

School tax in error; collection is halted

The collection of school taxes in the five townships in the Potsdam Central School district have been halted because of an error in Albany which has resulted in erroneous computations of the taxes.

Although the total levy will be unchanged, each town's share of the \$1,707,473 will be shifted.

The error resulted from a mailing of a notice of special equalization rate which was granted to the Town of Pierrepont. The new equalization rate will decrease Pierrepont's tax rate by about five or six dollars while the increase in all the other towns will probably amount to no more than a dollar.

Verner Ingram, attorney for the district, said that a solution for the mix-up is being sought this week in Albany.

Pierrepont had applied for and was granted a special increase in its equalization rate which would reduce its share of the tax burden within the school district. A notice of the change was then sent to the Town of Pierrepont Supervisor and to Clyde Roberts, St. Lawrence County Tax director.

County cited

CANTON—The St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services has been cited for its "outstanding record" in preventing duplicate check fraud by Richard V. Horan, state welfare inspector general.

The congratulations came in a recent letter to Social Services Commissioner Donald E. Kitchin from Horan. The letter dealt with the findings of a recent study of the duplicate check problem in the state.

Dateline...

MACHINES REMOVED
POTSDAM—After reviewing the legality and the advantages of having food vending machines at Potsdam Central School the administration has decided to remove the controversial machines.

Parent protests from a group calling itself "Parents interested in good nutrition" sparked the controversy and led to the removal of the equipment on Friday.

According to high school principal Jay Bouchard "these machines had been installed upon request by the student advisory council. Finances derived from these were given to the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes as well as for athletic awards. Other means of fund raising will now have to be studied by the council."

NOISE LIMITS REDUCED
Excessive noise from heavy trucks will be reduced under new rules and regulations being drafted by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Commissioner Peter A.A. Berle announced today.

The Department, Commissioner Berle said, is complying with legislation enacted last July, which becomes effective April 1, 1977. The law applies only to trucks weighing more than 10,000 pounds. Dump trucks, as well as trailer trucks and others, will be affected since a dump truck, loaded, usually weighs more than 10,000 pounds.

Berle has asked the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Division of State Police, the New York State Thruway Authority and the U.S. Bureau of Motor Carriers to appoint liaison representatives to study the regulations before they are released.

PERMISSION GRANTED
ALBANY—The Public Service Commission announced today it has granted permission to Upstate People for Safe Energy Technology, Inc. (UPSET) to present seven rebuttal witnesses at hearings on the health and safety aspects of 765,000 volt electric transmission facilities.

Dates for hearing rebuttal testimony have not been set.

UPSET's proposal to present the rebuttal witnesses was denied by the Presiding Examiners in the common hearings on July 22. The Examiners—Thomas R. Matias and Harold L. Colbeth—based their ruling on their interpretation of the Commission's order permitting the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) to begin construction of a major portion of one of the proposed 765,000 volt lines. The Examiners concluded that, in light of that order, the evidence proposed by UPSET covered subjects not appropriate for rebuttal.

In its order permitting UPSET to offer rebuttal witnesses, the Commission said its order permitting some construction was "not intended to limit further investigation of the health and safety aspects of 765,000-volt transmission lines in the rebuttal phase of this case. We recognized in our decision the possibility that further investigations on the line might be imposed, even after the facility has been constructed and operated."

However, School superintendent Carlos Gutierrez explained that although a similar notice should have been mailed to the Potsdam Central School District, no notice was received. The tax rates for each township were figured without the new rate for Pierrepont, so that each township was assigned an amount based on a rate of 20, rather than the correct rate of 22.

On the advice of Roberts, the district has halted collection of the school taxes until the problem is worked out.

Gutierrez said the district will act on two solutions to the problem, pending further investigation. Either they will mail corrected forms or wait until next year to compensate for the erroneous tax shares.

Mailing new forms will be "costly" Gutierrez said, although he declined to

Hopsicker to stay as mayor

Mayor Joseph Hopsicker of Norwood, in a Tuesday afternoon telephone interview, told the Courier and Freeman that he is "definitely not considering resignation."

Hopsicker, who was appointed mayor upon the resignation of Francis McNulty, made the statement in answer to Courier and Freeman questions concerning building pressure in the village for his ouster.

Hopsicker noted that "I don't feel that I did anything wrong" when he had 15 loads of gravel which had been donated to the village for use at a beach site hauled to his property. He said that the village board agreed to pay him back for use of his equipment in January and that he looked upon the gravel as payment.

The mayor did pay for the gravel he wound up with some three weeks after it was delivered although he did not pay for the use of village trucks which brought it to his property.

"It's ridiculous," he concluded, "simply ridiculous. I'm not even thinking about resignation."

Munafò resigns

Jim Munafò, President of UPSET, Inc., resigned his office at the close of the regular monthly business meeting of the organization.

The announcement followed a membership vote on a resolution to adopt a proposed set of bylaws, an item on the agenda at the September meeting of UPSET.

Following Munafò's resignation, the membership voted unanimously not to accept the resignation. Munafò indicated that the vote would not affect his decision to resign.

UPSET Vice President Robert Ballan will serve as President of UPSET, Inc. until the next elections of the organization, in November.



TEAMWORK IS THE KEY—It's off to the residence halls for two of the 3,000 Clarkson undergraduate students preparing to start classes for the 1976-77 academic year. Thousands of parents, brothers, sisters and friends were on hand to help the Clarkson students move in.

estimate the exact expense involved.

According to Ingram, property owners can apply for a change in their rate if they believe their rate to be erroneous. If the rate is determined to be in error, the property owner will be granted a new rate at the corrected figure.

The current Potsdam tax rate is about \$92.

The district comprises most of the town of Potsdam as well as portions of the Towns of Parisville, Pierrepont, Canton, and Stockholm.

Printers form association

A group of St. Lawrence County job printers has formed an informal association to work together in their battle with the St. Lawrence County Association for Retarded Children, according to Warren Wadman, an Ogdensburg printer.

The association was formed Thursday night at a meeting, he said. The printers have charged unfair competition from the ARC which has set up printshops in its sheltered workshops throughout the county.



THE ST. LAWRENCE National Bank in Potsdam is constructing a new drive-up facility at their Market Street location. The principal contractor is L and H Constructors of Potsdam. The new facility is scheduled to open sometime this month. (Mike Billington Photo).

Second in series

Dem senate candidates speak out

By Will Brady
EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a continuation of the review of the positions of the five Democratic Senate contenders from last week. Featured this week are Abe Hirschfeld and Paul O'Dwyer, both from New York City. Primary elections for the Democratic candidates will be held on September 14.

A telephone interview with staffers at Abe Hirschfeld's campaign headquarters in New York City brought the following responses on four questions.

Asked about his stand on the continued support of the USDA food stamp program, the Courier and Freeman was informed that Hirschfeld is "in favor of" support of the Food Stamp Program.

Regarding a further extension of unemployment benefits, campaign aide Tom Bach indicated that while Hirschfeld was not in favor of "subsidized unproductivity," the senatorial contender would support, for areas with "chronic unemployment," some sort of program encouraging "subsidized productivity." Whether this means sponsoring and pushing for public works programs or something else was not clarified.

Asked about Hirschfeld's stand on nuclear power and its use, the Courier and Freeman was informed that he "was not directly involved" in the study of nuclear power, that no position paper was, as yet, available but that his stand "on the United States becoming independent from reliance upon the OPEC nations for oil" would have some bearing on any stand he might make in the future.

Hirschfeld's campaign aides were also asked where he stood on agriculture as a major economic force in New York State. Bach indicated that Hirschfeld had "no real position" on agriculture in the state.

After contacting the Department of Agriculture and Markets in Albany, the Courier and Freeman was informed that crops and livestock brought in an income to New York State of approximately \$1.5 billion during 1975 alone. Agriculture is, they said, the single largest business in the state over half the income of agricultural products derived from the production of milk. New York State is the fourth largest fruit producer in the nation, ranks fifth in production of fresh vegetables and seventh in the production of processed foods.

Campaign aides in the Hirschfeld office seemed disorganized. It took several minutes before the Courier and Freeman could be connected with the "right person" to talk with. Even when that person was contacted, reporters were switched over to still another person to talk to at the office.

The Courier and Freeman was informed that Hirschfeld would be touring "upstate New York" in the first week of September, making stops in Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo. No plans, it was stated, have been made to visit Northern New York before the Democratic primaries.

Hirschfeld will be in Albany on September 7, Utica on September 8 and 9, and make an afternoon visit to Syracuse on September 9. It was not known where any of Hirschfeld's public meetings would be held on the "upstate" jaunt.

Paul O'Dwyer
A telephone conversation with Charles Keith, a publicity man for senatorial aspirant Paul O'Dwyer of New York City, brought the following responses.

O'Dwyer representative stated that O'Dwyer was "for whatever will provide decent food and a decent living for every American." He was in favor of a "full employment program" and felt that the federal government should guarantee "jobs for everyone." A more short-range view of the unemployment

situation has O'Dwyer saying that "unemployment benefits should be continued indefinitely until people are able to get jobs."

O'Dwyer's spokesman stated that O'Dwyer felt that the present unemployment problem is a result of Nixon-Ford efforts to create unemployment in order to eliminate inflation, a ploy that, they noted, "clearly failed."

"If the federal government forces unemployment," he added, "then the unemployed should be entitled to full benefits until a full employment policy is adopted by the federal government." Regarding nuclear power, O'Dwyer's representative stated that O'Dwyer is "not against the building of nuclear power plants as long as sufficient precautions are taken to insure that air, water and ground" are not polluted by nuclear wastes.

O'Dwyer would prefer however, that other energy producing efforts that are not as polluting, such as "hydro-power from the St. Lawrence" be supported and developed. He was in favor of the construction of "whatever" would produce sufficient electrical power for the national needs.

Calling for federal controls on the costs of electrical power as well as for other utilities producing power, Keith stated that O'Dwyer feels that the high costs of fuel and power are related to the unregulated "ripoffs" of the "oil monopolies" and that "at the bottom of the power crisis is the cost of oil." Consumers, he said, pay not only for fuel and utilities in their bills but also for the "enormous salaries of executives, and enormous advertising budgets."

"Real" government regulation of utilities prices would, he felt, put a halt to this.

On agriculture, O'Dwyer feels there are two major problems New York farmers must cope with. First is the fact that farmers, particularly dairy farmers, are subject to "overinspection" of

their facilities. If dairy products are to be sold out of state they must pass the regulations of at least two other states in addition to the regulations imposed by New York. No similar situation exists for farmers from out of state selling their products in New York. He cited Massachusetts as one state that practices this "flagrant discrimination" against New York State dairy farmers.

Keith said that O'Dwyer was "the only one" of the senatorial aspirants who has done anything for dairy farmers in New York. A law passed by the New York City Council gives preferred consideration of bids for contracts for city owned facilities such as hospitals, prisons, and all other institutions purchasing food for use in the city to state farmers.

The second factor affecting farmers is that of discriminatory taxation against the farmer. New York State farmers are, he said, "one of the most important sections of the state population."

If discriminatory taxation continues, he added, "it will lead to complete destruction of the family farmer and complete pauperization" of the farm populace.

To curtail the future erosion of the farm population, O'Dwyer called for farm lands to be assessed on a different taxation scale than land being used for real estate. In addition inheritance taxes on farmland should be subject to a lesser tax rate than land used in a non-farm capacity.

While it was initially difficult to contact people O'Dwyer campaign, once reached Keith seemed quite candid in his remarks—attributing his ability to speak for O'Dwyer as being due to a long standing friendship with the candidate. He did make an effort to delineate when he was speaking on his own accord as opposed to speaking for O'Dwyer.

It was noted that O'Dwyer was planning a tour through New York State which would bring him to Syracuse, Rochester and Albany next week. No other specifics were given about the tour.

CCT reaches 30% of goal

Clarkson College President Robert A. Plane announced today that nearly \$3.6 million has been received or pledged toward the \$12.3 million goal of The Clarkson Plan during fiscal year of 1975-76.

In a joint announcement with Arthur D. Lewis, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, and William E. Petersen, Clarkson trustee and chairman of The Clarkson Plan campaign, Plane said that in less than a year the participation by alumni, trustees, corporations, foundations, and friends of the College, has accounted for nearly 30 percent of the goal.

The Clarkson Plan seeks, among other things, both operating and financial aid support as well as building funds.

Gifts from private sources actually received by Clarkson during 1975-76 fiscal year amounted to \$1,862,835, an increase of over \$800,000 more than the preceding year and \$600,000 over the previous highest annual total.

Plane expressed pleasure with the strong participation of the Clarkson employees and students in The Clarkson Plan. Nearly \$23,000 was pledged by faculty and staff members and an additional \$2,600 was contributed by the students through the Student Association.

