000 a month rent for an indefinite time.

The city rejected the offer, on the ground that it wanted a permanent tenant, not a month-to-month renter.

But, somehow, a new firm has taken the pier over. It is the V. & L. Construction Co. of 1097 Broadway, Bayonne, and it is renting month-to-month for a paltry \$150.

V. & L. has been demolishing city-owned buildings in Hoboken under contracts from the city. V. & L., it is now learned, approached the city and said, in effect:

"If you let us rent the pier for \$150 a month, we can dispose of the rubble from our demolitions." The city went along with this.

But Ranieri wants to know what in the world V. & L. is doing with this

debris, since, he contends, it cannot be dumped at sea without violating government regulations.

Another point disturbing Ranieri is that people have reported seeing workmen removing scrap metal—from construction debris—from the pier, loading it onto barges.

A final poser is that people have reported seeing the workmen load the metal onto the barges by using a crane left on the pier by Mervyn's and now claimed by the city as fruits of the foreclosure.

Hoboken turning River Road over to bikers Sundays

Hoboken's River Road will be closed to traffic on Sundays from April 16 to Sept. 17 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to leave the roadway open for bicycling, as was done last summer.

The City Council so voted yesterday after turning down a plea by Councilman Anthony Romano to require that a policeman be stationed on the road during the cycling hours.

Council President Martin Brennan said the city could not afford to lose the police manpower elsewhere.

Brennan added, however, that if it appeared to be necessary, a policeman would be assigned later on.

Councilman Louis Franccone complained of large holes in the bicycle path area. Brennan replied that in the \$120,000 federal grant for the bike path, \$12,000 was allotted for improving the street drainage.



FOR THE CORPS — Mayor Steve Cappiello at right, presents a \$15,000 check from Hoboken to Thomas Vaccione, president of the city's Volunteer Ambulance Corps. It is the city's annual contribution to the volunteer service.

Hoboken official 'certain' of state aid on potholes

Hoboken's business administrator expressed confidence today that the state would be willing to give Hoboken up to \$200,000 in aid to repave many of the city's winter-scarred streets.

Edwin Chius, the administrator, said that one of the top priority areas would be a section of Observer Highway near the Jersey City line, which would be dug up and completely resurfaced if the state aid comes through.

He said other sites would be selectively chosen according to the severity of the pothole problems on them.

Chius stressed that the state has not yet given approval to the aid request, but said he had "laid the groundwork" for getting the grant.

He would not say exactly what department of state government would make the grant, but it is believed to be the Department of Community Affairs. Chius has met with several lower-echelon officials

from that department, who are believed to be the "groundwork" for the aid request.

Chius said he is confident about getting the aid because of the condition of the city's streets following the second consecutive hard winter.

Observer Highway is a case in point. The section nearest the Jersey City line has been a source of embarrassment to Hoboken officials for many years, but has become worse than ever this year. One visitor to the city compared the road to those that were scarred by bombs in Europe during World War II.

While he insisted that he didn't want to make plans for the money before the state approves the grant, Chius did say that an outside contractor would be hired to do the repaving.

Both Chius and Public Works Director Andrew Amato have conceded that the city crews lack the proper equipment to do top-quality pothole patching or repaving.

Chius supports jai-alai proposal for Hoboken

Hoboken's business administrator, Edwin Chius, today defended Mayor Steve Cappiello's plan for jai-alai gambling in the city against an attack by Councilman Robert A. Ranieri.

"Does he think everyone who gambles is a crook?" Chius asked. He said jai-alai would bring desperately needed revenue, revitalize the area in the vicinity of the piers and improve business in general in the city.

Chius commented that he thought Ranieri had "over-reacted," and that he doubted Ranieri had personally made an analysis of what jai-alai is and what its effects are.

Comparing the prospects of jai-alai with the success of Meadowslands horse racing, Chius said the former sport is "much more interesting than racing — it is a game of skill — and people can enjoy it without betting."

Assuming that jai-alai operated in the evening like racing, Chius said the enterprise would light up the deserted transportation terminal area at night, making it again safe to walk there.

Instead of the \$70,000 a year the city now receives from the pier property on which the jai-alai project would be built, Chius said the city would probably receive several

hundred thousand dollars a year in lieu of taxes plus a percentage of the receipts.

He said that he hoped jai-alai would be played for six months of the year in Hoboken and the rest of the year in some other Hudson County community, and that the county should receive a part of the revenue.

Such business as the near-idle piers now bring to Hoboken results in heavy trucks damaging the city's pavements, whereas jai-alai would bring only passenger cars, Chius continued.

He commented on Ranieri's contention that the home owners in two-story, three-story and four-story houses do not want jai-alai. "I don't think we will see any more such buildings put up in Hoboken," he observed, "until we stabilize our tax rate; and jai-alai would be a long step in that direction."

"Undoubtedly there would be a marketing survey made before a decision to locate jai-alai here," he went on. "It would be governed by a state commission, possibly the gambling commission we have now."

"Councilman Ranieri says everyone he has talked to is against jai-alai. I believe most people in Hoboken have never seen jai-alai."

Public Works Director Amato said the sweepers were bought before he became the director.

"Since I came here," Amato said, "we have never had one full week's work out of these sweepers. As to lack of maintenance, in the past it may have happened, but I feel that they're wrong in saying we haven't been maintaining these machines."

"They have been getting serviced every other day."

"Our drivers went to the school operated by the manufacturer," Amato added that he believed the company complained to Chius about the maintenance to gloss over the fact that the company had repaired the broken machine for \$2,500 two months ago and returned it to the city as operable, only to have it break down again for the same defect a day and a half later — and the company subsequently refused to make good on its defective repair.

Dietrich, the head public works mechanic, told The Jersey Journal today that the two Cumming sweepers are "no good for Hoboken" and "have given us nothing but trouble from the day they arrived here."

The city's streets are "too rough," he said, "and there is too much to pick up on them."

He said the department's mechanics are not responsible for greasing the sweepers, the drivers are; and all he knows on that score is that he gives the drivers a hose and a special spray that he himself made in order to meet the needs of these sweepers.

As for the dirty filters, Dietrich said the drivers are responsible for cleaning these, but he commented: "To cope with the conditions on Hoboken streets, these machines needed special screens, which I got for them; but even so, they should be cleaned every five or 10 minutes."

The Cumming sweepers, he continued, "are too low for Hoboken's streets." He also found fault with the hydraulic air system, saying "the hydraulic air hoses broke the very first day."

Regarding the sweeper which has been sitting at Garwood for a month, Chius reported three faults: 1. It needs a new lift for the dump hopper because the bearings weren't greased.

2. There is an air leak in the engine, which cuts down the power with which the mechanical brooms operate, and this fault should have been corrected in the public works garage — "they're supposed to be mechanics," Chius commented.

3. The hopper is "filthy," never having been properly cleaned, with the result that the machine has lost

efficiency. (The filter should be cleaned every day.)

Chius said that he has now authorized the manufacturer to make the necessary repairs on the this machine, and he hoped to have it back on Hoboken's streets in a few days, after the public works' drivers are given a course in how to operate it.

He said he was waiting for an estimate of the cost of repairing the second sweeper.

Chius said one public works driver will hereafter be assigned to a particular sweeper permanently and will be required to make out a daily report certifying that he has serviced it properly.

The machine will be checked each day by the public safety mechanics, and, if the driver is found to have been delinquent, Chius said, he will be brought up on charges.

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On the waterfront—a taxing fiasco

By WILLIAM BETZ

The City of Hoboken owns much of its own waterfront property because it has been unable for the past decade to strike a favorable tax deal with potential waterfront tenants.

The situation has led to foreclosure on waterfront property, in at least four cases, and litigation in others.

Companies doing business on the Hoboken waterfront, or those attempting to do business there, have regularly gone to court to protest the city's high tax assessments of Hudson River properties.

Based on the city's tax rate of 10.466 percent, city ownership of four properties valued at \$2,750,500 costs Hoboken \$287,615 annually in potential taxes. The four properties have been taken over by the city because former owners defaulted on their taxes, which nearly everyone—city officials, waterfront

property owners, and prospective tenants alike—agrees are too high.

Similar problems reportedly do not exist in neighboring cities like Bayonne and Jersey City, both of which boast active waterfronts.

Only three companies are currently operating on their own property on the Hoboken waterfront and two of them, Union Drydock and Repair Co. and Bethlehem Steel, have asked for and been granted tax reassessments.

The city is currently protesting to the state the county's decision to grant a reassessment to Union Drydock, according to William Reynolds of the city's tax office.

Other waterfront property, however, potentially valuable to the city, lies unused because Hoboken is unable to sell it or arrange what tenants might consider a favorable lease agreement.

The city, under the title of the mayor and

the city council, owns part or all of four blocks of waterfront property.

The rest of Hoboken's waterfront either is owned by the three companies—General Foods, the city's biggest taxpayer, is the third—or is owned by tax-exempt entities like Stevens Tech or the U. S. Government.

The government's property, in the south end of the city, is operated and controlled by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which has a special status that permits it to pay far less than it would if the property were normally taxed.

According to Mayor Steve Cappiello, the property occupied by the PA is valued at about \$20 million. Taxes on that property would normally exceed \$2 million annually.

The Port Authority's situation is truly unique. The PA's property was once owned by two German shipping companies, North German Lloyd Lines and Hamburg-American

Lines, but the foreign-owned facilities were confiscated by the U. S. during World War I. The PA eventually came to sublet the property from the city after the city was given control by the U. S. Maritime Administration.

For the three piers it operates on the Hoboken waterfront, the PA pays the city an annual fee of around \$70,000, considerably less than the \$2 million it might pay in yearly taxes if it owned the property outright.

But there is some question whether the PA would pay taxes even if it did own the property. The PA does not pay property tax on its holdings. If it did, New Jersey would benefit by \$20 million a year. Hudson County alone would stand to gain almost \$2 million—Independent of Hoboken property.

Other river operations, however, have not been so fortunate. Last April, in a case involving nonpayment of more than \$200,000 in back taxes, the city foreclosed on two piers

owned by River Towing Inc., a local waterfront company doing business out of 1 Newark St. At the same time, the city also foreclosed on other waterfront property in the city's north end for the same reason.

Two of the piers in question, at Fifth and Sixth Streets—which were owned by River Towing, were formerly owned by the Holland-America Line.

The owner of River Towing, Mervyn Carrega, had gone to court to try to get a reassessment of his property, for which he felt the city was asking too much in taxes. His appeal failed, Carrega said, because he was unable to pay his back taxes and thereby demonstrate good faith, although he went the way to the state for a reassessment when he was turned down by the county government.

Irving Maidman, who preceded River Towing as owner of the Fifth and Sixth Street piers, bought the property from Holland-America Lines for an undisclosed amount when the company left Hoboken in 1980. Maidman, however, also lost the property to the city for nonpayment of back taxes—in his case \$652,000—and the piers were sold in 1972 to Carrega's company.

In 1972 Carrega paid \$71,000 for the Fifth and Sixth Street piers. After getting in tax trouble almost immediately and, according to the city in reports published at the time, failing to live up to his agreement for rehabilitating and developing the run-down property, Carrega sold the piers the following year for the same amount to another corporation called Mervyn's Midnight Waterfront Beauty Inc.

It was not known at the time that Carrega owned both River Towing and Mervyn's Midnight Waterfront Beauty.

When the city foreclosed last year, Carrega said, he expressed his willingness to work out a lease agreement that would permit him to continue his operation out of Hoboken.

In September, Carrega sent the city a statement of intent to make an offer for the lease of the property. The city, he said, professed an interest in doing business with his company, at which point Carrega, with the aid of his lawyers, prepared an offer to rent the property from the city for \$1,500 per month.

The offer, which included the promise of a \$2,400 security payment, met with no response, Carrega said. But Frank Bartolotta, Hoboken's Director of Revenue and Finance, told The Dispatch the offer was turned down because it included a long-term lease stipulation to which the city was not willing to commit itself—partly because of Carrega's history of nonpayment of taxes.

So the piers lie abandoned. Carrega is still in Hoboken, but his waterfront operations have reportedly been transferred to Staten Island pending the acquisition of more suitable and permanent facilities.

Other companies have left the city entirely. The old Todd shipyard in north Hoboken had been long abandoned until it was sold in 1972 to the Cosmopolitan Terminal Co. Cosmopolitan, however, was forced to vacate its property when the city, in a joint effort with the township of Weehawken, persuaded the State Natural Resources Council in 1970 to deny the company a permit to carry out its petroleum operation for environmental reasons.

The city is realizing virtually no income from its waterfront property. There is general agreement that the reason for this is the high tax assessments on waterfront property.

According to City Councilman Robert Ranieri, tax assessments will be revised when the percent of assessed valuation falls below the market value of the property in question—which is already the case, according to every city official contacted.

"The assessed valuation on the waterfront is, in effect, valueless," Ranieri said.

"The taxes are prohibitive, there's no question about it," Cappiello agreed.

But, the councilman stressed, the city does not want a reevaluation because of the danger involved—that other city taxpayers will be hit with a big tax hike.

If the waterfront is reevaluated, it will be found to be overassessed, Ranieri said. Likewise, if homeowners' property is reevaluated, it will be found to be underassessed.

Ranieri sees in this a great danger. He described the prospect of a reassessment in bleak terms, saying the market value of houses, should it occur, will plummet. He recalled the last reevaluation of 1969-70, in which a greater degree of the tax burden fell on city homeowners.

"It's a touchy thing," the councilman said. "If we do anything to discourage people from buying homes or staying (in the city), we're weakening the main link we have with the future."

So, although taxes on the waterfront are too high, thereby discouraging the city's natural business constituency from locating in Hoboken, a way to remedy the situation has not been found.

This does not mollify River Towing's Carrega, who continues to profess a desire to rent waterfront space from the city. Carrega sees the city as inflexible in its dealings with his company, he said.

"I have offered to meet with city officials to work out a mutually advantageous agreement," he said. "The piers are lying fallow. I could be using them and the city could be deriving income from its property."

"I don't understand the city's position," Carrega shrugged.

Sweepers not maintained, Chius says

Hoboken's business administrator charged today that the breakdown of the city's two \$40,000 street sweepers was due to the fact that the Public Works Department's mechanics failed to maintain them.

Edwin Chius said he would take the sweepers away from the public works garage and place them in the care of mechanics of the Public Safety Department.

Public Works Director Andrew Amato and William Dietrich, his head mechanic, disputed Chius' charge.

At the moment, the sweepers are at Garwood, under repair by the manufacturer, the Cumming Co.

The business administrator made a surprise visit to the Garwood plant, accompanied by Police Sergeant Mario Mercedo, head mechanic of the Public Safety Department, without telling anyone in the Public Works Department that he was going.

Chius explained that he wanted to learn the truth about the trouble with the sweeping machines, one of which has been out of service since last summer, the other since mid-March.

He reported today that the Cumming people convinced him and Mercedo that the Public Works Department had evidently "never maintained the machines, either on a daily or weekly or monthly basis."

"There is no record in the department of any oil changes or greasing," Chius continued.

Regarding the sweeper which has been sitting at Garwood for a month, Chius reported three faults: 1. It needs a new lift for the dump hopper because the bearings weren't greased.

2. There is an air leak in the engine, which cuts down the power with which the mechanical brooms operate, and this fault should have been corrected in the public works garage — "they're supposed to be mechanics," Chius commented.

3. The hopper is "filthy," never having been properly cleaned, with the result that the machine has lost

efficiency. (The filter should be cleaned every day.)

Chius said that he has now authorized the manufacturer to make the necessary repairs on the this machine, and he hoped to have it back on Hoboken's streets in a few days, after the public works' drivers are given a course in how to operate it.

He said he was waiting for an estimate of the cost of repairing the second sweeper.

Chius said one public works driver will hereafter be assigned to a particular sweeper permanently and will be required to make out a daily report certifying that he has serviced it properly.

The machine will be checked each day by the public safety mechanics, and, if the driver is found to have been delinquent, Chius said, he will be brought up on charges.

Dietrich, the head public works mechanic, told The Jersey Journal today that the two Cumming sweepers are "no good for Hoboken" and "have given us nothing but trouble from the day they arrived here."

The city's streets are "too rough," he said, "and there is too much to pick up on them."

He said the department's mechanics are not responsible for greasing the sweepers, the drivers are; and all he knows on that score is that he gives the drivers a hose and a special spray that he himself made in order to meet the needs of these sweepers.

As for the dirty filters, Dietrich said the drivers are responsible for cleaning these, but he commented: "To cope with the conditions on Hoboken streets, these machines needed special screens, which I got for them; but even so, they should be cleaned every five or 10 minutes."

The Cumming sweepers, he continued, "are too low for Hoboken's streets." He also found fault with the hydraulic air system, saying "the hydraulic air hoses broke the very first day."

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Hoboken slates \$16,500 to tidy up its law files

The Hoboken City Council is expected to take action next week on a proposal that would codify local ordinances and administrative and regulatory laws, making them easy to find and up to date.

The council is expected to award a contract to General Code Publishers Corp. for \$16,500 to provide the first complete codification of city laws. There was one done in the mid 1950's, according to assistant city attorney Thomas Calligy, but it wasn't complete and was never updated.

With this one, however, General Code Publishers Corp. would:

• List each law, including health code regulations, by subject — zoning, for example — in easy-to-read, indexed booklets;

• Eliminate duplications and conflicts in local laws and between local and state laws after consultation with the city's Law Department;

• Be retained on a year-to-year basis by the city to update the code annually to include new laws and amendments to old ones.

"This will be a valuable tool for the city," declared Business Administrator Edwin Chius when asked about the proposal.

"I'm very pleased that the city is finally going through with this," Calligy said. "It will help the law

department, but it will help every resident and city official as well."

Calligy explained that he interviewed several companies before deciding to recommend General Code Publishers. He said they did the same thing for Hackensack, and he admired their work on the job.

No bidding is required for this type of contract, Calligy explained, because it is specifically exempted from state bidding laws.

He said the project, if the council consents next week, would be completed in a year. Most of the work will be done in city hall or the health department, where the health code is kept.

The city will get 50 copies of the code as part of the contract agreement. The funds for the job are already contained in the municipal budget, Chius said.

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Smith would OK jai-alai in city; Hoboken split

Jersey City's mayor and Hoboken's Parking Authority executive director would each welcome a jai-alai facility in his city.

But, a Hoboken councilman thinks such an operation belongs in the Meadowlands.

"From what I know of jai-alai, I would be for it," says Mayor Thomas F.X. Smith.

A bill is now before the Legislature which would legalize jai-alai, a Basque game which is accompanied by wagering, in New Jersey. The sport has long been popular in Florida and, in recent years, has been introduced, with great success, in Connecticut.

State Sen. Walter Sheil and David Friedland have said they would vote for legalizing jai-alai, but want it in Jersey City. The bill was introduced by State Sen. William V. Musto of Union City and interest has already been expressed by Hoboken.

Smith said though that if some other city really wants a jai-alai fronton, he wouldn't try to block it. But if promoters want to put it in Jersey City, they would be more than welcome.

Some Jersey City officials have suggested remodeling Roosevelt Stadium for jai-alai, but Smith said he hasn't given any thought to a possible location.

Meanwhile, the executive director of Hoboken's Parking Authority declared that a jai-alai fronton on the waterfront there would be a boon to his agency and the city, but Councilman Anthony Romano has other ideas about the proposal.

"Let the Meadowlands have it," he asserts.

Joseph Hottendorf, the executive director, asserted that a jai-alai fronton would almost certainly guarantee funding for a proposed hotel in Grogan Marine View Plaza, and the transient customers from the

fronton and hotel would greatly increase the income from the authority's three garages nearby.

"We make only \$35 per month from monthly customers," he explained, "but we get \$70 for transient use of a space in a month. New development like this could ensure us of steady transient business."

He said he was confident customers of a hotel and fronton would park in the authority's garages. "Where else are they going to park?" he asked. "They (the motel and fronton) can't build their own lots or garages without permission from the authority, so they'd have to use our garages."

He speculated that these developments would help the authority come close to meeting its annual debt service, which is \$700,000.

The authority was able to come up with only \$100,000 last year, and projections for this year amount to only \$224,000 because of the \$10 rate increase for monthly customers that went into effect this month.

Meanwhile, Romano remains skeptical about the proposal.

He joins fellow Councilman Robert A. Ranieri and Nunzio Malfetti in expressing opposition. Mayor Steve Cappelletto has been pushing the idea, with support from Councilmen Bernard Scrivani and Thomas Kennedy, and Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

"I doubt if it would bring an unfavorable gambling element to the city," Romano says. "But I'm not convinced it would bring in that many positive things either."

"It would probably work best in an area like the Meadowlands, where the race track is already up and the people already have to live with that kind of thing," he said.

"We need a lot more facts," he explained. "I'm still skeptical."



88 4/13/78
Roger Levy, vice president of the Hoboken Board of Realtors, presents a \$25 savings bond to Susan Manzetti, winner of the organization's essay contest. The topic was Vandalism — Cause and Cure. Susan is a student at St. Francis School.



88 4/13/78
Many observers of yesterday's filming in Hoboken complained about the lack of action. Had they hung around, they would have seen actor Michael Ontkean make this spirited dash for a Washington Street bus. Familiar as the scene may appear, it was in the script.

Film-making bores crowds

By Pat Ford

Hoboken is buzzing these days with the excitement of having a major motion picture filmed there, but for residents and visitors watching the shooting there is little evidence of Hollywood glamour.

The crew for the movie, Metro Goldwyn Mayer's "Voices," was filming yesterday across the street from City Hall and attracted a large crowd of onlookers throughout the day.

Most of the spectators were people who live or work in Hoboken, but others came from as far away as Long Island, Brooklyn, Queens and Pennsylvania.

Angelo Zandonella, who traveled from Pennsylvania to Hoboken, came to get bread from Maria's Bakery on

Second Street, and I saw them making the movie.

Zandonella stayed for a half-hour, but was unimpressed.

"There's no action," he complained. "They've shot the same scene about four times. When I saw them in front of the (Washington Savings) bank, I thought I'd see them filming a shootout or bank robbery or something."

Zandonella's reaction was similar to those of most observers. Everyone was attracted and excited by the sight of movie cameras and equipment, but the filming was, in the words of the movie's producer, Joseph Wizan, "boring."

Michael Roman of Hoboken was so excited to see the crews Tuesday that he brought three friends from the

Parson School of Design in Manhattan to see the filming yesterday.

"They're about to kill me because this is so boring," he said as his friends nodded. "But we cut our history of art class to come here and that's even more boring than this."

"Just barely," was the retort of Rita Musbaum of Long Island, one of his companions.

"This is disappointing," Romano remarked. "It seems they never really get anything accomplished."

Few people recognized the actors, although many knew that one of them — Michael Ontkean — was in the TV series "The Rookies."

"I recognize the guy from the 'Rookies,'" said Josephine Rina of Hoboken, "but I can't remember his name."

"I don't recognize anyone," said "Bill" Sullivan, a liquor salesman, "but I heard there is someone here from 'The Rookies.'"

"There's a fella from television," said Nicholas DePalma, an off-duty cop working to control traffic. "I think he has some kind of Polish name or something."

Despite the lack of glamorous stars and fast action, the presence of the movie crews has brought the city alive. People everywhere are talking about scenes they saw being shot, and kidding each other about becoming a movie star.

The businesses are overjoyed, too. Sullivan, who lives in East Orange, said the stores and restaurants on his route are making bigger orders since the movie crews arrived.

"The restaurants near the shooting locations are doing a great business," he said. "I've received an unusual number of orders for Stolichnaya vodka, which is big in New York but only goes in the better restaurants over here. One of my clients told me that's all the producer and director drink."

Others noted yesterday that it doesn't hurt to have the crowds of spectators on Washington Street, the city's main shopping area.

Wizan, the producer, expressed admiration for the people of "Hollywood-on-the-Hudson."

"The people here couldn't be more pleasant or cooperative," he said.

Cappelletto asks tenant aid, jai-alai

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto is seeking the aid of Gov. Brendan T. Byrne in Trenton today with two proposals.

First, Cappelletto wants the state to pay the compensation to relocated tenants, as required under a recent state law.

Second, he wants a law passed to allow jai-alai games in New Jersey, because he thinks Hoboken has suitable sites and would profit by jai-alai gambling operations that are permitted elsewhere.

Hoboken was recently ordered by a state court to pay thousands of dollars to tenants displaced so

that the multi-family houses they lived in could be rehabilitated.

"Owners are less likely to get involved in upgrading and relocating if they have to pay the tenants to get out," the mayor said.

"So they let the property run down, milk it for all they can, and let the city take it over."

"This leads to a further decay of older cities. The city has to maintain these old buildings and make them safe and in compliance with regulations, and then the city ultimately gets stuck with the cost of relocating the occupants."

"Since the legislature has passed

a law requiring compensation for the people who get moved, let the legislature provide state funds to pay this instead of putting it on the backs of the cities."

As for jai-alai, Cappelletto said it has "a great potential," adding: "It could bring a lot of business to Hoboken and provide 400 jobs."

In jai-alai, professional performers hit a ball with a scoop-like paddle, while spectators bet on the outcome of the match. The municipality in which the game is operated collects a percentage of the winning bets, as in horse race betting.

Hoboken opinion mixed on jai-alai suggestion

Public opinion in Hoboken appears to shift dramatically from one block to the next on whether the city should seek a jai-alai fronton for the waterfront.

While Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri claims the customers at his furniture store a block from city hall are "unanimously" against the venture, Mayor Steve Cappelletto claimed today that visitors to his office have been all for it.

"I guess we talking to different people," Cappelletto said with a shrug when asked why opinions seemed to vary so much.

"I think people just tell each of them what they want to hear," another official speculated when told of the different versions of the public reaction.

While on the topic, Cappelletto took exception to statements by Ranieri and fellow-Councilman Nunzio Malfetti. Ranieri objected to the jai-alai proposal because it would make Hoboken an undesirable "gambling mecca," Malfetti asserted that more

shipping companies should be sought rather than jai-alai.

"First of all," Cappelletto said today, "even if the Legislature approves jai-alai for the state, and the voters pass the necessary referendum, Hoboken still would not necessarily be in line to get one."

"In fact," he continued, "I believe that we'd get lost in the shuffle and some bigger city would get it."

He was asked if he meant Jersey City, in view of comments by state Sens. Walter Sheil and David Friedland that Jersey City would be more suitable.

"Yes," Cappelletto replied, "or some other city — there are a lot of them around the state that are actively trying to lure a jai-alai fronton."

As far as attracting more shipping goes," the mayor asserted, "you find a shipping company to come in here, and it is fine with me. We've been trying for a long time."

What about Ranieri's opinion that undesirable gambling elements would be attracted to the city, driving out

the average taxpayer?

"The people are gambling now," Cappelletto said. "They can go four miles over to the Meadowlands, or take a 10-minute ride on the PATH to go to an Off-Track Betting parlor in New York."

Councilman Thomas Kennedy agreed.

"I believe this is as much a sport as a gambling business," he opined. "The racetrack in the Meadowlands hasn't hurt property values in Secaucus any. I think gambling is a way of life — they even do it at the churches with bingo — does that attract undesirable ladies to the auditoriums to play?"

Councilman Bernard Scrivani, who, like Kennedy, said he needs more information on the proposal before forming an opinion, agreed, however, that on the surface it appears to be a sound idea.

"We haven't been able to attract any business for these piers for so long," he said. "This seems like it would put some life back on the waterfront again."

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Romano, Franccone to face ax tonight

By Peter Hoffman

The Hoboken School Board will be meeting tonight behind closed doors to discuss personnel and a few jobs could be on the line when the session is over.

According to board sources, the members may again take up the possibility of consolidating the position and duties of business manager with those of the board's secretary, a move that has been expected since last year's May municipal election.

First Ward Councilman Anthony J. Romano is the board's business manager. He was also the main, but unsuccessful, opponent of Mayor Steve Cappelletto in the municipal election. It has been reported for some

time that Romano's job was on the line for bucking the mayor.

Also facing a possible merger of positions is Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Franccone, sources say. Franccone sided with Romano in the municipal election, putting his maintenance supervisor's job on the line.

Sources say Franccone's position with the school board will be consolidated with that of the food service manager, John Palmieri.

Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney and fiscal adviser, and Louis DePascale, an administrative aide and labor negotiator, may find their status has changed. The board has been thinking about putting both on

retainers and taking them off annual salaries.

Taylor currently makes \$24,000 and DePascale takes down \$18,000. It is reported that the retainer fee being considered by the school board is in the vicinity of \$4,000 a year for both. Romano makes \$22,735 as business manager and Franccone makes \$15,400 as head of maintenance.

The board also is expected to decide on just how many teachers will be laid off for the 1978-79 school year. Under the terms of its contract with the Hoboken Teachers' Association (HTA), the board must let those who will not get contracts for the next school year know of its decision this month.

Hoboken to change flaw in fire-lane measure

The Hoboken City Council will hold a public hearing May 3 on a parking ordinance which corrects a technical flaw in the original law.

The first ordinance created a fire lane on the east side of Hudson Street from Fourth Street to Observer Highway.

However, state statutes do not permit such a lane and the law is now

being amended to prohibit stopping or standing of cars which, city officials explained, will bring about the same results.

At its meeting last night, the council also accepted bids on 20 different contracts involving over \$200,000 in local and federal money.

All of the bids were taken under consideration and referred to the business administrator for study.

Some of the contracts may be awarded at the May 3 meeting, a spokesman said.

The federal funds are paying for restoration and improvements of the Jefferson Street Recreation Center. Local funds will pay for new vehicles for various departments, police radios, laboratory equipment, feeding of prisoners and automobile parts for the public safety department.

Malfetti scores jai-alai plan, wants more ships

Instead of seeking a jai-alai palace for the Hoboken waterfront, the city should be trying to restore its reputation as shipping center by involving more steamship firms to use its piers, Councilman Nunzio Malfetti said today.

Malfetti, who has been employed on the waterfront nearly all of his life, called Mayor Steve Cappelletto's plans for the jai-alai project "a pie-in-the-sky gambling adventure."

The sixth ward councilman became the second city official to oppose the mayor's plans to turn a section of the waterfront over to a sports center. Earlier this week, Councilman Robert Ranieri also announced his opposition to jai-alai plans, maintaining that the waterfront should be developed for industrial and residential uses.

Pointing out that the Hoboken piers had lost much of their business because of containerization of cargo, Cappelletto won the support of Gov. Brendan T. Byrne last week to seek a new direction for the once-thriving waterfront.

Before the city could develop a jai-alai center, however, the idea must be approved by the Legislature

and win voter approval on a statewide referendum to change the constitution.

Malfetti questioned the tax benefits from the jai-alai palace, pointing out that the proposal calls for 3.5 acres to be developed and 85 percent of it would be used for parking.

As such, he said, most of it will be unimproved land yielding little in tax revenues. He also questioned how much employment it would mean for local residents.

The councilman said there was still a demand for the type of bulk cargo to be serviced at piers such as those in Hoboken and felt the city should make a determined effort to lure more steamship companies to the city.

The Port Authority piers are particularly well suited to that type of cargo handling, he said, and the waterfront is still the most valuable asset the city can point to.

"The monetary values of shipping versus gambling — and their effect upon the city — are the criteria we must consider," he said Malfetti.

"Hoboken needs jobs," he said, "and jai-alai would be a costly misadventure."

Ranieri opposes jai-alai palace

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri today denounced Mayor Steve Cappelletto's plan to bring a jai-alai palace to Hoboken.

"Our people do not want to make Hoboken the gambling mecca of the Lower Hudson," Ranieri said. "We have to develop industry and housing

— for jobs and places to live in — not gambling."

"One can easily imagine what would happen to Hoboken if jai-alai came here. As it is, we can't even enforce a simple ordinance to regulate pinball machines."

"Compare it with the experience of Atlantic City," the councilman ex-

claimed. "Atlantic City has ceased to exist as a residential community — the kind of place Hoboken wants to continue to be, improving itself as a place to live in and make a living in."

"There are no pie-in-the-sky quick solutions to Hoboken's problems. If you make Hoboken a gambling mecca you bring in more

problems — those that come with gambling. We've had enough of that through the years."

"The people who have come here in recent years due to our renaissance are not gambling-oriented. Nor are the little people in the two-family and three-family and four-family houses who have remained with us."

"We'd be trading off all the values of the progress we've made in the last five years — the values of all those who have invested in this town — trading them off for an influx of the gambling industry with all the evils it brings."

Ranieri said he wished Hoboken residents would write to their as-

semblyman, Thomas A. Gallo, to let him know their views on jai-alai for the city.

He added that people who have come into the Ranieri furniture store since the news of Cappelletto's advocacy of jai-alai was made public unanimously have condemned it.

Forman dismissed by Hoboken board

Jerry Forman, who was suspended without pay early last year as director of the Hoboken Welfare Department, has been officially dismissed by the city's Local Assistance Board, according to an informed source.

The decision was made at the board's meeting Monday night, and Forman was to have been informed of the move by registered mail this morning.

The exact reasons for the dismissal were unavailable yesterday, but Forman was suspended on Jan. 11, 1977, pending the outcome of an in-

vestigation into alleged payment of dental claims for work never performed. The payments were allegedly approved by Forman.

The official charges against him were "neglect of duty, incompetence and insufficiency, violating state and federal laws in processing claims, and permitting unlawful and illegal claims for services rendered to be paid."

Forman was specifically charged at the time with "permitting false claims to be processed and filed, permitting and instructing employees to use unlawful methods of processing li-

legal claims, and permitting the disbursement of funds illegally."

Forman could not be reached for comment today.

His position has been filled by an acting director, Mary Costello, who is receiving his salary, \$16,917, according to city officials. Her position — head clerk — is being filled by a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act employee.

The Local Assistance Board held weekly hearings throughout last year on the charges against Forman, but they were closed to the public.

Hoboken school officials disagree on water meters

Two Hoboken school officials give contradictory reasons why 11 water meters in the schools have been inoperative for more than a year.

Thomas A. Gallo, school board secretary, told one Jersey Journal reporter by phone that the board had never received a letter from the city's Water Department directing it to repair the meters.

At almost the same moment, Business Manager Anthony Romano, who is also a city councilman, was telling another Jersey Journal reporter at City Hall that the letter had been received but was disregarded because it would cost "thou-

sands of dollars" to repair or replace the meters.

Helen Lodato, director of the Water Department, and Public Works Director Andrew Amato said last week that the administration had been notified six months ago that the meters were not working.

They said they sent another letter to Gallo last Thursday.

Gallo said when he received the most recent letter, it was the first time he knew that the meters were not working. The board has been receiving estimated water bills for more than a year, Mrs. Lodato said.

Gallo is also a state assemblyman. Gallo told the reporter that he

would direct the schools' plumber to look into the situation.

Romano, however, said he already looked into the matter, and that the meters were too expensive for the board to purchase.

"We've been getting estimated bills," he said, "and that will have to do for awhile. We use extremely large meters in the schools, and with our budget we just can't afford new ones."

Amato insists the schools' water consumption must be accounted for like other customers. He says he does not know whether the city is losing money on the estimated bills.

The city has more than 400 meters not working, and officials believe they account for much of the 3,000,000 gallons of water per day that do not show up on the city's meter readings.

Haack, Amato tiff resolved; overtime center of dispute

A committee of the Hoboken City Council has managed to smooth over a dispute between Public Works Director Andrew Amato and Roy Haack, acting superintendent of the city's sewage treatment plant, that for a short time had led to Haack's resignation.

"Some cracks had developed in the chain of command, but they're now welded together," reported Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of the council's water and sewage committee.

Haack resigned in protest late Friday afternoon after Amato refused to approve the payment of overtime to sewage plant employees because, he said, he never was told about it beforehand.

Haack was reported to have called a state Department of Environmental Protection official to complain about conditions at the plant at the time of his resignation including raw sewage being pumped into the river.

Haack withdrew his resignation that night after speaking with Mayor

Steve Cappiello and he said problems at the plant were corrected on Saturday. He claimed that an overtime list submitted to Amato was required because earlier shutdowns had necessitated weekend work.

Amato was reportedly furious, claiming that one man was listed as having worked 144 hours between March 24 and April 18 but Haack said it was listed as straight time and was actually 96 hours.

The mayor asked Ranieri to call a meeting of his committee and confer with Amato and Haack. The other committee members are Councilmen Anthony H. Romano and Louis Francese. Edwin Chius, business administrator, also sat in on the talks.

"The committee felt this was an administrative problem but the mayor requested that we monitor it," said Ranieri.

As a result of the session, Ranieri reported, all future overtime will be authorized by the director before it is carried out. Also, the overtime involved in the dispute will be documented and substantiated by Haack, he said.

Public servants

Do municipal recreation employees serve the public to the best advantage when they work a 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift? And when they get weekends and holidays off?

The Hoboken Recreation Commission, composed of civic minded residents, is of the opinion that few recreate at 9 o'clock in the morning. The commission would like to change the hours of the people on the public recreation payroll to make their services available late in the afternoon and on evenings and weekends.

And that goes for the recreation employees on the payroll of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, who likewise labor only weekdays and knock off when the youngsters get out of school, the commission says.

Who could disagree with the commission? If recreation workers were compelled to work at hours when their services would be most useful to the public, other municipal agencies might be required to do the same . . . and that sounds like a fine idea!

Cappiello wants to get 'Voices' premiere here

The gala world premiere . . . in Hoboken?

That will be the announcement for the movie "Voices" if Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello gets his way.

Cappiello has been talking with officials from Metro Goldwyn Mayer, the company that has been shooting most of the scenes for "Voices" in Hoboken over the past month, to get them to stage the world premiere of the film in Hoboken.

He would like the premiere, which is expected to be held in early spring of next year, to coincide with the projected opening of a twin cinema in the waterfront office tower being constructed by developer Ber-

nard Kenny at Grogan Marine View Plaza.

"I think it would be most fitting for the movie to open here in Hoboken, since the city is the backdrop for the picture," Cappiello said. "And it would be a good start for the twin cinema that's going into the new office building."

The mayor said he has only talked to MGM people from New York and was told they would have to arrange it with the corporate executives in California before making any firm plans.

"I'm hoping they can do it," Cappiello said. "It would be a big thing for Hoboken."

Hoboken need not cut pay from Towers owners

Hoboken will not have to reduce the in-lieu-of-tax payments it receives from the owners of two 25-story apartment towers at Grogan Marine View Plaza, a state official said yesterday.

The state Housing Finance Agency had asked the city to consider reducing the percentage of rents it receives in lieu of taxes from 15 to 10 percent in order to help bail out the owners of the buildings, Integrated Resources of New York.

City officials objected to the proposal, however, because, they contended, it would jeopardize similar agreements with other buildings. Instead, the city's Parking Authority will allow the owners to delay payment of \$182,000 in back taxes until it is in good enough financial condition to pay it.

No deadline would be set for making that payment, according to city officials.

The state legislature already has allocated \$3.2 million to the HFA to help finance bond payments on the

\$12.7 million mortgage it holds for the Hoboken buildings, but the HFA still has not decided whether or not it will foreclose on that mortgage.

At its monthly meeting yesterday, the HFA board of trustees heard the latest proposal by Integrated Resources for savings its mortgage, but tabled the matter until its next meeting late in May.

The owners proposed to pay \$700,000 of the approximately \$1.8 million it owes in back interest on the mortgage.

Raymond Howell, comptroller for the HFA, acknowledged that this was probably the main reason no action was taken yesterday.

"They say the agency is looking for its up-front money from the owners," Howell explained. "The agency will now have to look at the entire situation and determine whether the owners will be able to operate the buildings under this proposal."

Hoboken gets bids tonight on 20 separate contracts

The Hoboken City Council chambers will probably resemble the floor of the stock exchange tonight when the council accepts bids on 20 different contracts involving over \$200,000 in local and federal money.

The council will meet at 7, and the room is likely to be filled with vendors submitting bids on a wide variety of jobs and equipment.

The federal money is paying for the furnishing and delivery of air conditioners for Hoboken City Hall, and for the restoration and improvement of the interior and exterior of the Jefferson Street (downtown) Recreation Center, for which five contracts will be needed.

The local funds will pay for: Air conditioning and heating for the police department; police vehicles — a unit price is being sought for a later order; one car for the fire department; laboratory equipment; feeding of prisoners; communications equipment maintenance for the public

works department; auto parts for the public safety department.

Also, one power street sweeper with parts; vans for various city departments; a 16-passenger bus for the health and welfare department; sports supplies and equipment; dump trucks for public works; and portable radios for the fire department.

The council is also expected to introduce an ordinance to correct certain technical flaws in the ordinance barring parking, stopping and standing on Hudson Street from Fourth Street south to Observer

Checkup needed

Hoboken's welfare recipients — those who are able — are going to be put to work to earn their welfare payments.

It is estimated that about 300 of the city's more than 700 welfare clients will be affected. The goal is to ease them into private employment.

Who would quarrel with such a program? Obviously it benefits the welfare recipients and the community.

However, those in charge of arranging for supervision of the welfare clients' labors should be aware that some doubt has been cast on the overall effectiveness of the CETA workers, who similarly are assigned jobs to justify the payment of public money to them.

Is there not some satisfactory way to establish conclusively whether all these people actually produce?

Hoboken told to fix firehouse roof fast

Declaring an "extreme emergency," Hoboken's building inspector has ordered the city's Department of Public Works to hire a contractor immediately to repair the roof of the firehouse at Second and Jefferson Streets.

Andrew Amato, public works director, said he will have a contractor by Monday. He spent yesterday and today getting prices from several companies, he said.

James Caulfield, the inspector, told Amato yesterday that the job

could not wait while the City Council went through the bidding process on the project, which he estimated will cost \$18,000 to \$20,000.

"You have no choice," he told Amato. "That wall around the edge of the roof could collapse at any time, and the city will be liable for any injuries that occur."

The wall that is in danger of falling stands four feet above a cornice surrounding the roof. The cornice has been falling apart over the past few weeks, but the emergency was called

after Caulfield discovered that the wall is leaning out towards the street. The wall would be removed by the contractor, who then would reinforce the cornice and build a new two-foot wall above it.

The firehouse still is being used, but the sidewalk around it has been blocked off to pedestrian traffic.

The sidewalk around the building also is in dangerous condition, Caulfield said, adding he expects it to be repaired at the same time as the roof.

"It undoubtedly will be cheaper to do both jobs on one contract than to split them up," he said. "And both are emergencies — we can't wait a month for the council to put it out for bids."

Caulfield and Amato pledged to inspect the job as soon as it is completed, and hold up payment to the contractor if it is not done correctly.

"We don't have time to draw specifications before the job," Caulfield asserted. "So we just won't pay the guy if he doesn't do it right."

Hoboken welfare recipients to go to work

The state Department of Welfare and Industry is working with Hoboken officials to set up a program in which employable welfare recipients will be expected to work for the money they are given.

The recipients will be told to work at \$2.65 per hour as laborers, painters, maintenance help or similar tasks to earn their welfare checks.

The ultimate goal, Farina said, is to get the recipients jobs in private industry and get them off the welfare rolls.

James Farina, director of Health and Welfare in Hoboken, said today that the city will provide office space,

probably on the third floor of City Hall, for three state employees who will hold orientation sessions for the welfare clients.

The program will begin by June 5, according to J. Robert White, assis-

tant director of Labor and Industry's Employability Development Program.

Hoboken has over 700 welfare clients, and officials estimate that about 300 of them are able to work.

The orientations, which will last over three hours and will be given to 15 clients at a time, are designed to acquaint the recipients with the program and determine what areas they would be working in.

Hoboken has weight problem

Hoboken's superintendent of weights and measures estimates that "hundreds" of violations in city businesses developed over the four years his office had been abolished.

Joseph Iervolino, the superintendent, has been back in his post since early this year, but has spent much of his time setting up the operation and arranging files. He also took a training course given by the state to refresh himself on weights and measures regulations.

Iervolino had been the superintendent from 1968 to 1974, when the office was abolished and he became an undersheriff for the county. He lost that post to former Assemblyman Stephen Kopczynski at the start of this year, however, and his old job was reopened.

During his absence, the county weights and measures office took responsibility for enforcing regulations in Hoboken, but responded to complaints rather than making routine checks, according to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The mayor said this was the major reason for the city establishing a

part-time consumer affairs office last year.

Iervolino explained that he has been making checks at gas stations and markets to inform merchants to bring their pumps and scales up to standards, and that he would probably begin issuing summonses by the end of next month.

"I don't want to create problems for the businesses," he asserted. "I've casually let them know that we

are going to be enforcing the regulations and that they have to conform.

"If I find by next month that they haven't come up to par, then I'll start going after them," he said.

Frank Turner, the county superintendent of weights and measures, could not be reached for comment, but one of his assistants said the office does make routine checks. He referred questions about Hoboken to Turner, however.

Mind the store

What goes on with the Hoboken school system?

None of the water meters in the 11 schools works, so the water department sends estimated bills. This has been going on for more than a year.

For a board of education that has been insisting it needs more and more taxes for operating expenses, this seems inexcusable. Since nobody knows how much water the schools actually use, nobody knows whether the board is paying too much for water or too little.

The school board secretary insists the board was never notified that the meters were out of order. The business manager concedes the board was notified but says nothing was done about it because the board is so short of money.

Considering that the board members vote on payment of the bills submitted by the water department, is it not strange that no member noticed or wondered about the fact that the bills have all been estimated?

Get with it, board members. It is time to start minding the store.

CETA head raps Amato's DPW on street cleanup

George Crimmins III, director of the city's Comprehensive Employment Training Act program, blasted Public Works Director Andrew Amato today on his performance in "Operation Cleanup."

"The Public Works Department is ineffective from the director on down," Crimmins declared. "My men have been sweeping Washington, First, 11th and 14th streets, and while they haven't been great, they have been a lot better than the other streets that are supposed to be done by Public Works."

Crimmins was responding to Amato's comments earlier in the week that CETA workers are uncooperative, and didn't show up for work one day this week.

Crimmins claims Amato checked for the CETA workers early in the

Hoboken meters hitting high notes

The Hoboken Parking Authority showed an increase of nearly \$2,000 in revenues from meters last year, according to Joseph Hottendorf, executive director.

The authority collected \$68,077.98 last year, up from \$66,354.60 in 1976. The figures have apparently leveled off somewhat following dramatic increases in 1975 and 1976, Hottendorf said.

In 1974, the authority collected \$30,178.88. With Hottendorf taking over the reins in mid-1975, the income jumped that year to \$44,324.44, and went up again in 1976.

Hottendorf credits the rise to improved enforcement of parking regulations, accurate posting of signs and an efficient system of reporting and repairing broken meters.

He predicted that the revenues would increase slightly again this year because of new meters in the area of 14th and 15th streets. He added, however, that the inclement weather during the early months of the year would hold down the increase somewhat.

very few slips from division heads about lateness.

In addition to the time sheets, paging beepers will soon be purchased to keep track of certain employees who work on their own and are difficult to locate when needed.

"With some people," he explained, "the only way we can get them seems to be to hold their paycheck and make them come in to get it in person."

Cappiello agreed. "When you're trying to run a city government, it's so difficult sometimes to keep tabs on where people are working that you can never be absolutely certain that they did their work," he said.

Chius said the beepers cost between \$300 and \$400, and would be ordered for unsupervised employees such as the city plumber and certain foremen.

Stevens Tech students get cancer research grant

Motivated by New Jersey's high cancer rate, a group of students from the Stevens Institute of Technology has applied for—and received—a \$13,850 cancer research grant from the National Science Foundation's Student Originated Studies Program.

The project's aims are two-fold: to identify materials present in New Jersey which might account for the state's high incidence of cancer, and to develop a diagnostic procedure which could identify cancer in its early stages.

"Our motivation in wanting to do this research isn't difficult to understand," said Project Director Robert Traflet, Jr., a pre-med student from Elmwood Park. "As New Jersey residents and science students, we know that our state

has the highest overall mortality rate for cancer in the country, and that one out of every six of us can be expected to die from it."

In addition to Traflet, other students involved in the project are undergraduates Mary Ann Russo of Hoboken, William Krause of Secaucus, Barbara Hansen of Weehawken, Victor Pianese of Jersey City, Bettina Kahn of Fair Lawn, Bonnie Dassing of Irvington, Christopher Ward of Ridgewood, and Karen Calvert of Clifton. Graduate students are Vivian Constant of Fairview and Lynn Helmer of Weehawken.

The students, who received word of the award two weeks ago, will be honored at an on-campus luncheon tomorrow. They will work on the project full-time throughout the

summer and will probably continue on a part-time basis during the next academic year, even though the grant expires in late August. They will receive no academic credit for their work.

Taking note of New Jersey's high level of industrialization and of the consensus that environmental factors are linked to most cancer cases, the students will focus their research on industrial contaminants as well as auto and airplane emissions.

Using the computer, the students will correlate data on New Jersey's environment and cancer profile with those of states in other parts of the country.

In order to develop early detection methods for cancer as well as to understand more fully the biochemical mode

of action of carcinogenic (cancer-causing) substances, the students will analyze changes in the bile acid profile of rats exposed to certain carcinogens. They will compare those changes to ones accompanying the growth of a transplanted liver tumor.

Samples of human bile from patients suffering from gallstones and other liver diseases will be made available to the group by St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken. The students will compare any biochemical changes in the human bile with the results obtained from their experiments with the rats.

Faculty advisors for the project are Dr. Ajay K. Bose, Professor of Chemistry at Stevens and Dr. John Bullock, Associate Professor of Physiology at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.



A Hoboken fireman checks damage following a blaze in the recently-vacated Seamen's Mission.

Empty Seamen's Mission hit by 2-alarm blaze

A two-alarm blaze hit the recently-vacated Seamen's Mission in Hoboken yesterday, injuring one fireman and damaging the first floor of the four-story brick building at 60-64 Hudson St.

The fire was apparently caused by intruders who broke into the vacant building.

Fireman Anthony Kowalski pulled muscles in his right leg while fighting the fire, and was taken by ambulance to St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken. He was released a short time later and sent home, according to a spokesman for the department.

The first alarm on the fire was sounded at 11:24 a.m., with the second alarm following at 11:30. Engine companies 2, 3, and 5 and ladder company 1 responded.

It was brought under control by noon. Though it caused a lot of smoke, the fire did not do extensive damage to the building, the spokesman said.

The mission was built in 1907 by the German population of Hoboken, and had been used as a shelter for seamen, mainly retired ones.

The Hoboken Environment Committee has been trying to block demolition of the building because they want it to be designated a historic site.

The Slinger Shop Rite, however, wants to demolish the building and use the space to extend its parking lot.

The last of the seamen were evicted from the premises earlier this month.



They reigned in '77. King Marc Daniel Taglieri and Queen Tara Ann Pascale will crown their successors May 21.

Hoboken selects judges for king, queen contest

The judges for the fourth annual Hoboken King and Queen Children's Pageant were announced today. They are:

Griff O'Neil, international field director for the Miss U.S.A. and Miss Universe pageants.

Pat Barnes, an agent for the New York Ford Agency.

Kathy Dowd, a New York children's theatrical agent.

Nat Zauber, executive director of the Miss New Jersey Pageant (a preliminary for the Miss America Pageant).

Todd Foster, a male model with the Ford agency.

Guests at the Hoboken pageant will include Mary D'Arcy of Burlington County, who is Miss New Jersey 1977, according to Maurice Fitzgibbons, executive director.

Last year's Hoboken king and queen, Marc Daniel Taglieri and Tara Ann Pascale, are to crown the new heirs to the throne. Mayor Steve Cappiello will be honorary chairman.

Children 3 to 6 years old will compete. The event will take place May 21, a Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Hoboken Multi-Service Center at 2nd and Grand streets.

Tara Ann Pascale is a Korean girl, the first to break the pageant tradition of having a king of Italian and a queen of Irish origin.

The theme of this year's pageant is "Star Wars." Sets and lighting and choreography are fashioned on this motif.

The first pageant was held in July of 1975 at the "Hoboken River City Fair." Vincent Pasculli was chosen as king, Lucy Dougherty as queen.

The winners in 1976 were Barry Gastelu and Edna Marilyn Cook.

Fitzgibbons says many of the child entrants have been offered modeling and TV appearances by the judges from the child model agencies.

Nancy Quagliari is the director of the pageant.

Any objections?

The Hoboken Parking Authority's executive director says the bus stops on the city's downtown bus line are illegal and anyone ticketed for parking in one of them could beat it in court.

He proposes to remedy this situation by an ordinance, which would additionally make some changes in the Washington Street bus line, lengthening the bus stops and then eliminate half of them by having the buses stop only at every second block.

The bigger bus stops would enable riders to board and leave buses without having to walk out into the middle of the street. The skip-stop would speed up bus service and other traffic.

City blocks on Washington Street average 400 feet in length, so no one would have very far to walk. The proposal has merit. If there are objections, let the objections come forward now.

Firemen rescue pair dangling 60 feet aloft

By WILLIAM BETZ

Two workers, hanging 60 feet above ground for more than an hour, were dramatically rescued by Hoboken firemen yesterday after a scaffold they were standing on collapsed.

The workers, John Sullivan and Thomas McDonald, were working from a scaffold suspended from the roof of a building at 122 Clinton St. when a steel brace connected to the roof broke, sending them into a sudden fall. Luckily, however, fate will intervene—fate in the case of the 37-year-old Sullivan, whose arm became wedged between the broken brace and the scaffold, stopping his fall, and will in the case of the 26-year-old McDonald, who hung by his hands until the firemen arrived.

The call for help came to department headquarters at 11:11 a.m., according to Capt. James Smith. Lifelines were put around the workers within 15 minutes, but so uncertain was the position of the two men that it had been touch-and-go for some time whether efforts to reach them with the lines would succeed.

Fireman Dennis Knapp went to the roof of the building with two other men who lowered Knapp from the roof to the victims. This was a dangerous operation because the roof was slanted and ridged so that it prevented a sure footing but, after precious minutes of maneuvering, Knapp managed to secure Sullivan and the other end of the lifeline was tied to a stable structure on the roof.

Then the fireman turned his attention to saving McDonald, who was still holding on to the scaffold nearly 15 minutes after it collapsed. Getting to the man was difficult, however, since the trapped Sullivan was blocking the way and firemen did not want to risk causing the entire platform to fall by unnecessary movement. Finally, though, Knapp got a lifeline around McDonald and that, too, was secured.

Getting the men down was now the major

problem confronting the rescuers. It was impossible to haul the men onto the roof, since Sullivan's arm was still caught in the platform's rigging and McDonald was hanging below Sullivan. So ladders were brought in and the rescue continued from the ground.

Fireman Pat Greene went up the ladder, which had to be angled into a tight spot due to the location of the scaffold and the small amount of ground space available. He managed to reach McDonald and put another line around the man, at which point he slowly helped McDonald onto the ladder and then down to the ground.

The ladder was not long enough to reach Sullivan, however, and a 60-foot piece of equipment was brought onto the scene. The problem of getting Sullivan off the scaffold, where he was still trapped, was more difficult, Smith said. Because of limited space the angle of the 60-foot ladder was at nearly 90 degrees—straight up—and dislodging the man without pulling down the entire platform on the men and the ladder was a dangerous operation.

Fireman Michael Paglieri went up the ladder. He reached Sullivan and tried to pry him free of the scaffold brace with a claw hammer, but the tool did not give him the leverage he needed to free the victim. He tried again with a crowbar and this time he succeeded. The danger of the scaffold coming loose and sending Sullivan, Paglieri, and the ladder hurtling to the ground had passed. The men returned to the ground and safety.

Sullivan, of 9 Journal Square, Jersey City, was taken to St. Mary Hospital, where examination of his arm and shoulder revealed no fracture. The man said he would consult his own doctor for possible treatment. McDonald, of 231 Lembeck Ave., also Jersey City, refused medical attention at the scene and also said he would see his own doctor.

The entire drama took just over an hour to play out, with everybody back on the ground by 12:10 p.m., officials said.

HIGH DRAMA IN HOBOKEN



Dispatch Photos by Peter S. Maza

Two workers were trapped yesterday 60 feet above the ground in Hoboken when the scaffold on which they were working collapsed. Firemen made a dramatic rescue. Story on page 10.

Hoboken's rats rise again year after funds ended

By Pat Ford

Hoboken's rodent population is increasing and may return to a dangerous level by the end of the year because of a lack of preventive programs, according to the former director of a defunct federal rodent control program.

George Guzman, who now heads the energy conservation program for Hopes Inc., Hoboken's anti-poverty program, had directed the federally-funded Urban Rodent Control Program for eight years until the funds were cut off last June.

When the rodent control program started in August 1980, the city had a 5 percent exterior rat infestation level. This was reduced to .8 percent by last June, he said.

"Give it six months to a year and the problem will be back to what it

was when the program started," Guzman said.

Patricia Mitten, the city's health officer, said there is a sanitary inspector assigned to handling complaints, but that there is insufficient manpower in the Board of Health to do much preventive maintenance of the problem.

"It's a big job," she admitted. "I could stand some help with more personnel."

Mayor Steve Cappiello and Health and Welfare Director James Farina, when asked whether anything was being done to prevent a return of the rat infestation, said they had discussed it and were considering ways to combat the rodents. There is nothing concrete being proposed now, however.

Mrs. Mitten said one of the reasons for the increasing number of

rats is an increase in their food supply.

"The big thing is garbage—they love it," she explained. "The garbage collections are made three days a week now instead of every day, as it was until last year. We've also got to prevent garbage dumping and use of garbage cans without lids—that's heaven for rats."

The city is only responsible for "exterior" rats—those in sewers, alleys, backyards or empty lots, Mrs. Mitten explained. The landlords are responsible for rats in their buildings.

That was the advantage of the federal program, Guzman asserted. It not only provided for education of residents on the importance of eliminating garbage and dumping, but it attacked the problem with cleanups, exterminators baiting the rats in basements and exterior areas,

and used inspectors to actively enforce the codes against rats.

Guzman praised Housing Inspector Michael Curcio and his assistants who got their start in the rodent control program, but said their workload and that of the sanitary inspectors is too heavy to allow for preventing the proliferation of rodents.

The Urban Rodent Control Program was to have been a five-year project, with the city gradually taking over the load. The program was extended to eight years, but the city never picked it up.

And it's unlikely the city will return to a program as extensive as the federally funded one, Cappiello admitted.

"Even when we get our own program going," he said, "there's no way we will be able to afford anything as sophisticated as the federal one."

Hoboken plans lien on property destroyed by fire

Hoboken plans to place a lien on the property where a five-story tenement house at 70 Washington St. was destroyed by fire last weekend in an attempt to recover the \$11,000 owed to the contractor who demolished and cleared out the gutted building, officials said today.

The \$11,000 bill was received yesterday from Ambrosio and Sons Contractors of Jersey City, which used a crane and bulldozer to clear the site. They are also supposed to put up a 6-foot cyclone fence in front of the now-empty lot.

The money will be paid to the contractor from the city's demolition fund, which currently stands at \$29,000, according to Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Once the bill is paid, he said, the lien will be put on the property, which is owned by Jean Devlin of North Bergen, according to city records.

If the bill is not paid then, the property will probably be foreclosed on, Chius said.

Officials are hoping the city has better luck than in the case of the 11th Street fire that killed 11 persons in 1973.

The cost of clearing and demolishing that one came to \$15,000, but the city was unable to get the money from the landlord.

The city is counting on getting this reimbursement, however, because the property on Washington St., which is across from the soon-to-be-renovated Erie Lackawanna Terminal area, is much more valuable than \$11,000. Thus, it would be in the landlord's interest to avoid foreclosure, officials believe.

Mrs. Devlin was unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, burial was scheduled today for Mrs. Julia Rodriguez and her 11-year-old son, Jesus Santiago, who died in the blaze.

The bodies were flown to Puerto

Puerto Rico, after a wake arranged by Las Americas Funeral Home, Jersey City. The two were members of the Pentecostal Church, 105 Jackson St., Hoboken.

Rita Bohse, 50, who received third degree burns on her legs and back in the fire, is still listed in critical condition at St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken.

The first Ward Block Association set up a "Fire Victim Relief Center" in the basement of St. John's Lutheran Church, 300 Bloomfield St., according to Thomas Newman, president.

The group is seeking any clothing or household appliances and furnishings residents care to donate. The center will be open from 9 a.m. to noon every day this week through Saturday, Newman said.

In addition, Mayor Steve Cappiello has assigned a secretary to take calls from anyone with donations, and from anyone with rooms to let to the fire victims. The number to call is 430-2019.

The Red Cross is also seeking donations for its "Washington Street Fire Fund." They should be addressed to 612 Bergen Ave., Jersey City.

Hoboken trains seniors to be fire inspectors

By Pat Ford

Six Hoboken seniors are receiving training in fire prevention and safety as part of a federally-funded program to employ them as special fire inspectors.

The group started this week on the four-week training course conducted by Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tremetiedi and Fireman James Monaco.

They will eventually work 20 hours a week at the minimum wage of \$2.65 per hour and will be inspecting

homes of other seniors, then making suggestions on fire prevention.

Tremetiedi is training officer for the Hoboken Fire Department; Monaco is assigned to community relations.

The program is sponsored by

Hopes Inc., the city's anti-poverty agency, which will pay the salaries through a \$172,000 annual grant from the federal government to employ the elderly.

There are 67 seniors employed under the grant, and eventually some of them will be reassigned to this program if it works well, according to E. Norman Wilson Jr., Hopes' executive director.

The group will begin work next month, Wilson said. In the meantime, they are being paid while in training.

The main function will be to check homes of seniors for overloaded sockets, frayed wires, windows that don't allow emergency escape and other hazardous conditions, Wilson explained.

The six people in the pilot project are Theodore Street, Mary Stillman, Albert Schreiber, James Dalton, Maria Porra and Beatrice Astringer.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, who is also public safety director, is enthusiastic about the project. "Wilson and I have discussed the possibility of doing something similar in the Police Department as well," he said.

"There's nothing definite yet, but the idea has potential," he continued. "They could work in the area of crimes against the elderly."

Anyone can have his home inspected by the new group, Cappiello explained. He urged the city's seniors to take advantage of the service.

Bus stops in Hoboken are illegal!

Motorists ticketed at certain bus stops in Hoboken could beat the tickets in court because the cross-town bus stops have never been approved by the City Council or the state, according to the state attorney general's office.

See Editorial:
ANY OBJECTIONS?
On Page 16

cording to the Hoboken Parking Authority's executive director.

Joseph W. Hottendorf has submitted a list of recommendations to City Council members in which he lists 35 stops that should be established by ordinance for the cross-town bus line.

"The City of Hoboken has never approved any bus stops for the use of the cross-town bus," Hottendorf notes,

"and the state never approved them either."

Daniel J. Puliti, supervisor of traffic investigations for the state Department of Transportation, said that if the state has never approved a bus stop, "the regulation would have no force or effect since approval is required by state law."

Parking in a bus stop carries a fine of \$5 in Hoboken. City officials could not recall anyone being cited a ticket because the stop was illegal.

In his report, Hottendorf also points out four bus stops that have been used for many years — even before the cross-town line was established by referendum in 1966 — but were never approved formally.

Hottendorf also suggests a "skip-stop" system for Washington Street,

the city's main thoroughfare. The skip-stop pattern means having stops at every other intersection instead of every one, the present system.

He also recommends lengthening the stops on Washington Street to 85 feet from the 50 feet most of them are now. The Washington Street stops do have state approval, and the city has approved them and established the length at 75 feet, but they were never set that long.

Hottendorf cautioned, however, that motorists probably could not beat a ticket at the Washington Street stops, even though they are technically illegal, because they have been approved by the state.

Hottendorf contends that the skip-stop pattern on Washington Street would provide a net gain of 36 parking meter spaces.

Establishment of the legal stops for the cross-town line would eliminate approximately 23 spaces, he adds, but most of these would be lost in areas where parking is not as scarce as in the shopping district on Washington Street.

"The skip-stop pattern is more beneficial because it expedites traffic, provides for additional parking in congested areas, and increases efficiency of the bus line," Puliti said.

Hottendorf also called attention in his report to a dangerous situation involving the U-turns made by Washington Street buses at 14th Street.

Hoboken yields to state, 'temporary cops' will go

Hoboken will finally comply with the mandate from the state attorney general's office to relieve special policemen of official police duties.

The city has three "temporary policemen" on the payroll now, but Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that they will be dismissed "soon." He gave no specific date for the action.

Assistant Attorney General Theodore A. Winard issued an opinion to the examining board of the state Civil Service Commission last Dec. 1 stating that special police should not perform the duties normally handled by regular officers.

On Dec. 12, he sent a letter to all chiefs in the state advising them of

the ruling and directing them to conform.

But Hoboken balked at the action because, according to Cappiello, who is also director of public safety, "We liked the work these men did, especially in improving our relations with the Hispanic community."

Two of the men — Angel Alicea and Martino Perez — are Hispanic. The other temporary policeman is David Matthews.

The men worked on street patrol as part of the tactical patrol force. They received slightly less than the

starting patrolman's salary, which is \$10,910 per year.

When the order was given there were five temporary patrolmen, but one left and another was dismissed for other reasons, Cappiello said.

The Civil Service Commission has been sending frequent letters to the city trying to get it to conform with the new policy.

"They're always sending us things like that," Cappiello said. "They don't bother us."

The mayor said he is trying to work out an arrangement with Hudson County Sheriff John Gillen to get the men jobs as sheriff's aides.

"I think it's important to keep them working in police jobs because they are good," he explained. "I understand the county is seeking Hispanic people for police work."

Sewage plant study asked by Hoboken

Hoboken is inviting a management firm to look over the city's sewage treatment plant and make proposals for more efficient maintenance and operation of the plant.

The firm, Envirotech, based in California with an office in Ramsey, was discovered by Councilman Robert A. Ranieri last year at a conference of the National League of Cities in Denver.

If hired, the firm would take over complete operation of the plant, using its own employees and techniques. The arrangement would be similar to the contract with Kinney Systems for operation of the parking authority's garages at Grogan Marine View Plaza.

Ranieri said the company would be willing to send representatives to the plant for an analysis of its needs, with proposals for better operation and efficient quality.

Mayor Steve Cappiello confirmed today that the idea has been discussed,

most recently last Monday when acting plant superintendent Roy Haack and Public Works Director Andrew Amato clashed over overtime for the crew at the facility.

"We're inviting this company in to make a presentation," the mayor explained. "We want to know what it can do and how much it would cost."

Cappiello said he did not know when the company representatives would come. He did not want to comment on the possibility of hiring the company until he hears its proposals.

Ranieri seemed enthusiastic about the prospect.

"This would allow us to have highly trained professionals to run the plant," he asserted. "It would lower our administrative costs, provide fixed operation and maintenance costs and guarantee effluent quality. I don't know how much it costs, but if it's not much over what we're paying now, it seems like a good move."

Amato and Haack were unavailable for comment.

Cop to patrol thief-ridden 'Bike Path'

Hoboken's much-heralded "Bike Path" has turned into a haven for hard-hearted bike heisters, according to one city councilman, and a uniformed walking patrolman has been assigned to cover the area from now on.

Councilman Thomas Kennedy said today that he has received eight different complaints about bicycles being stolen from residents who used the path set aside on River Road on Sundays.

Starting Sunday, Police Chief George W. Crimmins said, a man will patrol the length of River Road while it is closed to traffic for the bike route.

Crimmins noted, however, that while he is not doubting Kennedy's word, his department has received only two complaints of stolen bicycles.

"If there's a problem," he asserted, "we'll try to eliminate it with the walking patrolman."

Kennedy said some people didn't report the thefts "because they think the police won't bother checking into the thefts. Some of them just can't be bothered. They figure the bike is gone so there is no sense reporting the incident."

"I tell them that they should report these things, but what can you do?" he added.

Crimmins said the chains will be up to block all vehicular traffic from the path this Sunday. There had been some problems last month with motorists moving the blockades and driving onto the street.

The chains will be up at Fourth, fifth and 11th streets, he said. Emergency police and fire vehicles will have keys to get through the chains if necessary, he explained.

Tenants ask better security from Hoboken landlords

Tenant leaders from the area of the buildings evacuated by Hoboken's weekend fire are meeting today at 5 p.m. with city officials and owners of the tenements to demand more police protection and stricter enforcement of building and fire codes.

Stephen St. Hilaire, an attorney from Hudson County Legal Services, said he met with the tenant leaders last night to organize the list of demands to be made today to Police Chief George Crimmins, Fire Chief James Houn and Housing Inspector Michael Curcio.

Citing a nine-page list of state housing violations at 70 Washington St., the building destroyed by Saturday's fire that killed two and injured six, St. Hilaire called for an immediate crackdown on the landlords.

The gutted building, along with 68 Washington St., which sustained heavy water damage, are owned by Hoboken Realty, listed at 70 Hudson St., but apparently owned by Jean Devlin of North Bergen. The firm is listed as the owner of at least 11 such tenement houses in that square block, which includes Bloomfield Street.

City tax records show the buildings to be in the care of Samuel Caspert, mortgagee. Neither Mrs.

Devlin nor Caspert were available for comment.

St. Hilaire said the group also will demand a walking patrol for the area from Crimmins.

Meanwhile, police and fire officials continue their investigation into the fire, but have apparently been unable to find any leads that will prove it was set. Charred samples have been sent to U.S. Laboratories in Hoboken, but results will not be in for at least a week, according to Houn.

Officials are almost certain that the blaze began in the basement of the building, but the cause is still listed as undetermined.

The city kept Washington Street closed from Observer Highway to Newark Street most of the day yesterday while CETA crews swept the street and sidewalks, and the Ambrosio and Sons Co. completed demolition of 70 Washington St.

The street is open today. Services for Mrs. Julia Rodriguez, 50, and her 11-year-old son, Jesus Santiago, who were killed in the blaze, will be in the Pentecostal Church this afternoon and tonight for a wake, and will be flown to Puerto Rico tomorrow for the funeral and burial.

One of those injured in the fire remains in St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken. Rita Bohse, 50, who suffered third degree burns on her legs and back, is listed in critical condition, a hospital spokesman said.

Anna Martinez, 32, who jumped from a third-floor window to escape the flames, was released from the hospital late yesterday.

Ten families were still staying in the American Hotel last night, according to Joseph Lecowitch, Jersey

City chapter director for the Red Cross. Six families who stayed there Sunday night found relatives or friends to take them in, he said.

The Red Cross has committed \$2,500 to the relief effort, while Hudson County Welfare has allocated \$6,000 for the families. The funds cover clothing, food, lodging, and the expense of finding new permanent quarters for the residents of 70 Washington St., the gutted building.

James Young, Hudson County Welfare director, said that 19 families — 19 adults and 60 children — among the residents of 68, 70 and 72 Washington St. are on welfare, and thus are the responsibility of that agency.

The owner of 72 Washington St., John Casazza of Bergenfield, already has contracted for repairs at his building, officials said, and it should be habitable in a week.

The Red Cross and Welfare will put up needy families from those buildings until repairs are done.

For the non-welfare families, there is little hope of receiving relocation money for moving, according to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

"The state says fires are exempt from relocation requirements," Cappiello declared, "and we won't be giving relocation allowances to any victims of the fire. They can go to the Red Cross, Welfare or their insurance companies."

Lecowitch said the Red Cross used its own reserve to put up the \$2,500, and that a "Washington Street Fire Fund" is being set up to get some more money. Donations should be addressed to Washington Street Fire Fund, 612 Bergen Ave., Jersey City.

Seaman's Home fate rides on ruling

If Superior Court Judge Frederick C. Kentz Jr. rules that the Hoboken Environment Committee does not have standing in a suit to save the old Lutheran Seamen's Home, its fight will be lost.

The judge has tentatively set May 30 for hearing on whether any governmental agency — city, state or federal — is interested in preserving the building at 60-64 Hudson St. He reserved decision yesterday on the committee's claim it has standing (the right to bring the action). He continued a temporary restraint against demolition of the building in the interim.

Kentz said he did not know whether he will rule on the standing issue by May 30. (Informed legal sources say a ruling against the committee would end the case and there would be no need of a further hearing.)

The owner wants to sell the building so it can be demolished and used as a parking lot for a supermarket.

Both Mrs. Helen Manogue, the committee's chairman, and Joseph Barry, a lawyer and developer, testified about preserving the structure, but the court ruled they were not qualified as experts.

Lawrence Campagna, director of the county planning office, advised Cappiello last week that to change the maximum tax abatement would only require a simple resolution by the City Council, not an amendment to the ordinance.

Cappiello said he is having the Law Department check into the matter before submitting the plan to the council.

"I want to do it, though," said the mayor. "I want to do anything we can to help the residents of Hoboken improve the housing."

Anticipating opposition to the introduction of bottle deposit legislation, Cappiello said the argument that a bottle bill will result in a massive loss of jobs is unrealistic since jobs will be created to help accommodate the recycling of bottles and other returnable containers.

Whatever rat population there is in Hoboken is probably concentrated on the west side of town, Cappiello said.

When they make an arrest in plainclothes.

"The program is good for police morale," Totaro said. "After all, everybody (on the force) wants to be a detective."

When a sufficient number of patrolmen are on hand, two men are assigned to plainclothes duty. They are kept on the detail for two days, after which they are replaced by two other officers in a similar capacity.

Statistics for the past three months speak well for the program's success in preventing and solving crimes against property. In April, for example, there were 55 burglaries reported in Hoboken. Eleven of those cases resulted in arrests, an improvement over past performances that Totaro credits directly to the new program.

Recent arrests have also been made by officers involved in the program for drug possession, Totaro said, citing the arrest Wednesday of a man charged with possession of 71 marijuana cigarettes.

In addition, a man was arrested in a knifing last week by special detail police, Totaro said.

Hoboken property crime slashed

By WILLIAM BETZ

A new anti-crime program of the Hoboken Police Department has cut down the number of criminal incidents in the Mile Square City by as much as 75 percent, according to Capt. Patrick Totaro.

The program, which employs police officers from the ranks of the uniformed patrol force in teams of two, provides plainclothes patrol of the city in unmarked cars.

The program began three months ago and,

since then, the number of burglaries has decreased significantly and the percentage of apprehensions for crimes against property has increased dramatically, Totaro said.

Preventing and solving crimes against property are the major goals of the program, according to the captain. Included in this category are burglary, robbery, and vandalism.

But plainclothes cops have also achieved a measure of success in apprehending drug-law violators and people accused of violent crimes like assault, Totaro said.

"The mayor, in his capacity as director of public safety, is very pleased with the results of the program," said Police Chief George Crimmins.

"The program has paid off," Crimmins added. "I credit Capt. Totaro and the uniformed patrolmen for its success."

Totaro emphasized that the patrolmen involved in the program are not involved in the activities of the city's detective bureau, although they are sometimes thought to be detectives



Mayor Cappiello
No more 'throwaways'

Bottle deposit law urged

By WILLIAM BETZ

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello intends to ask local state legislators this week to introduce a bill requiring deposits on bottles in order to cut down on the amount of litter blighting New Jersey.

The mayor announced this decision yesterday as he was describing efforts on the part of the city to battle scattered waste in what he called "an anti-rat campaign."

The city has recently been the subject of reports of a renewed rat population. Partly as the result of those reports, Cappiello said, the city is undertaking a garbage and litter crackdown.

Throwaway bottles and cans are a major element of Hoboken's garbage problem, the mayor said, which is restricted for the most part to the city's western boundary. A deposit law would go a long way toward solving the problem, Cappiello said.

The mayor said he intends to contact Sen. William Musto and Assemblymen Christopher Jackman and Thomas Gallo to consider bottle deposit legislation.

The city is also planning to study state regulations on scavenger garbage collection operations, the mayor said. If the laws are not adequate to prevent scavenger activity on the city's western edge, which is primarily industrial, the city will write its own legislation to restrict the activity of this kind of business.

Whatever rat population there is in Hoboken is probably concentrated on the west side of town, Cappiello said.

Anticipating opposition to the introduction of bottle deposit legislation, Cappiello said the argument that a bottle bill will result in a massive loss of jobs is unrealistic since jobs will be created to help accommodate the recycling of bottles and other returnable containers.

Hoboken roots nurture Jesuit regional provincial

By Robert O'Brien

The Rev. Vincent M. Cooke grew up in Hoboken, attended Our Lady of Grace grammar school and Xavier High School in New York.

On July 1, Father Cooke will become the regional provincial for the Jesuit province covering all of New York, northern New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the Marshall and Caroline Islands and Nigeria in Africa.

The regional provincial is the boss of all the Jesuit priests in the province. Administratively he is comparable to a cardinal.

But when a Jesuit becomes a regional provincial, his priestly order does not change and he is appointed for a fixed term of office, usually six years.

Father Cooke, who is 41, still visits Hoboken every week to see his 80-year-old mother. He is encouraged by the building and rehabilitation he sees taking place in his old home town.

"I have fond memories of my childhood in Hoboken," he said. "I'm happy to see the town progressing."

But Father Cooke has been a busy man since leaving Hoboken in 1954 to enter the Society of Jesus. He spent 13 years studying and teaching before he was ordained in 1967.

"They have cut it down to 11 years now," he explained.

His studies did not end with his ordination. He continued with courses in philosophy in Europe. He attended Woodstock College in Maryland and received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Father Cooke attended Yale Divinity School, where he earned his masters in theology. From 1971 to 1976 he taught philosophy at Fordham University.

By 1976 he was the vice-provincial for education which made him the religious superior for the four Jesuit colleges in the



Rev. Vincent M. Cooke
Fond of Hoboken

province: St. Peter's in Jersey City, Fordham in New York, Canisius in Buffalo, N.Y., and LeMoyne in Syracuse.

What, Father Cooke was asked, will he do when he finishes his six years as regional provincial?

"I don't know," he answered, "that will be up to the next provincial."

In other words, Father Cooke was asked, somebody who is now subordinate to you will become your superior?

"That," he said, "is one of the charms of Society government."

But, Father Cooke hopes to return to teaching.

"Many times I have longed for the consolation of philosophy," Father Cooke said, but he was smiling when he said it.

The selection of a provincial is a long

and elaborate procedure. All the Jesuits in the province, more than 1,000, are questioned and asked to make suggestions.

After a long series of conferences and reviews by panels of experts, the number is narrowed to 30. Further review and more questions reduces it to eight and finally three are selected.

From these three priests, the Provincial General, the head of all Jesuits in the world, makes the final determination.

Father Cooke will operate from Fordham University. He will, in the course of his term, visit the province's missions in the Marshall and Caroline Islands in the South Pacific and make at least one trip to Nigeria in Africa.

He said the Society has a difficult time getting missionaries into Nigeria because of the anti-American feeling in the country.

Nevertheless, he said he was looking forward to visiting that country. Father Cooke is not a man who avoids trouble.

When it comes to church teaching and dogma, Father Cooke considers himself "conservative." He considers abortion morally wrong and divorce as a violation of God's law.

As the regional provincial, Father Cooke hopes to assist in the creative response to the changes in the church since the Vatican Council.

He hopes to expand the dialogue between Jesuits and other priests, between Jesuits and lay people, and between Jesuits and other religious people.

Father Cooke is a modest man who makes little of his achievements. He dresses in conservative civilian clothes except on "formal occasions." He leads a quiet and holy life.

But he looks forward with great pleasure to his weekly visits to Hoboken where, one gathers, he still anticipates a good home-cooked meal.

"It's a pretty town. I love it," Father Cooke said.

Hospitality Day to make Hoboken Yule brighter

Santa will be smiling down on parking for the event. Saturday morning garbage pickups for the merchants will be made at 5 a.m. that day, he said, so stores should put out their garbage late Friday rather than Saturday morning, as usual.

There will be no parking on Washington from First to Seventh, and Bloomfield and Hudson streets from Second to Seventh after 7 a.m. that day. Signs will be posted, and violators will be towed.

The city's street sweepers, if available, will sweep at 7 a.m. If they are not working, employees of the city's Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program will manually sweep the streets, Hottendorf said.

In addition, Hottendorf is asking merchants to sweep debris in front of their stores into the gutter as the day nears completion. The sweepers will then pick it up around 5 p.m.

After checking into it, he explained, he discovered that the bureau could get a credit for returning the used set and purchase bigger and more elaborate decorations with the additional cash it will raise from merchants' fees for Hospitality Day.

On Hospitality Day, Washington Street will be closed to traffic from First to Seventh streets and merchants will display their goods outside, amid art shows, marching bands, displays by different groups in the city and other fanfare.

Joseph Hottendorf, who is coordinating the day for the city, announced plans regarding cleaning and

Hoboken cops will be back on motorcycles

Hoboken police will soon be riding two-wheel motorcycles again for the first time since the 1960s.

The City Council tomorrow night is expected to award a \$21,200 contract to the Bergen Honda Co. of Lodi for eight 1978 motorcycles.

The purchase of the cycles was recommended by Mayor Steve Cappiello, public safety director, who felt they will give police greater mobility in patrolling the city. He said he also checked with Jersey City and found it was pleased with the performance and the economy of the models.

Bergen Honda was the lowest bidder for the contract.

The council also is expected to give Patrick Severino repossession of the old Grand Hotel at Third and Hudson streets to turn it into a Victorian-style restaurant and efficiency apartments. The council will give its approval, Councilman Robert Ranieri said, if Severino can produce a letter of commitment from Eastern American Mortgage Co. that he will receive approximately \$250,000 for the renovation work.

Ranieri said Severino also must produce the mortgage seven days after tomorrow's meeting and work must begin 10 days after that. Ranieri pointed out that Severino twice defaulted in carrying out the renovation work and the city now holds the title to the property.

The council also is expected to reaffirm a commitment between the Hoboken Parking Authority and the New Jersey Home Finance Agency. Under the arrangement the authority will temporarily waive \$165,000 due in parking fees from the owners of Griggin Marine View Plaza apartments. The move is to permit the owners, Integrated Resources, time to build up sufficient capital to meet mortgage commitments.

Smoke billows from the windows of 70 Washington St., Hoboken, as the building is destroyed by a general alarm blaze which killed a woman and child.

Hoboken fire kills woman and child

A Hoboken woman and her 11-year-old son were killed and six others were injured in a general alarm blaze in Hoboken Saturday that routed 30 families from three 5-story tenement houses.

The cause of the fire is listed as undetermined, but Fire Chief James Houn said the arson squad is investigating and has sent samples of some charred materials for laboratory examination to determine if the fire was set.

The first alarm on the blaze at 70 Washington St. was sounded at 4:38 p.m., with the general alarm following 12 minutes later.

The brick tenement house at 70 Washington St. was totally destroyed by the fire, while 68 and 72 Washington St. sustained heavy water damage. Residents in all three buildings were evacuated.

Deputy Fire Chief Edward McDonald was among the first to arrive, and he said people were jumping out of windows of all the buildings.

Around 11 p.m. Saturday, however, officials discovered that Julia Rodriguez, 50, and her son, Jesus, 11, weren't lucky enough to make it to a front window in their

fourth-floor apartment at 70 Washington. Apparently trying to get to a rear fire escape, Mrs. Rodriguez and her son were overcome by the smoke and crouched behind a water heater in the kitchen.

Their bodies, burned and charred beyond recognition, were finally found at 4 p.m. yesterday. The Hudson County medical examiner is conducting the autopsies today.

Havoc reigned at the fire scene Saturday. As firemen arrived, residents were running up and down the street screaming, flames were shooting out of the door and windows on the ground floors at 70 Washington St. and people were jumping out of windows. An infant was dropped out to a man below, and a 32-year-old woman jumped from a third floor window.

"It was a really bad one," McDonald said softly yesterday. "By the time we arrived, 70 Washington was completely involved. We just had to keep it from spreading and get all the people out."

All off-duty firemen were called in, and all eight pieces of equipment available were sent to the scene. Units from Jersey City and Union City were called in to stand by at headquarters in case any other fires broke out.

Fire Capt. Alan Brause, 38, rushed to the top floor at 72 Washington St. to stop the fire from extending too far into the building. He was not wearing a gas mask, however, and he suffered smoke inhalation. He was the only fireman injured.

The other injured were: Rita Bobae, 50, of 70 Washington, third degree burns on both legs and her back, and lacerations on her face; Anna Martinez, 32, who firemen said jumped from her third floor apartment at 70 Washington, abrasions in right hip and thigh; Catherine Morales, one month old, smoke inhalation; Josephine Veraglia, 63, of 72 Washington, smoke inhalation and nausea; Nerida Avilez, 28, 70 Washington, burns on right shoulder and hand.

All were treated at St. Mary's Hospital, and all except Mrs. Bobae and Mrs. Martinez were released. Those two are in stable condition.

The fire blazed fiercely for two hours Saturday night, and was over by midnight. It was not listed as being under control until 8 a.m. yesterday, however.

Ambrosio and Sons Contractors of Jersey City were hired yesterday to clear out the debris and knock down the remaining walls at 70 Washington St.

The evacuated families were taken to relatives or put up in the American Hotel at 80 River St., police said. The Red Cross said it's sheltering 16 families, a total of 70 people.

A large crowd was still milling about on closed-off Washington Street yesterday as the crane and bulldozer crashed through the remains of the burned-out building. Among them were residents who screamed as they viewed the charred remains of the mother and her boy were taken from the ruins.

Residents of 68 and 72 Washington St. won't learn until sometime today whether they'll be able to return to their homes, according to Joseph Lecowitch, director of the Jersey City Red Cross.

Cases soar at Hoboken consumer office

Business is booming at the Hoboken Consumer Affairs office, one of the oldest established bureaus in the area for consumer complaints.

Audrey Borg, director, said today that the office's caseload in the first four months of this year has almost matched that handled all of last year.

Mrs. Borg works alone. She is a part-time employee, working from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The municipal budget is responsible for only \$2,600 for her salary.

But already this year she has handled well over 100 cases, compared to approximately 130 last year.

"It just makes me feel good to have people come in here and thank me for getting things accomplished

for them. It makes the job a pleasure."

The consumer affairs office was set up six years ago, and Mrs. Borg has been director for a year. She handles any case involving a Hoboken store or a Hoboken resident—even if that resident's problem is with an out-of-town firm.

A typical case occurred recently with a Hoboken couple who bought a used car from a Jersey City dealer. As soon as they got home, they realized the car wasn't running right.

"You hit a pothole and ruined the transmission," the dealer told the couple. "There's nothing I can do."

When their lawyer called the dealer, he still wouldn't budge.

"Take me to court if you want to," he reportedly told the lawyer, "but I'm not doing anything on that car." Then they went to Mrs. Borg. A week later, the dealer had repaired the car.

"I found a little note on the back of the warranty and pointed it out to the dealer," she says now with a smile. "It left no doubt that the transmission was covered. His attitude changed in a hurry."

Another recent case involved a Hoboken upholsterer whose allegedly sloppy work and poor service had caused numerous complaints from consumers.

Mrs. Borg called him in for a hearing last month to spell out to him the obligations he has to his customers. "I haven't received a complaint since," she declared.

"Most people are bluffers," she contends, "and if you call their bluff, they'll back down."

"You just have to keep good records, read warranties carefully, and be willing to stand up for your rights."

Or, have someone like Audrey Borg to stand up for you.

Hoboken buying radios for cops

Hoboken is planning to purchase 35 portable radios for its walking patrolmen with the state picking up the tab of approximately \$40,000.

The City Council is scheduled to receive bids on the radios at its May 17 meeting. It approved specifications for the purchase last week.

The radios, which cost approximately \$135 more than the models used now, are "much more powerful" and slightly heavier than current

models, according to Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Chius displayed a sample radio in his office last week, pointing out it has a detachable battery which can be recharged easily, and a remote microphone which can be attached to the patrolman's collar so he can transmit without taking the radio off his belt.

The new equipment would be paid for by the state Safe and Clean

Neighborhood Program, Chius explained.

One of the stipulations for the grant approval, he said, is that each radio be assigned to a specific patrolman, who would then be responsible for maintaining it properly.

The city has more than 40 walking patrolmen. Some who are assigned to traffic duty on Washington Street or other areas near headquarters will be given the best of the old radios, Chius said.

New owner scrambles to save Grand Hotel

By WILLIAM BETZ

By September, 1977, Hoboken's Grand Hotel was supposed to be a tax-producing business. It wasn't.

An extension was granted by the city, which had a special agreement with the new owner, Pat Severino, for another six months.

In February of this year the city reclaimed the building. Tomorrow the city council will vote on a resolution to grant another six-month extension.

"Significant progress" towards renovation of the old building was due to begin by Dec. 1, 1977, or the city would take control of the hotel, the title to which the city continued to hold. Work did not begin by that date, according to city officials.

Even when the city agreed to give the Severino the remaining three months he failed to do so officials say.

Severino has promised he will take advantage of the new extension. He says

he has a commitment from the Eastern American Mortgage Co. for a loan of a quarter of a million dollars.

If the mortgage is not secured within 10 days from tomorrow's new city-owner agreement, the deal will be voided. Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri said yesterday.

The Grand Hotel, at 232 Hudson St., is considered by Hoboken to be a landmark building, although it has no official status as such. The history of the building, represented by 10 oil-on-canvas murals depicting waterfront scenes, which were left by a previous owner, accurately reflects the history of Hoboken over the past 100 years, according to Ranieri.

Severino plans either to establish a steak house-type restaurant on the hotel's main floor or to lease the commercial space to interested businesses. He also intends to bring back the residential character of the 85-year-old building by putting in 16 residential

units, he said. Four of the units—10 one-bedroom apartments and six studios, or efficiency units—may be reserved as hotel rooms, but right now Severino is uncertain about the feasibility of that idea.

Taxes on the Grand Hotel, for which Severino paid \$37,000 at auction last year, had been paid regularly until the first quarter of this year, according to Severino. He attributes his slowness in paying up to date taxes to his uncertain position regarding the city's plans for the building.

Now, he says, "I am tickled pink that the city has agreed to go along with me so I can finish this thing by November. I'll be renting apartments in September and in November I should be done with the renovations on residential property."

Architect John Boylan, who is working with him on the renovation, has applied to the state Department of Environmental Protection for historic site status for the Grand Hotel, Severino said.

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Hoboken ABC gets tough on hours

The Hoboken Alcoholic Beverage Control board has made good on its promise to crack down on owners who keep their bars open beyond the legal closing time.

The board this week suspended the license of Felix Rodriguez, owner of Mi Bohio, 280 Ninth St., for a total of 30 days for two violations of the closing time law.

It is also expected to take action

against another tavern owner at its next meeting May 22. Marco Sertich, owner of Lika Restaurant, 308 Park Ave., pleaded guilty Monday to a charge that he remained open 20 minutes later than allowed on Jan. 28.

Rodriguez, whom officials called "a constant violator," will have his license suspended from Monday to May 25 for staying open 10 minutes overtime Feb. 24, and from May 25 to

June 14 for being open 27 minutes late on March 9.

The actions by the board came two weeks after it had warned, through its secretary, Anthony Amoroso, that it would crack down on taverns that stay open past the legal hour.

The legal hour is 2 a.m. weeknights and 3 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Amoruso to head world panel

Hoboken Municipal Clerk Anthony Amoroso has been named chairman of the Election Administration Committee of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Amoruso, who has served as city clerk in Hoboken for 13 years, will lead discussions on election processes in various parts of the country when

the IIMC holds its annual conference May 21-25 at the Biltmore Hotel, Manhattan.

Amoruso has also been selected as a resource panelist for a seminar on "Programs Encouraging Voter Registration," and another on "Encouraging People to Vote."

These discussions will focus on

the role of the municipal clerk in getting out the vote, election administration as it pertains to the municipal clerk, and voting tabulation by computers.

The conference is expected to attract about 1,000 clerks from across the country.



The state Senate will decide tomorrow whether the Grand Hotel will remain under its new ownership until it can start returning taxes.

HUD's team OKs moving up rehab project in Hoboken

The rehabilitation of 200 units of tenement housing in Hoboken through a \$6 million state-backed program has moved a step closer with federal approval of the "development team" that will plan the job.

The renovation may center on the block of Washington Street tenements which was scene of a fire on May 6 that killed two persons and routed 30 families. If the project goes through, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide \$1.2 million for Section 8 rent subsidies for the families moving into the renovated apartments. It was the HUD agency that approved the development team.

The team consists of Project Holding, subsidiary of Applied Housing, and the Hoboken Housing Development Corporation, as well as the various contractors they hired.

The next step toward realization of the project, according to Joseph Cicala, deputy director of the Hoboken Community Development Agency, is for the developers to submit applications to the state Housing Finance Agency for a state-backed mortgage. The HFA would then study the economic feasibility of the project and make its judgment on funding.

The site for the project is not definite yet, however, Cicala said. All that is definite is that Hoboken has been approved by HUD for the rent subsidies for 200 units of rehabilitated housing, and that the development team has been deemed qualified by the federal department — a requirement of this program.

Actually, the May 6 fire may be detrimental to the chances of having the rehabilitation done on the block, which is Washington and Bloomfield streets between Observer Highway and Newark Street.

"There has been talk around the city that the owners or developers may have had something to gain in

that fire," Cicala explained. "But, in fact, they had everything to gain for having the buildings standing. The fire cuts down on the number of units available for rehab."

Another problem for that site, Cicala acknowledged, would be finding a fair way to get the tenants out of the tenements houses.

"CDA can't pay any relocation money because this is going to be a privately developed project with aid from the state and federal government. If it were a public-housing development or if CDA were directly involved in the development, then relocation money would be available."

It isn't considered a public-housing project, however, because Hoboken Housing Development Corp. is a private non-profit corporation, and Project Holding is private.

"It's important to understand that this is not definite for the area," Cicala reiterated. "If we can't get the tenants satisfied, or some other major problem arises, then the site won't be used."

That's what has Cicala worried, he says, because no banks would be interested in that area. He claims it will take a state or federal project to get funds to rehabilitate it.

"You couldn't get a bank in the world to take care of that block," he asserted.

If the site were to be scratched, Cicala said, there are other locations being considered as backups, but he would not disclose which ones.



HOBOKEN MAYOR Steve Cappiello, center, presents Port Authority Police Officer Willie White of PATH with citation. At right is Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins.

PATH policeman commended

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has presented an official citation to Port Authority Police Officer Willie White, of PATH, for his "exceptional judgment and courageous action in capturing an armed, dangerous and wanted criminal."

During a routine patrol of the PATH Hoboken Station last July 22, White heard screams coming from a nearby supermarket parking lot. A woman was seen running from her car towards the store as a man armed with a knife jumped from the car.

White pursued and subdued the suspect and brought him to the Hoboken police station. Throughout the incident, White refrained from using his weapon in his awareness of the potential hazard to bystanders.

According to police, investigation revealed the suspect had attempted to steal the car and pocketbook from the woman in the parking lot. Further investigation revealed he had escaped prison in Delaware where he had been serving a term for manslaughter, and was also wanted in Wilmington on

charges of manslaughter, rape and robbery. A total of 13 separate counts of rape and robbery under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and several municipalities and states were closed as a result of the arrest, Police said.

White was also honored by the City of Wilmington and The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. White was appointed to the Port Authority Police in 1971 and has been with the PATH Command since 1973.



BEGINS NEW TERM — Mayor Steve Cappiello, right, congratulates Andrew Scherer on his election for a seventh term as chairman of the Hoboken Housing Authority. At left is Joseph Colliguore, the authority's executive director. Orlando Addeo was chosen vice chairman.

Hoboken asks state 'emergency' help

The state Division of Local Government Services will be asked to resolve the question of whether Hoboken officials violated state bidding laws in hiring a contractor two weeks ago for a repair job that was declared an "emergency" eight months ago.

The state official will meet with the City Council's public works committee, the city attorney, Public Works Director Andrew Amato and representatives of two private firms today or Monday.

The meeting, called by Councilman Walter Cramer, chairman of the committee, will be to get information on what was done, what needs to be done, and what is the city's obligation to T. and M. Contractors, a firm hired two weeks ago to repair the Fifth Street pumping station.

The Council yesterday tabled a resolution to advertise for bids on the job until after the meeting with the state and the parties involved. Mayor Steve Cappiello pledged, however, that bids will "definitely be sought at a special meeting, probably next week."

The council has allocated \$88,000 in October for emergency repairs on

the pumps and electrical panels at the station, and hired Mayo, Lynch and Associates, the city's engineering firm, to draw specifications on the job.

Joseph Lynch, head of Mayo, Lynch, said late yesterday that he completed the specifications in December and sent them to Amato, and then sent the specifications again March 28, informing Amato that they were "prepared for public bid."

Amato and Philip Soriale, head of T. and M. and a friend of Amato's, both said yesterday that Lynch handled the entire job, and that Lynch hired T. and M.

Lynch denied he hired the contractor — although he says the man was needed, even two weeks ago — and says it was Amato who did the hiring.

Lynch said he could not explain the difference between his story and

those of the other two men involved. Meanwhile, City Hall was burning yesterday about the matter. The council met at noon to complete the meeting adjourned Wednesday night because of a bomb scare.

Before the meeting, however, the members of the council gathered in a closed room in City Clerk Anthony Amoroso's office. Attorneys Thomas Callig and Lawrence Florio were there as well.

When reporters questioned the legality of holding a closed caucus without a resolution regarding its nature, Amoroso stormed out and screamed that "we were discussing an emergency." He threatened to ban one reporter from his office if he asked any more questions about the closed session.

Council President Martin Brennan had a different explanation for the meeting, however.

"We were just having coffee and waiting for an ordinance to be printed up," he said. "There was nothing important discussed."

Asked why reporters were barred, he said "it wasn't that we barred you, we just didn't do anything in there. We can get together for coffee, can't we?"

Once in the open meeting, the council heard Soriale say that he would like to find out what his status is. He told them Lynch hired him and two weeks ago Florio said it was okay if Mayo, Lynch approved it.

Florio said later that he also said a contract should be written on the work, but it never was.

After the meeting, Amato said he still considers the job to be an emergency, Lynch agreed.

They said only one of three pumps is working there, and if that fails, there will be raw sewage floating in the street. That's been avoided so far because Sewage Plant Superintendent Roy Haack has done patchwork repairs periodically since October. Lynch said a private contractor also has done some work, but he couldn't remember who it was.



POPPY TIME — Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken, is surrounded by young representatives of veterans organizations for the launching of the annual sale. With him are Nicholas Glusko, left, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Mario Ann Musella, a representative of the American Legion.

A fresh start

Hoboken's school system long has been immersed to the hilt in political considerations. Anyone who reads the newspapers, or teaches in its schools, or has a child attending one of its classes, cannot help but be aware of that.

The political complexion of Hoboken's schools originates with the board of education and goes down. Even when a majority of the board has not seen eye to eye with the city administration, it has been a matter of one political faction vying with another.

At this time, the present superintendent of schools — like the teachers, a paid employee of the board — is about to retire. Personally, he has been capable, but he has little power to exercise the decision making his title implies.

A new superintendent will have to be appointed. What a boon it would be for Hoboken if the board were to tell the new man: "We will set general policy and will control the final financial arrangements, but otherwise . . . you run the schools. We can dream, can't we?"



Dispatch Photo

The German Seamen's Mission in Hoboken

Seamen's Mission a historic site

By WILLIAM BETZ

The German Seamen's Mission in Hoboken has been granted historic site status by the state of New Jersey. It is a development that may complicate efforts by its owner to tear the building down in order to turn the site into a parking lot for a nearby supermarket.

The Hoboken Environment Committee will challenge demolition permits granted by the city in Hudson County District Court tomorrow, according to Terri Ratti, a long-time supporter of the

mission and its residents.

"The granting of historic site status may have some influence on the court," Mrs. Ratti said.

According to Mrs. Ratti, final approval of the environment committee's application was given by Betty Wilson, the historic sites division officer in Trenton.

The building was evacuated March 8 of this year by court order. Seven residents were evicted after the owner of the building, the German Seamen's Mission

of New York, won its fight to clear the building of tenants in order that it might be sold. Plans call for the mission site to be sold to the Singer Shop-Rite Corp.

The basis for the historic site application that was approved is the value of the mission as a reminder of the history of the city's once-large German population, according to Helen Manogue, president of the environment committee and author of the application. The application was submitted to the state March 8, the same day the last residents were ordered evicted.

According to Mrs. Manogue, the history of German residence in Hoboken is symbolized by the 70-year-old building. The history was a stormy one at times due to pressures on Germans and Americans of German descent during the two world wars, Mrs. Manogue said.

At times during the wars the mission was raided by the FBI, and many of its residents were arrested as spies, Mrs. Manogue said, even though tenants have traditionally been exclusively non-military seamen.

Hoboken hires a pied piper

Hoboken is ready to begin its own rodent control program, city officials said today.

George Crimmins Jr., director of the city's Comprehensive Employment Training Act program, said a Hoboken man with an exterminator's license has been hired under the CETA program to assist the city's

sanitarian in organizing the rodent control operation.

The man, Candelario Alvarez, saw stories in The Jersey Journal that the city was looking for a qualified person to work on the program, and applied to Crimmins last week.

He is on the job today, and another CETA worker is expected to

be hired to join him this week. Crimmins said the second employee probably will not be an exterminator.

"We were lucky to be able to get anyone with these qualifications," Crimmins said of Alvarez. "He has a license from the Environmental Protection Agency, he's had experience in other programs for another city and he has experience in private exterminating companies."

Crimmins said his staff is checking into its records to determine what salary Alvarez will get under CETA guidelines. The city CETA office never hired an exterminator before, he explained.

Health and Welfare Director James Farina said the rodent control program will use some equipment left over from the federally funded program which was ended last June.

"Once we get this new program going," Farina said, "we'll have classes every week at the Health Center to educate people on things to watch out for and how to deal with a rat problem if it exists."

City Sanitarian Jad Mihalinec will supervise the new city program and train the other worker hired by CETA.

Cramer praises park sprinklers

Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer, whose district includes Elysian Park at 11th and Hudson streets, today hailed the proposal to install sprinklers in the park during upcoming renovations.

Cramer was responding to criticism by Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti of the proposal by Health and Welfare Director James Farina.

"I grew up in the area of Elysian Park, and I've lived across the street for many years," Cramer said. "My five kids — and many others in the area — always use that park. I'd like to praise Farina for proposing the sprinklers."

Cramer said he has received numerous letters and phone calls since Malfetti made his remarks earlier in the week, and all have been in favor of increasing the recreational facilities including the sprinklers for children to play under during the summer.

"I don't think the park will be overrun by children," he added, "all the parks are supposed to have something like this."

Malfetti also claimed to have received phone calls, but his were opposed to the new proposal. "Elysian Park has been a haven for pram-pushing mothers to idle away their precious few idle moments in a pleasant, quiet environment," he asserted again yesterday. "It also has been a place for senior citizens (to) muse in a pleasant setting, quiet and serene."

"To them . . . Elysian Park is a park, not a playground, and certainly not a place to be disturbed by the presence of sprinkler bathing," Malfetti declared.

Cramer counters that the city can put ample controls on the use of sprinklers that would make sure no seniors would be disturbed.

Cappiello tells PUC rise in water rate unjustified

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello testified yesterday before the state Public Utilities Commission in Newark that the proposed 45 percent increase in the water rate by Jersey City would be "unjustified, unfair and harmful to the future growth of Hoboken."

The mayor was joined in his PUC testimony by John Sailer, special counsel hired by Hoboken to battle Jersey City on the proposed water rate rise and the accounting firm of Morro Associates of Union City, which provides specific data to back Cappiello's claims.

Jersey City has already received a temporary 32 percent increase in the water rate, and is seeking before the PUC to have that increase made permanent and to add on 13 percent more.

There is no word on when the decision will be made by the PUC. "We are already paying more than our fair share of the water costs," Cappiello asserted. "We contend that Jersey City has not justified the need for additional charges, and we are worried that higher water rates will discourage water-using industry from settling in Hoboken."

Hoboken to renovate 2 parks

Major renovations are being planned for this year in Stevens and Elysian parks in Hoboken, Health and Welfare Director James Farina revealed today.

The city's Community Development Agency already has set aside \$100,000 in federal funds for the two parks, and the director, Fred Bado, is working now on an application for matching state Green Acres funds.

The work being projected for the parks include new lighting, renovation of the toilets, lighting for basketball courts, new trees, new playground equipment and checker

tables for the areas where the grass is dead, Farina explained.

In addition, a sprinkler is planned for Elysian Park to keep children cool during the summer.

Cappiello orders firm off job in rebuke to Amato

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato did not hire a contractor until two weeks ago for an "emergency" repair job that was authorized by the City Council last October, and the contractor he hired was allegedly a friend of his, according to City Hall sources.

The job, to repair the Fifth Street sewage pumping station's electrical panel and repair the pump, was supposed to have been done immediately after the council allocated \$66,000 for it last fall.

But it wasn't until two weeks ago that Amato hired T. and M. Contractors, run by Phillip Seriale, to do the job. Amato said the firm submitted the lowest of three sealed bids he had solicited for the work.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said yesterday that he immediately ordered the contractor off the job because he was afraid it might be

a violation of the state bidding laws. The bidding laws require that any job over \$2,500 be open to public bidding. The T. and M. firm was hired for \$59,000, sources say.

The City Council will now advertise for bids and award the contract to the lowest bidder, Cappiello said. Amato would not comment on the matter except to say he did nothing wrong.

Amato himself was the one who declared the emergency in October, claiming that if the pumping station wasn't fixed immediately, it would create serious health problem and might possibly explode.

Hoboken's sewers 'totally abandoned'

By William H. Taft and Pat Ford
The functioning of Hoboken's sewer system is "terribly disorganized, due to neglect," Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri charged today.

He blamed "a lack of proper responsibility on the part of the officials concerned."

The city lacks "an organized maintenance program for its sewers — they are totally abandoned except on an emergency basis," the councilman declared.

Ranieri urged an immediate maintenance program to "clean the corner catch basins on a regular basis, as a housewife cleans her home; and clean out the sewers themselves."

"Most modern cities have a sewer maintenance program — but this is unknown in Hoboken," he asserted.

As an example of lack of

maintenance, Ranieri said that a few days ago when a 14th Street sewer backed up into cellars, "it was found that 18 inches of the 24-inch sewer line was loaded with grit and grease."

He added that Public Works Director Andrew Amato, in charge of

See Editorial:
STRAIGHTEN UP!
On Page 14

sewers, said he would seek estimates of the cost of the cleaning.

"But the entire city needs this sort of attention — not just when one section of sewer gives out," he exclaimed.

The city had a sewer cleaning machine some years ago, but because it was difficult to use, "it was simply stuck away at the treatment plant, and now no one can find it," Ranieri continued.

Last November, when flooding prompted the city administration to ask the federal government to declare Hoboken a disaster area to qualify it for emergency relief, government officials inquired:

"What sewer maintenance program do you have?" — only to learn that Hoboken had none, the councilman asserted.

He offered to "spearhead a resolution in the next City Council meeting to seek to obtain whatever funds are needed" to remedy Hoboken's sewer shortcomings.

Meanwhile The Hoboken City Council's Public Works Committee has scheduled its hearing on the "emergency" at the Fifth Street Sewage Pumping Station for Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Ranieri said waiting until Thursday to get to the bottom of the controversy over the station is an example of "government at a standstill."

The station has only one of three pumps working now, and if that were to give out there would be raw sewage floating in the street, according to Public Works Director Andrew Amato and Joseph Lynch, head of Mayo, Lynch Associates, the engineering firm for the project.

The emergency was declared last October. The City Council allocated \$66,000 then for repairs of the pumps and electrical work at the station.

While pumpwork was done by Roy Hanc, superintendent of the treatment plant, no contractor was hired until two weeks ago, when either Amato or Lynch hired T. and M. Contractors of Hoboken.

Amato and Lynch each claims the other hired the contractor, while Phillip Seriale, president of the firm, says it was Lynch who hired him. Seriale is a friend of Amato's and is vice president of his political club.

Amato says that doesn't mean anything, because he turned Seriale down for an emergency contract on the roof of the Second Street firehouse last month because Seriale, who bids

above the accepted proposal from 'Aris Contractors.

The meeting Thursday will include the committee, Amato, Lynch and Seriale. The state Division of Local Government Services was also supposed to attend, but Council President Martin Brennan said yesterday that he will get advice from them separately.

The state is being asked about the status of the \$66,000 appropriated last fall, and whether the job should be put out for public bid.

The bidding laws are put aside for emergencies, but in this case, officials aren't sure if an "emergency" can wait eight months and still not be put out for bid.

Ranieri thinks the present condition of the pumps necessitates immediate action.

"If I had known we'd have to wait a week to get a meeting on this," he declared, "I would have pushed to advertise for bids at the council meeting."

The council tabled the resolution on the bids to have the meeting first to determine whether the specifications written last year are still workable.

Straighten up!

A Hoboken councilman-at-large has said his city's sewage disposal system is so poorly maintained that it is incredibly costly.

His criticism seems to be borne out by the latest relevant incident. A pumping station which was to have been repaired as an "emergency" last October was never repaired.

Last October there was no customary required competitive bidding because there was too little time to advertise for bids. Despite the rush, nothing was done, but a contractor was quietly hired to do the job for \$66,000 two weeks ago . . . without competitive bidding.

To say this is disquieting is an understatement, even though it does seem to be just a case in which somebody goofed.

The state Division of Local Government Services has been called in to determine whether state bidding laws were violated when the contract was awarded two weeks ago.

That's fine, but shouldn't Hoboken be concerned with a thorough reorganization of its sewage disposal system administration?

Fire chief fighting to keep new post

By Patrick Ford

Hoboken officials are trying to deny Fire Chief James R. Houn a position that he says he wants and which the City Council assigned him. Houn was appointed along with four others to the position of sub-code

official, posts required under the state's new Uniform Construction Code Act. The appointments, which are for four years and carry no extra compensation, were made at last Wednesday's city council meeting.

But, at the meeting, City Clerk Anthony Amoroso told the council members that he had received a phone call from Business Administrator Edwin Chius telling him that Houn's name should be dropped in favor of Fire Capt. Raymond Falco.

One informed source admitted that the move was "strictly political," because Falco is active in city politics and a strong supporter of Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, who sponsored the resolution, blocked the attempt to substitute Falco's name after the chief had already expressed a willingness to take on the new chore.

The resolution passed unanimously, but several councilmen mentioned that an amending resolution would be offered at the next meeting of the council June 7 to replace Houn with Falco.

Chius said he hadn't called Amoroso, but that he was there when Cappiello told the clerk to change the name. He said his understanding was that Falco had been doing the job all along, and that he asked to get the new title, and Cappiello agreed.

Houn still wants the job, however. He said he plans to take courses to meet the requirements, and he feels the title belongs to the chief.

Chius subsequently said that Houn would keep the title but delegate the authority to Falco. That was not Houn's understanding, however.

The other sub-code officials named were James Caulfield, the building inspector, for buildings and construction; Paul Marzocco, electrical sub-code official; Michael Martinelli, the city plumbing inspector, for plumbing; and Alfred Araczo, assistant sub-code official for buildings. Houn is designated for fire.

Malfetti would sub pool for Elysian sprinklers

Hoboken Councilman Nunzio Malfetti today proposed that the city use the waterfront area long River Road for a municipal swimming pool and recreational area.

Malfetti cited this idea as an alternative to putting bathing sprinklers into Elysian Park, which borders on its Sixth Ward.

The sprinklers were proposed by Health and Welfare Director James Farina, and are supported by Councilman Walter Cramer, whose ward includes the park.

Malfetti contends that putting the sprinklers in the park would ruin the "serene" surroundings. He believes that the fenced-in area from about Sixth to 10th Street along River Road would be ideal for a swimming pool.

"Already in use by local fishermen, joggers and strollers, this area could be the hub of summer activities for the city and at the same time leave unchanged the nature of our last leisure park," Malfetti asserted.

Hoboken officials agree on consolidating garages

A Hoboken councilman-at-large is pushing the city administration to act on his proposal to consolidate the public works and public safety garages, which now run separately.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said today that every city official he talks with about the proposal agrees that it should be done in the near future. The problem apparently is that nobody can decide who should plan the consolidation.

"We have to do it as soon as possible," he asserted. "We have new motorcycles on order for the police, and plenty of other equipment for the Public Works Department, and we need to have enough space to work on them and enough discipline to maintain them properly."

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he agrees with Ranieri "wholeheartedly," but could not say when the city might actually go through with consolidation of the garages.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said he also agrees with the proposal, and said that if he is asked, he could manage the consolidation. He said he has not been asked, however.

Ranieri first proposed the consolidation on Dec. 14, 1973, and estimated then that it would cost only \$27,000. His estimate was based on specifications drawn up by officials in the public works and public safety departments.

An announcement was made on Jan. 29, 1974, that plans were completed for the project, and that it would be implemented in May or June of that year. Ranieri says now that the plan simple wasn't implemented.

He said he has brought it up several times since then, and the pos-

sibility of applying for state or federal funds was discussed, but nothing ever came of it.

The councilman says the consolidation can be done for a "small, medium or large investment depending on the wishes of the administration."

"We don't need a luxury condominium for a garage," he cracked, "but we should make sure that it is equipped to handle problems for any public safety or public works vehicle."

The basic idea, according to Ranieri, is to do immediate repairs to the burned-out DPW garage on Jackson Street and to use this facility for storage of vehicles and equipment.

The main DPW garage at Observer Highway and Willow Avenue would be renovated and divided into large working areas for the public safety and public works

mechanics. The present public safety garage, located in the firehouse at Second and Jefferson streets, would also be used just for storage.

The reason the consolidated garage is necessary, officials say, is that the public safety garage is inadequate for its needs, especially with the lack of space for new vehicles. Also, officials feel that the DPW mechanics would operate more efficiently if they followed the maintenance procedures used by Sgt. Mario Morcoco, who heads the public safety mechanics.

"Discipline and efficiency, that's what we need out of our mechanics," Malfetti said. "I believe Mario (Morcoco) has a good system in the public safety garage, and I'd agree with Ranieri that we could operate both garages better if they were consolidated."

Public Works Director Andrew Amato was unavailable for comment on the proposal.

Pumping station testimony heard

By WILLIAM BETZ

The public works committee of the Hoboken City Council held a special meeting yesterday to hear separate reports from four men whose names have been linked to the recent Fifth Street pumping station controversy.

Councilman Walter Cramer, chairman of the committee, said afterwards that he and Councilman Robert Ranieri, who was invited to attend the meeting in his capacity as chairman of the water and sewers committee, would compare "voluntinous" notes and issue a report next week to the city council.

The meeting was closed to the public and Cramer refused to say whether any of the four accounts differed substantially

ly from the others. The meeting lasted three and three-quarters hours.

Cramer said the report may not be made public because of the possibility of litigation.

Emergency repairs to the sewage pumping station were authorized last October at the request of Public Works Director Andrew Amato. The "emergency" nature of the repairs was confirmed at the time by Mayo Lynch & Associates, a local engineering firm which drew up the job specifications.

The city council immediately voted an emergency appropriation of \$66,000—\$60,000 for repairs and \$6,000 for engineering services.

Work on the station, however, did not begin until a little over two weeks ago.

School budget finally at bottom line

The Hoboken Board of Education, by a majority vote, has officially adopted its 1975-76 school budget which was worked out earlier this year as a compromise with the city council.

The total budget of approximately \$15 million calls for a local tax levy of about \$3.6 million. This was the figure agreed upon by the board and the city following the defeat of a tax levy of \$4,021,362.40 by the voters.

Five members voted for the budget and three new members, Richard England, James Monaco and Robert Wendelken, did not favor it. One member, Aurelio Lugo, did not attend the meeting.

A spokesman for the majority said the new budget probably would not mean any layoffs of personnel but staff would have to be reduced through attrition and there would have to be some belt tightening in certain programs.

Following the special meeting, Otto Hottendorf, board president, with board members James Giani, James Farina and Jack Raslofsky

visited the David E. Rue School. There, Thomas F. McFeely, school superintendent, and Joseph Lynch, consulting engineer, discussed with parents of students a recent incident in which some brickwork fell from the building. McFeely assured them the structural soundness of the building was not affected but that some brickwork repairs would be needed.

Hospitality has its day in Hoboken

By WILLIAM BETZ

Where in Hudson County can you find Wonder Woman, Mickey Mouse, Bat Girl, and assorted characters from Sesame Street mingling with clowns, magicians, kids, and grown-ups?

In Hoboken, that's where. Tomorrow Hoboken will celebrate its Second Annual Hospitality Day, an event that was attended last year by more than 3,000 people.

Sponsored by the city and the Hoboken Retail Bureau, Hospitality Day will—if everything goes according to plan—demonstrate to visitors and residents alike the variety of life and merchandise available in the Mile Square City, according to Board of Education President Joseph Hottendorf, the event's coordinator.

Washington Street, the city's main thoroughfare, will be closed to traffic between First and Seventh Streets from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hottendorf said. Merchants will set up booths outside their shops to display and sell their wares.

Former residents made it a point to come back and visit their hometown last year, Hottendorf said, and he expects more of the same this year.

"Besides being a business stimulant," he said, "Hospitality Day is a real community event."

Police Chief George Crimmins elaborated. "Last year you could see people out in the streets talking to people they hadn't seen since before the winter," he said.

"More charities and civic organizations will be represented this year than there were last year," Hottendorf said. Among the ones he named were the Hoboken Arts Council, St. Mary Hospital, Deborah, and the arts department from the city's public schools.

In addition, he said, twirlers from the Hoboken Recreation Department will be spinning their batons in Stevens Park and rock bands will play there after a morning Little League game ends.

The junior high school orchestra will also give a concert, adding a higher-brow note to the day's festivities, Hottendorf said.

In order to help educate city youngsters on the functioning of the fire department and volunteer ambulance corps, the department and corps will demonstrate their equipment at different sites on Washington Street.

In addition, Hottendorf said, groups of singers and musicians will circulate throughout the hospitality area playing and singing songs of Mexico, Dixieland, Germany, Italy, and, of course, Hoboken.

The coordinator of the event said problems had arisen last year because much of the entertainment was stationary. This year, by following a wan-

dering troubador format, problems of access to the entertainment should be avoided.

Charles Lallo, president of the Hoboken Retail Bureau, said participants at the festivities will be eligible for free prizes, savings bonds ranging from \$75 to \$250.

Merchants participating in the street fair have paid \$35 apiece for the right to display their wares on the sidewalks, Lallo said. The abundance of old country restaurants and bakeries in the Mile Square City promises the availability of plenty of good food throughout the fair.

Getting down to business, Hottendorf pointed out that buses will be diverted from 10 a.m. until the end of the party. Northbound buses will travel on Bloomfield Street and southbound buses will be rerouted to Hudson Street, he said.

Parking along Washington Street will be suspended for the duration of the event.

Police Captain Patrick Totaro will supervise the entire police operation, which the city feels must be strong for an event of this magnitude.

Hottendorf did not address himself to the apparent superfluity of police while Wonder Woman and Bat Girl are on the scene but, then again, nobody's mind.

State pursues mystery of oil 'spilled' in Hoboken

State and Hoboken officials are still trying to determine the source of a mystery oil slick that was found last week in the sewer and on the street in a one-block industrial area.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has turned over samples of the No. 6 oil found in the sewer at Ninth and Monroe streets in Hoboken late Thursday to a federal Environmental Protection Agency lab in Edison for analysis.

Meanwhile state and city officials are continuing to question businesses in the area to see if they have had any oil leaks lately.

The slick was discovered after the oil poured into the street late Thursday from overflowing sewers backed up by the heavy rains last

week. The storm drains in the area have been closed off to prevent the oil from traveling to the city's Sewage Treatment Plant and thus being pumped into the Hudson River.

A DEP spokesman estimated that "several hundred gallons" of oil were in the sewer. Hoboken Fire Capt. Raymond Falco is monitoring the area to make sure the oil doesn't become a fire hazard.

Public Works Director Andrew Amato, who had his men pumping the oil into special tank trucks last week to be taken to the Kearny dumps, said yesterday that the oil apparently damaged his pump, and that the rest of the oil will be cleaned up today or tomorrow when the machine is fixed.

Idle Hoboken piers touted for recreation complex

By William Taft

Conversion of Hoboken's idle Port Authority piers into a recreational complex is suggested in a report prepared after a two-year study under the auspices of Stevens Institute of Technology.

Recommended is a recreation complex emphasizing active participation by those who use it, rather than a spectator type of facility such as the Meadowlands. A marina, racquetball and tennis courts and an ice rink are among the activities proposed, along with a restaurant and a health club.

The federally funded report envisions Hoboken as a "recreational mecca" for Hudson County.

The Port Authority piers, though almost virtually unused, are maintained in sound and presentable condition.

The report also takes in the city-owned Fifth and Sixth Street piers, whose superstructures have been razed. These, too, should be used for recreation, both active and passive, the report proposes.

In this connection, Mrs. Helen Manogue and Arthur Lesser Jr., authors of the report, declare they learned that "the biggest use of water for leisure is 'just to look at it'."

With this in mind, they recommend that one of these two piers be designated for use by "those who want to sit and look at the view and/or fish," and that the second pier be set up for basketball and other sports.

The report is entitled, "Hoboken Available Options for Waterfront Redevelopment," and was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The projected marina would have facilities for sailing, repair, and, if possible, manufacture of small boats.

Good-sized and durable structures suitable for development of the kind proposed already exist on and adjacent to the Port Authority piers, the report points out.

As for the Fifth and Sixth Street piers, Lesser and Mrs. Manogue acknowledge that their soundness may be in question, and that they might have to be demolished.

Should that be necessary, they add that part of the area could be converted into a small waterfront park "with a magnificent, unobstructed view of the Manhattan skyline."

Whether or not those two piers remain, they add, there is plenty of room for a boat launching ramp at and adjacent to the foot of Fifth Street, there being a considerable waterfront space between Fifth

Street and the Port Authority piers.

The report advises Hobokenites not to expect any new industry in this once-industrial area. "Hindrances include the fact that there is little dry land that is not already filled in, making expensive piling a necessity for a building of any size," it asserts. It also cautions against erecting any buildings which would spoil the view.

Except for the Port Authority piers, the report refers to a "general messiness" of the shore area, which "most likely will have to await a cleanup of the broken-down Fifth and Sixth Street piers by the Army engineers under Project Driftwood."

Moving back from the actual waterfront, the report recommends evaluating the construction of a medical-housing complex at Third and Hudson streets nearby, with offices and laboratories on the lower floors, apartments above.

To implement its suggestions, the report proposes a Waterfront Planning and Promotion Council, which would be a unit of Hoboken's as-yet nebulous Economic Development Corporation.

The council "would be responsible for planning, managing, promotion and controlling the waterfront usage."

Councilmen study repair data

Members of the Hoboken City Council's Public Works Committee are studying information gathered yesterday from some of those involved in the "emergency repairs" at a sewage pumping station which have not yet been made.

"We also are awaiting a ruling from the state Division of Local Government," said Councilman Robert Ranieri, "but it now looks like we'll have to go through the bidding process to get the work done."

The council declared the

emergency last October and allocated \$68,000 for work on the Fifth Street station. Work finally began on May 1 but was stopped three days later by Mayor Steve Cappiello, who felt the time lapse could cause the emergency status to be questioned.

Councilman Walter Cramer, Sal Cernelli and Nunzio Malfetti, who are members of the council's Public Works Committee, were joined by Ranieri of the water and sewage committee in yesterday's individual questioning of several persons.

Ranieri said the views given by those questioned will be pieced together and an overall report prepared for the mayor and Council President Martin Brennan.

Meeting with the councilmen were Public Works Director Andrew Amato; Joseph Lynch, consulting engineer and Philip Seriale of the T. and M. Construction Co., which had begun the work earlier this month. Lawrence Florio, city law director also sat in on the talks.

Grand Hotel will be preserved

Hoboken's 19th Century hostelry, the Grand Hotel, will live out the 20th Century and will probably still be going strong in the 21st.

The man who bought the vacant fire-wrecked building from the city has produced a written \$250,000 mortgage commitment to renovate it; and so the city government, which had threatened to take the building back from him, is letting him go ahead.

Even after the green light finally flashed, however, the setbacks that

have beset the Grand Hotel over the years continued. The contractor hired by Pasquale Severino, the owner, moved in quickly to sandblast the dingy exterior walls to their pristine splendor, starting with the Third Street and Court Street sides . . . but neighbors complained that he was sandblasting not only the hotel, but the neighborhood as well.

He was forced to halt by the command of James Caulfield, Hoboken's building inspector, who advised him he would be allowed to resume if he

brought in proper tarpaulin drapes as protection.

Meanwhile the contractor went about removing beaten-up ceramic material and decorative woodwork from the front of the structure, the Hudson Street side, and began ripping out interior wall coverings in the bar, which occupies the ground floor.

By the time the work is finished, the outside of the brick-faced building will have been restored to its original appearance.

New question in Hoboken contract

By WILLIAM BETZ

A sub-contract for approximately \$30,000 worth of work on Hoboken's Fifth Street pumping station was given to the brother of Joseph Lynch, a partner in the city engineering firm that recommended the prime contractor. It was learned yesterday.

The agreement was made between Philip Seriale's T & M Contracting Co., a Hoboken firm that was awarded the overall contract, and Madison Contracting Co., a Weehawken electrical contractor.

Madison Contracting is owned by Robert Lynch, who is a partner in the Hoboken engineering firm Mayo Lynch & Associates. Mayo Lynch drew up specifications for the pumping station work.

A continuing controversy centers around the selection of Seriale's firm as prime contractor, since Seriale is a close friend and a political ally of Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato.

The most recent development further complicates what some city officials suspect to be a "sweetheart deal" in the awarding of the contract.

Joseph Lynch yesterday denied knowing his brother's firm was selected for the electrical work on the pumping station. Amato expressed surprise on another matter, saying "It's news to me" that Madison Contracting is owned by Lynch's brother.

Amato said yesterday, however, that Madison Contracting had been selected by Seriale as electrical sub-contractor.

Joseph Lynch said later that he consulted with his brother and that his brother said no contract was ever agreed to.

According to city officials, however, agreements on this work were informal in nature because the situation at the Fifth Street pumping station was considered an "emergency," a status which gives officials and contractors a good deal of leeway.

Seriale's contract was for \$60,000 worth of general construction and electrical repair work on the pumping station.

An emergency appropriation of \$68,000 for repairs to the station had been authorized by the city council last October at the request of Amato. Mayo Lynch testified on behalf of the public works department that problems at the pumping station were of an "emergency" nature.

The appropriation called for \$60,000 for repairs and \$8,000 for engineering services.

The normal process of advertising for and accepting public bids on the city contract was bypassed, which is permitted by law. But work on the project did not begin until two weeks ago, just before it was noticed by Mayor Steve Cappiello and immediately ordered by the mayor to be stopped.

The director of the Division of Local Government of the State Department of

Community Affairs said this week that a job started seven months after an emergency appropriation is made can no longer be considered an emergency.

John F. Laezza said he was sending a letter to that effect to the city in response to a request by Hoboken for a legal opinion on the matter.

Cappiello has said repeatedly that he intends to see to it that further work on the station is subject to the normal bidding process.

When asked yesterday about the connection between Mayo Lynch and Madison Contracting, Cappiello said, "It's common knowledge."

"It's no secret that Joseph Lynch is related to people at Madison," the mayor said.

It had been a secret to Amato, however, according to the public works director. "I have no knowledge that they're brothers," Amato said.

Amato, Ranieri clash on sewer costs

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato said today that he would need "at least" 20 additional men, some new equipment and \$100,000 worth of materials to start a sewer maintenance program as suggested earlier this week by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

Ranieri, who heads the council's Sewer Utility Committee, was not satisfied with the answer, however, and said he wants Amato to research it and document his needs so they can be compared to estimates from outside contractors.

The councilman announced that he has already lined up one firm, Envirotech Inc. of California, to do a survey of the city's sewer system and estimate what it would cost for the firm to repair and maintain the sewers under a service contract.

Amato agreed with Ranieri that the sewer system is in a "disgraceful" state of disrepair, but said it is not his fault because it "has been that way for years."

The councilman was miffed at Amato's reaction and his estimate of the cost to fix it. "I'm not blaming the director," Ranieri said. "All I ask is that he make a documented report of his costs to do this job in-house so that

figures can be compared to those of private companies."

"Where did he get those figures? I could have gone to Hoboken High School and asked the students there to guess a figure."

Amato replied that he can only guess now, and said he would wait for the Envirotech report to be delivered so he could work off that.

The two men, each of whom said repeatedly that he didn't want to "fight" with the other, also clashed on Ranieri's proposal for a consolidated Public Works and Public Safety garage.

Ranieri, citing Bayonne and East Orange as examples, said the centralized garage idea works well and would provide better efficiency

and better use of space for the now separate units.

Amato said his men would "resent" the move, and felt it wouldn't work. He also said that he has other plans for the Public Works garage, particularly the burned-out one on Jackson Street, but wouldn't divulge what they are.

Why, Amato was asked, would his men resent it?

"Because they would be in a difficult situation with the other mechanics — they'd be critical of each other."

"You have to handle these men a certain way," Amato claimed. "There's too much politics in this city."

Schools need \$5.8 million in repairs

By WILLIAM H. Taft

Hoboken's six older public schools need urgent repairs which will cost an average of at least \$1 million each.

This is one of the findings in a report being prepared by the city's engineering consultants, the firm of Mayo and Lynch.

Hoboken is already at the bonding limit allowed by state law, so it cannot sell bonds to pay for the repairs. There is only \$200,000 for repairs in the board of education budget for the year starting July 1, and the amount cannot be increased because the board budget is already over its "cap."

There is no federal money to finance the needed repairs, because several years ago when \$4,500,000 in federal funds were available, it was decided to spend it instead on replacing worn-out water mains.

An official of the consulting firm emphasized that the millions of dollars needed are not for mere "improvements" to enhance the schools' serviceability (let alone to beautify them) but are construction necessities to keep the walls intact.

The dark picture came to light when Joseph Lynch of the engineering company briefed the board privately on the condition of the Rue School at a

rehabilitation at the city's other schools, and has even urged a job costing \$100,000 at the Wallace School, one of the newer buildings.

At the Conners School, extensive rehabilitation costing approximately \$1,500,000 is needed, it was learned.

At the Rue School, in addition to an estimated \$750,000 required for outside work to keep bricks and lintels from falling down on the sidewalk, another \$750,000 is needed for interior maintenance.

An official explained that the need for all this expense is not due to a sudden arising of new conditions but has been brought on by lack of maintenance over many years. Mortar that fell out behind bricks and lintels was not replaced, giving water an opportunity to seep in behind, freezing in winter and pushing the bricks and lintels out of position.

See Editorial: A STATE TASK On Page 25.

closed session last week. He said the school might have to be closed unless the menace of falling brickwork was ended.

The Jersey Journal learned later, however, that at budget-making time each year for several years the firm has been recommending comparable

Raises mean layoffs, teachers told

By Ronald Lair

Forego raises or face layoffs.

That's the choice facing Hoboken public school teachers in contract negotiations, according to Robert W. Taylor, Board of Education attorney.

As the board's \$15.4 million budget is now set up, said Taylor, "we have enough money for full employment of existing teaching staff if our position at the bargaining table is maintained."

"But if we acceded to the other party's demands," Taylor warned, "it

would cause teachers to be discharged."

Taylor, a member of the board's negotiating team, made those comments after last night's adjourned

See Editorial: INGENIOUS On Page 24.

session of the school board that was highlighted by an exchange between trustees and officers of the Hoboken Teachers Association.

HTA representatives, led by Michael D'Onofrio, president, urged board members to rescind an October, 1975, resolution that prevents the trustees from participating as negotiators.

"We're at a critical stage in our negotiations," said D'Onofrio, "and we're experiencing the same problems that came up three years ago" — when Hoboken teachers struck — "a lack of communication between the negotiators and the board."

"It's time for the board to change its policy and take an active role in the negotiations," he added.

But Otto Hottendorf, board president, replied: "You're not going to tell us how to negotiate."

Board member Leo McLaughlin said he found no problem with the present arrangement because "the negotiator and the lawyer come back to the board and the board can overrule them."

When D'Onofrio mentioned substitute teacher pay and regular teacher salary increments as potential problems, Taylor declared that by publicly discussing two aspects of the negotiations, union members "waived their right to keep the contents of the talks confidential."

Taylor threatened to divulge the union's demands to reporters attending the meeting, but afterward changed his mind.

The board was scheduled to discuss its 1978-79 budget last night, said Trustee Robert Wendelken, finance committee chairman, "but it was struck from the agenda," he told the small audience. He declined later to say why.

Wendelken has expressed concern that the budget may not contain enough money for negotiated teachers' benefits. One of the items at stake is pay increments which could amount to as much as \$100,000, according to Taylor, based on a maximum of \$250 per instructor. Hoboken employs roughly 400 teachers.

"We're trying to hold the line on instructional salaries, which includes increments and salaries for substitutes," said Taylor.

Acting on a state recommendation to tighten fiscal management, the board created the post of internal auditor and hired Anthony Curko to fill it at \$16,000 a year.

A former member of the Hoboken Young Democrats who previously worked in the budgeting and accounting division of the city's Community Development Agency, Curko was chosen over Joseph Schultz, a fiscal aide in the county schools superintendent's office and a Guttenberg councilman; and Thomas Vespetti.

Trustee Richard England and Jack Kaniowski voted against the appointment, claiming later that Schultz probably was more qualified than Curko because he's had experience working with school districts, including Hoboken on a part-time basis.

Specifications for the new job call for Curko to "ensure that the school district's financial matters are monitored internally on a regular or day-to-day basis in order to exercise a greater degree of fiscal control."

Among Curko's duties will be to "assist in budget preparation" — a task that the board attorney has been handling, something that state evaluators felt should be changed.

Curko also will be expected to "monitor expenditures made against all budgetary line accounts and reconcile said line accounts in order to derive an accurate daily balance for all items . . . ensure that revenues received during the year are properly posted and reconciled on a daily basis . . . and prepare monthly reports to the board on the state of fiscal affairs for the school district."

Hottendorf said during the meeting that the board is "contemplating a tie-in with a county computer system to help in our fiscal operation, but we haven't made up our mind yet."

Later, Hottendorf talked about another personnel matter, saying that the board, as a whole, would start by June 3 to interview applicants for superintendent of schools — Thomas F. McFeely is retiring — and name a replacement by the end of next month.

Asked if the board would hire a second assistant superintendent, Hottendorf said: "We have a team of supervisors made up of existing administrative personnel to be assigned duties in the areas of curriculum development and fiscal management, for example, or whatever the superintendent directs."

In other business at last night's meeting, the board approved specifications for replacement of two coal-fired boilers and windows at the Conners School at a cost estimated at \$150,000 and authorized Taylor to seek emergency aid to repair the Rue School.

Hospitality — Hoboken style



SUPERHERO—Ingrid Intuition (Wonder Woman) and Cynthia Intuition, dressed as a clown, clown with three-year-old Lauren La Bruna Saturday during the second annual Hoboken Hospitality Day along Washington Street. The event, sponsored by the Hoboken Retail Bureau, was designed to build neighborhood spirit.



ROVING BAND—Street musicians stroll along Washington Street in Hoboken during the city's Hospitality Day between First and Seventh streets.

Hoboken teachers angry over pact

By WILLIAM BETZ

Hoboken teachers last night charged the board of education with failure to negotiate in good faith on a new teacher's contract, an action that could force a teacher's strike.

Michael Donofrio, president of the Hoboken Teacher's Association and chairman of the teacher's negotiating team, said the board has failed to take part in any of the negotiating sessions—which are currently at an impasse. A similar situation three years ago led to a teacher's strike.

The current three year contract with city teachers expires on June 30. In the face of the failure of the teachers and the board to come to terms on a new contract, the board has applied to the state Public Employment Relations

Commission for mediation, Donofrio said.

The teachers association president criticized the board for failing to take part in the bargaining talks, which he said are at a "critical" point.

Board President Otto Hottendorf cited a resolution passed by the board several years ago which prohibits board members' participation in negotiating sessions as the board's reason for avoiding active participation in the current talks.

"That's the easy way out," Donofrio responded. "It's the same situation you put us in three years ago. It's going to happen again," he added, referring to the last teachers' strike.

The reason Hottendorf gave for the board's reluctance to rescind the resolution barring participation in contract

talks is that the teachers would then "be directing us (the board) on how we negotiate."

Donofrio questioned the role of former Hoboken Mayor Louis DePascale, who he said is on the board of education's payroll at a salary of \$15,000 a year as "negotiator." Donofrio also said school board attorney Robert Taylor and Superintendent Thomas F. McFeely are members of the board's negotiating team.

At one point during the discussions, which became heated at times, Taylor charged the teachers with waiving confidentiality by raising the issue of the stalled negotiations. The attorney threatened to make the board's position on contract matters public, but he yielded the floor to Hottendorf, who said the board is taking an active part by discussing the talks with board negotiators.

It was at this point that Donofrio said the board

committee was not taking part in the bargaining.

The members of the school board negotiating committee are Robert Wendelken, Richard England, and James Monaco, according to the teachers, but none of the three identified himself as a negotiator at the meeting.

In other matters before the board, Taylor and Mayo Lynch and Associates, a local engineering firm were authorized to request aid from the state and the federal government for the David E. Rue School.

The school has been criticized recently by citizens as being in a dangerous state of disrepair. Hottendorf said last night that the consulting engineer has determined the school to be "sound." McFeely last week, in response to claims that the school was ready to fall down, said "it would take an act of God" to cause this to happen.