

## Courier Comments....

"Give Them Light With Which To See And Stimulus To Reflect."

### Assemblyman, Mayor share Plaudits in securing Village Bypass Legislation

Potsdam Assemblyman Verner M. Ingram has left his stamp on state legislation in many fields; but probably his home-town will remember him best in years to come for the note-worthy Assembly Intro 5303, Chapter 796 of the Laws of New York of 1966, which authorizes a Bypass for carrying through traffic around the village, and which was signed into law by Governor Rockefeller on July 6.

The Bypass, or alternate relief route, as it has variously been termed, is desperately needed and the need becomes more acute with each passing day. Vern recalls that when discussions first began about the problem, some 15 or 16 years ago, the situation then was described as serious. Two years ago, when former Courier-Freeman Editor Michael Knapp reported on a conference attended by Mayor George (Ted) Anderson and village planners, with Ingram and the Department of Public Works in Albany, the traffic situation had become 'critical'.

Since 1964, the whole problem has become even more acute until we now have a traffic bottleneck especially during the peak travel hours, which rivals that of many a large city.

A major fire at the Thomas Tire Shop on Maple Street in January 1966 inspired further editorial comment in this paper regarding the urgency of the need for an alternate access route into or through the village. Because that particular fire occurred in that section of the village between the two bridges on Maple Street (Route 11), normal traffic was rerouted around either Hannawa Falls or Hewittville, via the Clarkson-Pine-Maple intersection, in order for fire-fighting and rescue equipment to move from the east side of the river, where all such services are housed, across the two-lane bridge to the west side where the conflagration was taking place.

There is also the problem, as both Ingram and Mayor Anderson have emphasized when discussing the matter with state officials, of the Clarkson housing complex which is located on the west side of the river, causing an almost steady flow of students, both pedestrian and vehicular, across the bridges to the class-rooms on the east side. When we add to these two factors the steadily increasing business growth of the village itself, the expanding educational facilities of both secondary and higher institutions, the change-over from railroad to trucking services for wholesale deliveries, and the fact that practically all traffic from Canada, Plattsburgh and Malone to Syracuse and points west must use either Route 11 or Route 56, then we are doubly thankful that relief is in sight.

Ingram has pointed out that budgetary provisions must be made before the Bypass may become a reality, and warns that this can hardly be accomplished in less than a year—it may take even longer. Still, the legislation is on the books and, in time, we will have a choice of routes through the village. It's interesting to note that Mayor Anderson in his statement gives the Assemblyman all the credit; and that Ingram stresses the invaluable part played by the Potsdam Mayor in all the intricate maneuverings incidental to final accomplishment. We say that both of these 'public servants' have performed an outstanding service for which they will long be remembered, and we are confident that the entire area rejoices with us as we glimpse a faint ray of light in our dark traffic situation.

### What other Editors say...

#### You can't put a Price Tag on Children

Kilgore, Tex., News Herald

There's no price tag on the kids at our house. We learned long ago that any parent who thinks he can budget a precise figure for shoes, pants, vacations, doctor bills, church and school activities and the inevitable unforeseen expenses is stark, raving mad, or soon will be. How much food can a teenager consume, for example, in a year?

But Uncle Sam very confidently does set a price tag on our kids, \$600. That figure was established by the 1939 Internal Revenue Code. That's what the government allows us for each dependent child, as a deduction on our income tax.

Several million young married couples who were not yet born in 1939 are raising families and paying taxes now under that antiquated \$600 deduction per dependent. And while we all struggle, Uncle Sam is establishing new dependency "allowances" everywhere you look.

For example: it costs the government \$7,000 a year for each member of its Job Corps. Not \$600, mind you, but \$7,000. The cost of maintaining an inmate in a federal prison is \$2,300. Social Security pays up to \$186 a month to some persons. That is to be compared with the \$50 per month deduction we are allowed for each of our kids.

The Aid to Dependent Children program pays more than \$800 a year for the upkeep of an illegitimate child. Refugees from Castro's Cuba are allowed a minimum of \$1,200 a year by the government with an additional \$1,000 a year budgeted for each Cuban child entered in school. In New York City's Harlem, poverty-war officials have been shoveling out about \$190 a month to hundreds of teenagers, requiring only that the payee stay out of trouble with the police.

In short, when Uncle Sam "adopts" a dependent, that \$600 business goes out the window. Believe it or not, last year's budget for the Vista program (Volunteers in Service of America) reflected an expenditure of more than \$15,000 per trainee. How would you like to have that much for your college-bound youngster's expenses next year?

That 27-year-old \$600 deduction is preposterous by any measuring stick. Making it even more ridiculous is the fact that we have a 42 cent dollar today as compared with 1939. Realistically the \$600 deduction is only \$252. Help!

#### Public Welfare still has Stigma for Some

Some things are harder to sell than others. Many a new day will dawn before the public comes to accept "welfare" as just another government service. Yet that is what Commissioner of Social Welfare George K. Wyman seeks. He wants the term to be devoid of "stigma." He doesn't think a recipient of welfare should feel any differently about accepting aid than he does about attending a public school and borrowing a book from the library...

To a degree, the commissioner is right. If people who are disabled have to depend on public assistance, its acceptance should not add to their unhappiness. . . . On the other hand, there is such a thing as pride in being able to pay one's way and this would seem to be an element of strength in a democratic society. It should not be destroyed lightly . . .

—Ogdensburg Journal



SENIOR CITIZEN MEETING — Gerald Bradshaw, Potsdam, Francis (Bill) Healey, Potsdam Town Supervisor, and Walter Bayer, Massena Town Supervisor, were among interested citizens invited to attend a pilot meeting on possible Senior Citizens programs in St. Lawrence County launched by the Community Development Program, last spring. Basic difficulties in setting up services for the elderly in isolated areas were discussed, with further discussions slated for the future . . .

### Albany Column

## New York State Legislature ends Session --- Longest in Half Century

THE MERCHANT'S CORNER

By Cliff A. Allanson, Executive Director  
New York State Council of Retail Merchants, Inc.

The 1966 Session of the New York State Legislature came to an end on July 5th. It will probably be remembered for being the longest Session in more than 50 years although its length was one of the least important facts of the Session — of far less consequence than legislation enacted.

The budget for the coming fiscal year set a new record for rate of growth of state government. In approving a budget of about Four Billion Dollars a new record for approved expenditures was, of course, also established — to be broken year after year in each year to come as citizens turn more and more to larger units of government for services and for the levying of taxes to provide funds for local units of government under the label of "state-aid."

Growing government has become a way of life rather than a drain on our economy. Of the Four Billion Dollars, more than one-half will be returned to local governments and with about \$1.5-billion used for school costs; another about \$400-million for social welfare and the remainder for general local government assistance; highways; housing and a host of other smaller programs.

Of the approximately 40% of the budget retained for state purposes, about \$300-million will be used for the mental hygiene program and nearly as large an amount for higher education. Other programs maintained by the state include public works, highways, capital construction and many other programs with expenditures affecting the economies of communities throughout the state.

The enactment of the new "Medicaid" law has met with praise as well as sharp criticism from self-reliant citizens from all areas of the state. Unduly liberal in its initial form, its possible cost, and scope of citizen coverage, and potential abuse were apparently inadequately recognized by citizens generally, and possibly also by legislators approving the proposal.

Last minute amendments requiring some claimants to pay initial costs, together with other amendments to protect against fraud substantially improved the law. It is, however, an important new and broad step to provide a large portion of our population with more adequate medical care — paid for by taxes to state and federal governments — chiefly by citizens not eligible for benefits.

The authorization of an income tax on residents together with a wage and salary tax on working commuters to be imposed by New York City was one of the most important actions taken. Similar authority will doubtless be demanded by other local units of government in the years ahead, and there is little doubt that this form of taxation will be added to sales taxes and real estate taxes as an important source of local government revenues.

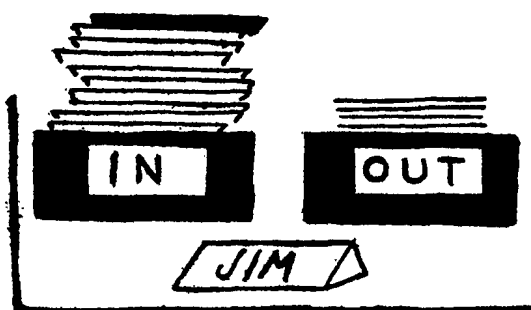
A legislative era ended in 1964 — the long era of control of the Legislature by upstate legislators — generally a Republican majority. The 1965 and 1966 Sessions must be re-

garded as a period of transition.

A new legislative era begins with the 1967 Session. As a result of the Supreme Courts decision for one man-one vote, Senate and Assembly districts have been reapportioned. In this new era under present or foreseeable future reapportion-

ment plans, legislators elected to represent the New York City Metropolitan Area will constitute a majority in each House, and legislative decisions will reflect the views and wishes of our mass urban population rather than the more conservative viewpoints of the more rural areas as in the past.

### From The Administrator's Desk...



By JIM MULCARE

Potsdam vs . . . . .  
During the last few weeks on business and vacation, I have traveled some few thousand miles in New York State and it is my professional idiosyncrasy to compare the other places one visits to Potsdam. Let me today reflect on some of these comparisons.

I don't know about you, but when I think of a community, a village, city, hamlet, or what have you, I think of a place to live, to work, to play, to bring up one's children. In Potsdam I think of large trees shadowing happy — child filled families. Oh I see Pleasant Streets elsewhere (in Saratoga, New York it is a dead end alley) Schuylerville, for instance, has a beautiful residential section but we have much more than our share.

Going back over the last five or six years, beautification committees have popped up like dandelions on a spring lawn but in Potsdam we have concrete example on Market Street (filled with flowers). Our parks blossom and are becoming a solace for the weary as well as objects to be admired "Cherchez les femmes."

Up and down this north land of ours communities are improving their water supply and purifying their waters. Potsdam has now underway a water pollution control project second to none in the State. The Racquette River, once a swimmer's dream, will again be potable when we complete our water pollution control plant.

This year the full impact of summer is upon us. The little red line on the thermometer bouncing in the 90s has pushed people to lakes — swimming and boating have become most desirable pastimes.

Do we appreciate the St. Lawrence? Have you been swimming in Higley Flow Ozonia? And Joe Indian? Have you seen the Botanical gardens in Ottawa? Have you



Both of the major political organizations will hold organizational meetings in St. Lawrence County next Monday night, at which time committee vacancies will presumably be filled and party chairmen will be elected for another year.

The Republican Committee will convene at St. Lawrence Inn, Canton; the Democrats have selected the Norfolk Town Hall as their meeting site. Incumbent Democratic County Chairman Francis Lavigne of Massena said Monday that he is available for reelection if 'the people' want him . . . this in sharp contrast to repeated news stories last week that he did not plan to be a candidate.

All seems quiet on the Republican front, with no indication that incumbent chairman Henry Howard of Waddington faces any threat to reelection. Howard is presently finishing a term to which he was elected when former Chairman Seward Brown of Ogdensburg (since deceased) was transferred by his firm to Boston.

It is the Republican county committee which really faces a quandary, since two qualified, highly respected Republican attorneys are vying for the coveted post of Family Court Judge, which pays a \$25,000 per annum salary for a 10-year term on the bench.

This came about when county Democrats endorsed and then nominated GOP candidate Bennett Abrams of Massena as their choice for the post. Thus, even though District Attorney J. George Follett of Potsdam won the Republican nomination in the June 28 Primary election, the general election ballot will carry Republican

### We Get Letters . . . North Vietnam Cease-Fire urged

Several St. Lawrence County clergymen, designating themselves as the "Clergy on Vietnam in St. Lawrence County," have released a statement of their position regarding the North Vietnam bombing situation.

The statement has been signed by the following clergymen: Rev. Lloyd E. Evans, Rev. J. Lynn Springer, both of Potsdam; Rev. Harry Myers and Rev. Frank Smith, Norwood; Rev. Max Coots, Rev. Jack Wells, Canton;

Rev. Frederic C. Guile, Star Lake; Rev. Charles Taylor, Waddington; Rev. W.D. Kennedy, Rev. John R. Ramsey, Msgr. Joseph Bailey, Rabbi David Kozak, all of Ogdensburg.

The statement follows: "We believe the prevention of war and the establishment of a durable peace with justice and freedom is an overriding issue of our time. Because there is continued risk of world wide nuclear war, especially since the increased bombing of North Vietnam, we urge our governmental leaders to intensify their non-military and diplomatic efforts to arrive at a just and peaceful settlement of the Vietnam "conflict" as soon as possible.

"Recognizing the complexity and difficulty of the situation in Vietnam and its implications for the future stability of Southeast Asia; Recognizing the necessity for greater knowledge and understanding of the problems of the area and the difficult choices facing the United States government; we urge the United States government to work energetically for a cease-fire and negotiations with representatives of all concerned groups, including the National Liberation Front, and to declare clearly its readiness to accept arbitration of the Vietnam conflict by an international body that has some credible claim on the confidence of all parties concerned."

make our accurate counting of election results most difficult. Perhaps you should instruct them in "election etiquette."

Sincerely yours,  
District #6: Clara R. Smith, Grace Connelly, Margaret Hugley, Lillian Lakins; District #8: Sylvia A. McGowan, Genevieve Brown, Violet S. Cook, Irene M. Taylor.  
Both districts are in the Civic Center.

candidates on both Row A and Row B.

There are some who are already labeling Attorney Abrams a 'turncoat' because of this turn of affairs, which designation seems to us not only ridiculous but inaccurate. Abrams neither sought nor worked for the Democratic nomination . . . it was handed to him . . . is there one among his detractors who would have refused such an opportunity? I think not.

Never-the-less, it appears certain that a good many dyed-in-the-wool Republicans will exercise some marvelous mental gymnastics as they try to rationalize why they support one or the other of the candidates.

To compound the present uncertainty and soul-searching, Abrams has not indicated, to our knowledge, at this point, whether he intends to file an Independent petition, thus enabling certain so-called 'organization' Republicans to soothe their consciences in the voting booth . . . they can pull the 'Independent' lever, rather than the 'Democrat' one, which factor seems to have an enormous attraction for some GOP-ers!

Meanwhile, Congress man and Mrs. Robert C. McEwen have apparently started daughter Nancy on the right political track . . . she has issued an appeal for interested teenagers who would like to join the Teenage Republican Club in the county to get in touch with her. We're glad to hear this . . . any party needs youth in the ranks, if it is to survive, much more have meaning.

### McEwen lauds Safety Program

by Esther Van Wagoner Tufty  
Washington correspondent

Washington — Congre. an Robert McEwen (R-Ogdensburg) is especially pleased with the highway safety act, as recommended by his Public Works committee, because "the state is recognized as having a legitimate responsibility."

The safety program would be administered by the governors of each of the states participating. Provisions also are made for assistance to political subdivisions of the state as well as the state as a whole. Funds would be made available on a 50-50 matching basis to state and local governments.

McEwen hopes there will be no confusion about his safety bill and the safety bill under consideration by the Commerce committee. This one deals with the "road" and the one which has caused such a uproar through Critch-Nader, deals with the "automobile."

McEwen, who serves on the Roads subcommittee, says the recommended legislation would require the adoption of basic standards of highway safety which would include improved driver performance requirements, accident investigations, automobile registration, operation and inspection requirements highway design and related subjects.

Another section of the bill calls for research into the causes and cures of highway accidents and the development of improved procedures and highways which would curb the death toll.

The bill also would expand and strengthen the national driver register program within the Department of Commerce, and create a 31 member National Highway Safety Advisory Council, which McEwen calls "very good."

Worried about highway death and injury toll, especially in St. Lawrence county where the rate has increased, McEwen sees the act a major step in the right direction in federal assistance to help the states combat the problem of highway safety.