

MR SUDALL
1403 WOODBRIDGE COMMONS WAY
ISELIM NJ 08830

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Taskforce calls waste problem 'time bomb'

A billion-dollar effort to deal with New Jersey's toxic and solid-waste problems has been recommended by a taskforce studying the issue at the Newark campus of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

In a report on "Waste Disposal in New Jersey," the six-member group of investigators called the situation a "time bomb" and strongly urged measures to dispose of accumulating garbage and industrial waste while simultaneously cleaning up toxic dumps.

Prepared under the auspices of the university's New Jersey Medical School's Dept. of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, the report made these major proposals:

—A \$1 billion bond issue to supplement present appropriations to clean up an

estimated 1,000 toxic dump sites.

—Mandatory recycling to reduce garbage volume.

—Strictly monitored regulations for incinerators burning solid and toxic waste.

—Source reduction by industry, mainly through recycling waste products between companies so each can remove whatever is useful to it.

—Increased health monitoring and contamination testing in areas identified as high risk from known toxic dumping.

The taskforce pulled no punches in its assessment of the environmental situation. "It would be unthinkable to allow any further despoiling of our environment by those who believe they can dispose of toxic substances with relative impunity," the report stated.

It added, "New Jersey has the worst chemical toxic-waste disposal site problem in the nation."

The report called the problem "literally a time bomb of garbage and previously stored or dumped radioactive and non-radioactive wastes that are being generated now and will be generated for the foreseeable future. The state government, many industries and the public expressed concern and reacted responsibly, but that response has nevertheless been inadequate...What has been lacking is a sense of urgency."

According to the report some four million tons of pollutants pour into New Jersey air each year. Ten million tons of garbage require disposal annually, about half of which is recyclable. The report also pointed out 2,500 companies generate more than a

million tons of hazardous waste and "a considerable quantity is disposed of illegally."

The taskforce acknowledged use of large incinerators for garbage disposal is reasonable considering the lack of alternatives, such as places to dump on land or sea.

However, it stressed this must be accompanied by strict monitoring to insure proper incineration of the most toxic materials and community regulations mandating recycling to reduce overall tonnage.

"With vigorous recycling we can reduce the volume of garbage by at least 50 percent," the report stated. "This is enormously important because some of the garbage must go into landfills...At least 15 percent of garbage is non-combustible."

To cut down on industrial waste the report urged the state to mandate "source reduction," mostly through recycling efforts supported by tax incentives and enforced through fines and possible loss of operating license if goals are not met.

The report, which is being sent to the governor and state legislators, urged passage of a \$1 billion bond issue to speed clean-up of toxic-waste disposal sites linked, in preliminary studies, to "adverse health effects" resulting from chemical exposure via contaminated food or water.

This effort, the report stated, should include new studies of high-risk sites and the health conditions in surrounding areas.

"It is unconscionable to let them (chemicals) continue to seep into our water supplies and threaten the

health of New Jersey residents," said Dr. Donald Louria, chairman of the preventive medicine department and a member of the task force. "We have to take charge of our own future and our own health in New Jersey as much as possible. And that means we have to commit resources to clean up these awful toxic-waste disposal sites now."

In a similar vein the report concluded, "If we do not act we will have only ourselves to blame for the health and environmental catastrophes that will inevitably occur."

Joining Dr. Louria on the taskforce were New Jersey Medical School faculty members, Drs. John D. Bogden, chairman; Marc Lavietes; Steven Marcus; G. Reza Najem, and Jules Tietelbaum.



ON THE BEAT ... Clark Mayor George G. Nucera, left, pins the badge on newly-appointed Clark Ptl. Dennis T. Reilly as Police Chief Anthony Smar and the patrolman's mother, Mrs. Mary Reilly, look on.



WELCOME ABOARD ... Clark Mayor George G. Nucera, left, pins the badge on newly-appointed Clark Ptl. James Ceresa as Police Chief Anthony Smar and the patrolman's father, James Ceresa, Sr., look on.

Government crackdown saves \$9 billion

Rep. Matthew J. Rinaldo, whose district includes Clark, said today government whistle blowers and investigators are meeting with increasing success in ferreting out billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse in government contracts.

In the six-month period ending Sept. 30, 1984 Rep. Rinaldo revealed there have been 2,023 successful prosecutions in cases involving fraud, waste and abuse in government contracts, according to reports from inspectors general assigned to various departments. Slightly more than \$59 million was recovered as a result of the investigations, and 483 persons or firms doing business with the federal government were disbarred from further procurement contracts or their business relations with government agencies were suspended.

The representative also found as a result of the inquiries and audits agency managers have commitments to recover another \$1 billion and have introduced management efficiencies designed to save \$3.7 billion.

Another \$4.3 billion in questionable costs sustained by contractors were uncovered in audits by the Defense Contract Audit Agency and are being investigated, he learned.

"Almost \$9 billion in actual savings and anticipated management efficiencies occurred between April and September, 1984. In the shocking case of the special aircraft toilet seat cover that was purchased in 1983, from Lockheed for \$640 the firm has since refunded the government \$29,000.

Lockheed wound up losing \$38 on the sale of each of these special seat covers for military aircraft," the legislator pointed out.

He said some critics who have cited the extravagant expenditures of \$400 for claw hammers and \$9,000 for wrenches neglected to mention the Pentagon obtained a refund from these contractors and refused to pay the overcharges. Defense officials also took what was described by the Pentagon as "stern disciplinary action" against those who permitted the abuses to continue before they were uncovered. The Pentagon now requires contractors, supplying spare parts as low or lower than those charged to their "most favored customer."

According to the reports cited by the lawmaker, the defense department has demoted and fired those responsible for gross inefficiencies and faulty procurement contracts. These indefensible purchases were made several years ago, but have only been brought to light as a result of the department's on-going review of all spending.

He also was informed the defense department's criminal investigation branch opened 49,000 cases for review since 1981, and about 20,000 were referred for prosecution or administrative action that resulted in over 1,500 convictions.

In the last fiscal year the Defense Contract Audit Agency saved \$7.4 billion as a result of closer scrutiny of military spending, according to the Republican.

"When the American taxpayers read about the ludicrous expenditures for toilet seat covers and claw hammers," Rep. Rinaldo said, "they lose faith in the entire government procurement system. Federal agencies and inspectors in general need to do a better job of informing the public about the successful prosecution of those responsible and the fact government audits and investigations are uncovering these abuses, otherwise the public thinks nothing is being done."

A recent report by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency noted there have been 10,262 successful prosecutions in fraud cases since the council was established by the Reagan Administration in 1981.

The representative said stepped-up audits and the introduction of better management techniques have enabled the federal government to save or recover \$46 billion in the last three and a half years.

The legislator warned, however, the recommendation of the Office of Management and Budget to sharply reduce appropriations for auditing of federal programs and grants from \$11.2 million this year to \$8.7 million in fiscal 1986 would slow down efforts to weed out waste and fraud.

"We need continued auditing and oversight of these programs, not less," the lawmaker said in expressing strong opposition to the administration's proposal to cutback on funds in the 1986 budget for audits. He said the proposed \$2.6 million reduction for 1986

represents a drastic cut, and while it achieves a small savings in the budget, in the long-run it would be penny wise and pound foolish.

"The minute government contractors discover there has been a relaxation of financial controls over contracts and programs, they will be tempted to take more liberties and to exercise fewer cost controls," Rep. Rinaldo warned. "It is contrary to the administration's policy of curbing waste, fraud and contract

cost over-runs, and I'm urging the OMB to reverse course and restore the funds to the budget."

"One of the problems the administration is confronting is the more abuses and pro-securites, critics of government get more ammunition to attack the whole procurement program. The administration deserves credit for exposing this unconscionable fraud and for recovering billions of dollars."

Help offered with taxes

The Internal Revenue Service has arranged for volunteers to assist senior citizens, at no charge, in filing income tax returns.

Please telephone the Clark Public Library at 388-5999 or Ann Costello at 382-4227 for further information.



Recreation center open during recess

Clark Mayor George Nucera invited all residents of the township to join the Clark Recreation Center.

The recreation center will offer a full range of activities meeting the needs and interests of all different age groups for both girls and boys, he reported.

Winter activities in the gymnasiums will include: open recreation, basketball, badminton, volleyball, tag games, relays, skills, roller-skating and other active games.

In the gameroom, there will be such activities as: Regulation pool, bumper pool, shuffle board, air hockey, carom hockey, ping pong, checkers, chess and many other table games.

Applications may be obtained at the recreation center (Brewer School). All participants must have a recreation center membership card to enter the center.

The cost for membership is \$3.50 per year. This covers the cost of insurance.

The center will be open during the winter school recess both today and tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Participants may enter the center after completing an application.

Seton Hall to host prep reunion

The Seton Hall Preparatory School's class of 1935 will hold its 50th reunion on Saturday, June 8.

All members of this class should telephone Mrs. Patricia McMahon at the alumni office at 761-9512 for more information.

Any calls regarding the whereabouts of class of 1935 members would also be appreciated.

Bankers praise Rep. Rinaldo

Veteran New Jersey lawmaker, Rep. Matthew J. Rinaldo, whose district includes Clark, has been identified by the American Bankers Assn. as one of the "movers and shakers" to watch in the just-convened 99th Congress.

Rep. Rinaldo was listed in a recent issue of the association's weekly journal as one of 28 members of Congress expected to play a key role over the next two years in the processing of legislation affecting the securities and banking industries.

The representative, who is beginning his seventh two-year term in the House, is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and serves as the ranking minority member on the

Setters win thriller in county tourney

The Setters of Mother Seton Regional High School of Clark advanced to the opening round of the annual Union County Girls Basketball Tournament at Clark's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School on Feb. 9 with a thrilling 49-to-47 win over the winless Cranford Cougars.

Phyllis Gray's basket for the Cougars tied the game at 47-47, then Maxine Brown converted two charity tosses with 30 seconds to play to give Coach Margaret Egan's team the win.

Christa Munch led the Setters with 13 points, while 12 were scored by Maxine Brown and Cassandra Murphy. Stacy Gutowski had six, Sue Kuczynski four and Shalenni Mishoe two.

Both teams had 18 baskets. The difference was the 13-to-11 edge from the line.

Residents to report potholes

All residents of Clark should assist the department of public works in identifying the location of all road potholes caused by recent snow and rain storms, announced Mayor George G. Nucera.

Residents may assist by telephoning 388-3600 and saying they want to report a pothole.

Clark's finest adds two to its ranks

The appointment of Dennis T. Reilly and James Ceresa as policemen in Clark was announced by Mayor George G. Nucera. These two new policemen placed first and second respectively on the New Jersey Civil Service examination for patrolmen.

Ptl. Reilly has been a resident of Clark since 1965 and is the son of Mrs. Mary Reilly and the late Raymond Reilly. He was

graduated from Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in 1975 and Kean College of New Jersey in Union in 1981 with a bachelor of arts degree in history. Prior to joining the Clark police force he worked in the records bureau of the Newark Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Ptl. Ceresa is a native of Clark. He was graduated

from Johnson in 1979 and attended St. John's University, in Staten Island, N.Y.

Prior to joining the Clark force he was a patrolman in Westfield, and prior to that he was a police dispatcher for the Clark police force.