

Courier Comments....

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

Odd Relationship Operating in Capitol

An odd working relationship is quietly operating on Capitol Hill between "junk mail" interests and some powerful unions representing post office employees.

This arrangement is partly reflected in J. Don Kerlin, lobbyist and former senate staff member who represents the 200,000-member National Association of Letter Carriers as well as firms active in the volume mail business. There are other connections, too.

Congressional critics say the questionable coalition between bulk mailers and postal unions threatens to undermine post office department efforts to have junk mailers pay more realistic rates, a move that would help reduce the \$1.2 billion postal deficit the taxpayers are shouldering each year.

This lobbying arrangement is aimed at keeping junk mail rates low — a business advantage for volume mailers whose economic health some union leaders believe affects their members.

Rep. Ken Hechler, D., W. Va., calls the tieup "an unholy alliance." Lobbyist Kerlin describes his clientele as "a compatible companionship between people who use the mails and those who deliver it."

Aside from Kerlin, there are these other links between postal unions and the bulk mailers:

1 — The United Federation of Postal Clerks has distributed a bulletin to its 160,000 members which says in part: "Any decrease in mail volume automatically decreases the ranks of the postal clerks. . . Attacks on third-class mail are attacks on your job."

2 — Harry J. Maginnis, president of the Associated Third Class Mail Users, a trade association of businessmen, says all unions favor bulk mail because it means "more employees and a bigger union." Maginnis leases office space in the Letter Carriers union building.

3 — Rep. Lester L. Wolff, D., N. Y., an outspoken foe of junk mail says he has failed to get support for raising junk mail rates when addressing mail handlers in his district. "I suspect some of them moonlight for direct mail houses," he says. Maginnis and post office officials say this is true.

4 — Mike Keating 28, son of Jerome J. Keating, the Letter Carriers' union president, is a staff assistant on the house post office and civil service committee. The younger Keating is assigned to a subcommittee which considers rates for junk mail and other postal categories.

The elder Keating helped arrange the now-famous testimonial dinner for Rep. Thaddeus J. Dulski, D., N. Y., in September, 1965, Dulski, then a member of the house post office committee and now its chairman, has admitted keeping as a personal gift the \$11,000 contributed by Postal Union members, volume mailers and longtime friends.

Thirteen first-term Republican congressmen, headed by Rep. Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, have asked the house ethics committee to investigate Dulski's acceptance of the funds.

The union-bulk mail connections are viewed as unusual by those who believe that mailmen dislike junk mail and that higher business rates would mean more revenue for postal salaries.

Post office officials, in fact, brand as fallacious union arguments that an increase in bulk mail rates would endanger the jobs of postal workers.

"This could be true if the volume of bulk mail dropped drastically," a department spokesman said. "But this assumes that the rate increases we want are prohibitive, and we don't think they are."

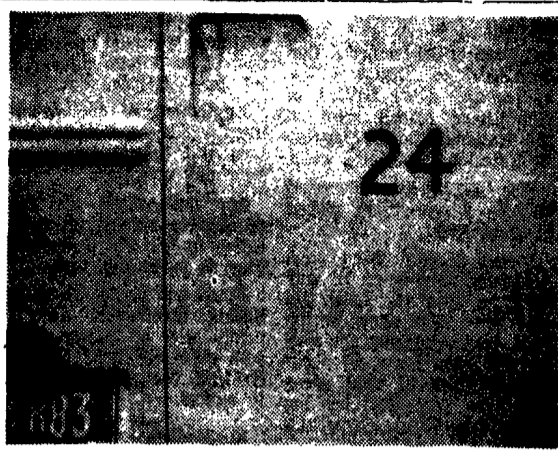
Third-class mail, which includes circulars, shopping guides and merchandise samples, currently pays only 63 percent of its \$1.1 billion-a-year cost of handling. It leaves a revenue gap of \$401 million.

The post office department wants congress to require bulk mailers to pay 80 percent of the cost of handling their mail, and the house post office committee now has pegged it at 82 percent.

But the rate increase must still be approved by the full house and later the senate, so unions and bulk mailers are girding for more lobbying. A post office official, who declined comment on the propriety of the union-bulk mail coalition said:

"We have confidence in the experience and good judgment of congress."

We taxpayers who have to make up the postal deficit, who subsidize "junk mail" by paying out of our taxes \$401 million a year, hope that Congress has "experience and good judgment." Whether this means that it will supinely vote for the unholy alliance of big unions and big "junk mail" interests or vote for the taxpayers and ordinary citizens, remains to be seen. We hope Congressman McEwen will be found in the latter category. His constituents would overwhelmingly appreciate his independence of the unholy alliance. They would appreciate having their mail boxes less cluttered with "junk mail" which costs them \$401 million a year for the "privilege" of receiving. (FRL)



WHAT IS IT? — Actually its a picture of the back end of a Lawrence Ave. school bus. This is the way a school bus looks just before your car hits it. It should serve as a reminder that school buses make frequent, unexpected stops to take on or discharge students. Only the driver of the bus knows when he is going to stop quickly. All drivers should use extreme caution when following a school bus. The law prohibits passing a stopped school bus from either direction so it is doubly important to be alert when you see a school bus. Safe driving is the best insurance against seeing the real thing as pictured above.

SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS (R., N.Y.)

reports FROM WASHINGTON

The President's proposed 10 percent surcharge on personal and corporate income taxes has been widely criticized in and out of Congress, by Republicans and Democrats alike. Considering the fact that we are today engaged in a war, the public opposition which this proposal has generated is somewhat unprecedented.

In my judgment, this is only partially due to the American taxpayers' distaste for higher taxes or to Congressional reluctance to enact a tax increase just prior to a presidential election year. The major reason for the lack of public support is that there is a growing belief among the American people that we must first reassess our commitments and our priorities before we enact a tax increase.

Recent events have dramatized, as never before, the imperative need to reassess priorities. On one hand, our people are becoming deeply troubled and highly dubious about a war which is costing us \$2 billion and 1,200 American lives each month. And the President's decision to deploy an additional 45,000 troops in Vietnam — which he connects with the tax surcharge — comes amid continuing reports of military stalemate and lack of progress in pacification.

On the other hand, the budgetary impact of the Vietnam war is apparently running into head-on competition with the urgent need for a national response to the agony of our cities, as reflected in riots, violence and deplorable conditions.

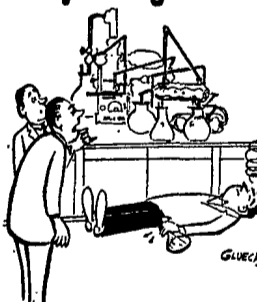
Thus, it would be far more sensible to the American people if the President had coupled his request for a \$6.3 billion surcharge with a major national effort to come to grips with the basic causes of the agony of our cities. But he did not.

It would be far more sensible if he had also asked for major tax reform to recapture billions of dollars in revenues lost to the Treasury by loopholes and special allowances. He did not. The depletion allowance for minerals industries, including oil and gas, alone is costing the Treasury at least \$1.5 billion per year.

It would be easier to support the President's request for new taxes if he had made specific commitments — rather than just vague references — deferring some non-essential civilian expenditures; and these include much in public works expenditures.

In short, the case for a tax surcharge will remain weak unless the President resets our national priorities, proposes the kind of effort needed to meet the crisis in our cities and gives more convincing evidence that we are reaching the beginning of an end in our Vietnam commitment.

My Neighbors



"Oops—now we'd better get started on an antidote."

Will the Real Town Board Please Stand?

(Editor's Note: Voters should be familiar with the duties of their elected town officials, so when election day arrives, they can properly pair the candidate and the job. In accordance with this belief, the Republican Women's Club of the Town of Stockholm has prepared a series of articles. The first article deals with the duties of the justices of peace and town councilmen.)

By Joyce Flint

"Will the real Town Board please stand?"

Five officers comprise the Town Board in second class towns: two justices (whose duties are plural), two councilmen and the supervisor who presides at meetings.

Possibly the most colorful, and at this point the most controversial because there are those who seriously question the wisdom of judgments by judges lacking formal legal education are the town justices, known prior to Sept. 1 of this year, as justices of the peace and more commonly referred to as JPs.

"His Honor" performs many services in discharging his duties as magistrate, witness-signatures, levying fines, pronouncing sentences, performing marriage ceremonies, maintaining detailed and complex records and filing reports. and is logically compensated for this second post in that his salary is almost universally more than that of the councilmen.

Gold is where you find it and so are JPs. He may have an office in the town Hall, but it is more likely that his "chambers" is a corner of the family living room or dining room, his dais the hastily cleared corner of a docket-decorated dining table. While there may be a great deal of validity in the argument that the "atmosphere" provided by a black-robed judge in paneled rooms is more impressive to a miscreant, there is much to commend the ready accessibility and round-the-clock service of the Town (local) Court system.

While many of his temporary "guests" arrive in a state or county-owned vehicle and are escorted by one or more neatly uniformed gentlemen, they are frequently unhappy at finding themselves in his presence. On occasion, these

We Got Letters . . .

CSEA Dissatisfied With Pay Schedule

Dear Sir:

The Board of Directors of the St. Lawrence County Chapter of the Civil Service Employees' Association (CSEA) by an overwhelming majority voiced their dissatisfaction with the recommendations made by the Finance Committee of the St. Lawrence County Board of Supervisors for upgrading the salary schedule.

It was felt that CSEA being the recognized bargaining agent for all county employees should have been informed on the decisions that were made by the salary committee, headed by Colton Supervisor George M. Swift, so that they might have had an opportunity to exchange views in reference to the ever growing needs of the county employees.

It is the position of CSEA that an across the board raise of \$200 will not meet the cost of living for the year and, as expressed by Robert Guild, field representative, is an insult to the integrity of county employees.

The St. Lawrence County Chapter of the CSEA has been recognized as the sole bargaining agent for all county employees, but because of the budget submission date, CSEA is not in the position to bargain collectively provided for by the new Public Employees Fair Employment Act this year.

However, Mrs. Mildred Talcott, president of St. Lawrence County Chapter CSEA is requesting a meeting immediately with Swift and, or, his committee to review the decisions made by the committee with an attempt to reopen negotiations.

The following are the proposals presented by CSEA to Finance Committee and their recommendations to the St. Lawrence County Board of Supervisors. This report was tabled by the board until its next meeting on Oct. 9.

1. Mileage allowance for official use be increased Jan. 1, 1968 to ten (10) cents per mile.
2. All regularly employed hourly employees shall receive the same holidays as salaried employees with pay.
3. Your Committee has been waiting for a report from the State Civil Service Commission for a job classification survey of county employees. Upon receipt of such survey, we recommend a resolution authorizing a complete salary study and evaluation for all county officers and employees. In addition to listed base salaries annual and longevity increments recommended are as follows:

First year, base salary.
 First year — \$200.
 Third year — \$400.
 Fourth and fifth year — \$600.
 Sixth through 10 years — \$700.
 Eleven through 15 years — \$800.
 Sixteen through 20 years — \$1,200.
 Over 20 years — \$1,600.

Hourly employees:
 After five years—.05 per hour over base pay.
 After 10 years—.15 per hour over base pay.
 After 15 years—.30 per hour over base pay.
 After 20 years—.50 per hour over base pay.
 Highway Department Employees:
 The work week shall be 45 hours for a five day week. The minimum rate for labor after two construction seasons (6 months) shall be \$2.15. Hourly employees shall be allowed two hours show up time. A regular employed hourly employee shall be one who works the day before the holiday and the day after unless previously excused and has been employed three (3) months. Longevity increments shall be credited providing an employee is regularly employed during the construction season (6 months), and is available for additional county employment.

In most instances the base pay was raised \$200 from the 1967 schedule. \$500 increase in base pay for caseworkers and 10 cents per hour above the hourly rate received in 1967 for highway, plus any increase earned from time service.

Yours truly,
 Marvin C. Murray
 Publicity Chairman

Absentee ballots may be obtained by county residents who are out of the county because of work, business or vacation by having their application at the Board of Elections office sometime between Oct. 7 and Oct. 31. Inmates of Veterans Hospitals, Servicemen, students matriculated or teachers working outside the county may have application for absentee ballots in to the Board of Elections in Canton between May 1 and Nov. 1. No applications for absentee ballots will be honored if registration is not in order! All registrations must be in by the Oct. 14 deadline!

A special note to servicemen and their families: a new law passed in 1966 allows the wife, parent or adult child of a serviceman serving outside the continental United States to sign the application form for an absentee ballot on behalf of the serviceman! Oct. 26 is the last day for the Division of Servicemen's Voting to get applications by mail and it is urged that applications be sent early as the round trip of the ballot takes several days.

If you have a question about elections, please send it to the League of Women Voters, c/o Mrs. W. N. Gill, Sisson St., Potsdam, or call 265-9324.

Ballot Box

We had several inquiries this week about absentee registration and it seems timely to discuss both absentee registration and balloting.

Applications for absentee registration may be obtained from the County Board of Elections in the Courthouse in Canton by phone, mail or in person, but hurry! All absentee registration applications should be in the office by Oct. 14. If this is the applicant's first registration the form must be sent in with proof of literacy and proof of age. This can be accomplished with a photostat or Xerox copy of the grade or high school diploma or its equivalent and the birth certificate. The absentee registration includes a spot that can be checked if the applicant also wants an absentee ballot. . . to vote from out of the district. The ballot will be sent automatically, if you indicate the need for it on the registration form.

People who are permanently disabled and have notified the Board of Elections will automatically receive their absentee ballots if the registrations are in order. Those who apply for absentee registration because of temporary illness, however, must reapply for absentee ballots between Oct. 6 and Oct. 31 if they are still ill near election time.

At such times younger members of the family are quickly banished to watch TV in an upstairs retreat. The judge, like a calm eye at the center of the hurricane, proceeds with the business at hand, whether it be minor traffic violation or charge of murder. Probably the most pleasant task of the T.J., who used to be a J.P., is that of uniting a man and a woman in the bonds of matrimony. Contrary to the image of the justice as a night-shirted, night-capped figure peering near-sightedly out from behind a partially opened door holding high a lantern while two figures huddle together in its uncertain puddle of light, most judges willingly provide whatever extras they are able to lend dignity to and give meaning to the ceremony.

The extras usually include making the family's living room the setting, and the judge's good wife invariably has a bowl of cut flowers or an arrangement of artificial ones on the coffee table or mantle

to add a bright note, providing appropriate background music on the stereo while he slips into a good suit, white shirt and tie, and supplying witnesses from the family's circle of close friends, when the bride and groom neglect to do so.

When the judge removes his invisible barrister's wig to participate in the business of local government, he becomes one of the four councilmen. It is the duty of these officers to attend a meeting or organization which is usually held on Jan. 2 or each year, one regular board meeting each month and a final meeting usually held on or about Dec. 28 for the purpose of auditing the books of the various officers and to clear the way for the next year's work, and they should not be absent without good cause.

They are expected to attend whatever special meetings may be necessitated in connection with administering the people's business. Studying areas needs for special services such as the creation of new light districts, the problems of sewage; being present at public hearings; being present when bids are opened and sharing in the decision whether

to accept and award contracts or whether it is better to reject and start all over again.

To make these decisions, the conscientious officer must spend many hours at home-work. He must keep abreast of whatever legislation affects his office and a proper discharge of his duties. He must know something of the material that is necessary for paving roads. He must become familiar with whatever is under the hood of various types of trucks and equipment so that he is able to make a good judgment as to which type will best serve the needs for which it is to be used. If the town is to build a building, then he must either have, or quickly acquire, an understanding of a blue-print. He must not lose sight of the fact that operating a municipality is managing a business and a large portion of its management depends upon accurate records so he must keep the many records when they make requests for permission to implement new practices and methods or for new equipment that will better, and more efficiently, accomplish (See Will the Real, Page 10)

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