

Other Social Services Cuts Could Save Jobs, Employees Tell Legislators

CANTON — Last Monday when tempers flared over proposed budget cuts in the Social Services Department, legislators were told they had no "compassion" as they voted for a spending plan that called for laying off as many as eight to 10 social workers.

But members of the legislature's Finance Committee heard last Wednesday that they might be able to save the majority of jobs, possibly routing the layoffs to as few as four.

A former Social Services worker, Francine Perretta, warned legislators that they might have to pressure Social Services Commissioner Donald Kitchin to make the budget changes to save jobs.

A group of social workers marked off layoffs, their supporters, and senior staff members of the Social Services Department, attended the legislature's Finance Committee meeting to say that there may be

other areas in the proposed 1983 budget that could be reduced to reach the proposed spending levels.

The funds saved could be used to save jobs, the social workers said.

The social workers, senior staff members, Legislature Chairman Augustus Marscher, and three other legislators met with Kitchin last week to suggest ways to save the jobs of workers by cutting mileage, rearranging some vacant positions, cutting the department's travel and making other cuts.

Kitchin 'Resistant'
But the workers said after the meeting with the Finance Committee that the commissioner appeared to be resistant to any changes, only agreeing to take the suggestions "under advisement."

"Do you have any authority to direct the commissioner on how to spend money?" Mrs. Perretta asked. "Can you take money out of parts of

his budget to keep people from being laid off?"

Finance Committee Chairman Nicholas Viskovich told the group that it would be up to the Social Services Committee to make whatever changes they wanted made.

The Social Services Committee's recommendations would then be reviewed by the Finance Committee, Viskovich said.

Potsdam Legislator Betty Bradley, a member of the Social Services Committee, who attended the meeting with Kitchin Wednesday, says she believes the Social Services Committee will agree to changes that could save the jobs of workers.

Mrs. Bradley said after the Finance Committee meeting that she and other committee members had originally urged the commissioner to cut other items in his budget before cutting staff.

The committee directed him to

reduce the total budget to target levels, using his discretion to set priorities. Mrs. Bradley said, "Every effort should have been made to cut other items before cutting staff. But when it was printed in the budget, it was all staff."

"We were not happy with that," Mrs. Bradley said.

Playing Politics?

Legislators said after the meeting that the commissioner may have cut so many positions to help put pressure on legislators to keep them from reducing his budget.

"It was politics," social workers said, asking that their names not be used. "But Kitchin's playing with people's lives."

Social workers said the budget reductions hit the hardest on the child protective unit. If workers are not placed back in the program, the county could find itself not performing mandated services.

That would mean that in several months, once the 1983 budget goes into effect and state auditors check the program, the county government could find itself out of compliance with state and federal regulations.

"The county would get sanctioned," a social worker said. "State and federal reimbursements would be cut or held up" to force the county back into compliance.

Such a move by the state and federal government would embarrass the county legislature, especially those legislators who voted for the staff cuts Monday night, a legislator said.

But saving jobs may not be easy, legislators were told by County Budget Officer F. Gerard Reagen. "Any changes will have to conform with Title XX regulations."

"I plan to work on this tomorrow," Reagen said. "We're going to do the best we can."

But he said that estimates of only four or even less workers being laid off may be misleading, depending on what they find when they make adjustments to the budget.

Reagen said he didn't want to raise false hopes on any numbers until they knew what cuts could be made.

Other possible areas to cut could be made in the part time help, provisional help and other areas.

Replica Of 1935 Hunting License Button Offered

The 1935 hunting-fishing-trapping replica license button is available at DEC offices in Canton, Watertown, Lowville and Herkimer, according to John E. Wilson, regional director, State Department of Environmental Conservation.

"This interesting license button is an exact replica of the original button, including a misspelled word — 'hunting'." Wilson said. "From 1917 to 1941, these buttons were issued as part of the license and were very popular to wear and collect."

The reproduction of the 1935 license button is to note the year all license revenue was first deposited into the Conservation Fund. Present revenues in the fund are approximately \$16.5 million. These funds are used exclusively to finance the various Department of Fish and Wildlife programs as well as law enforcement.

The buttons have been found to be very popular with sportsmen and may be obtained from the Canton Region 6 DEC office, 30 Court St., PO Box 109, Canton, 13617, for a nominal fee of 25 cents each.

Koinonia Church Plans Christmas Cantata

A Christmas cantata, titled "The Coming of the Promised One," will be presented by the Koinonia Church Choir at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 12, in the church's new facilities at 33 Grant St., Potsdam.

Assistant pastor Dave Coles, who is arranger and director of the cantata, has described it as "a musical montage of Old Testament prophecies looking forward to the coming of the Messiah."

The public is welcome to attend. There is no admission charge and no collection will be taken.

This will be the second Sunday that the Koinonia Church will utilize its new facilities at the corner of Grant and Chestnut streets.

Founded in 1969, the church has met in rented facilities for the past 13 years, most recently the Potsdam Church of the Nazarene building on outer Pierrepont Avenue.

Throughout its history Koinonia's members have presented numerous cantatas, concerts and other musical programs.

Concerning "The Coming of the Promised One," Coles said: "We look to see the (audience) receive new insight and encouragement as well as a messianic expectations of the Old Testament writers and the fulfillment of those expectations in our Lord Jesus."

School Menus

CAMPUS LEARNING CENTER
Wednesday — Chicken Noodle, Spaghetti-Meatless Sauce, Salad, Green Beans Almondine, Milk, Dessert, Fruit.
Thursday — Country Style Veg, Hamburg, Scallop Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Milk, Dessert, Fruit.
Friday — Soup DeJour, Sloppy Joe-Bun, French Fries, Sliced Carrots, Milk, Dessert, Fruit.
Monday — Vegetable Soup, Grilled Cheese, Carrots, Beverage, Dessert, Fruit.
Tuesday — Beef Noodle Soup, Fish Sticks, Home Fries, Beverage, Dessert, Fruit.

NORWOOD-NORFOLK
ELEMENTARIES ONLY
Breakfast Menu
Wednesday — Chilled Fruit Juice, Toasted Hot Waffles with Butter and Syrup, Farm Fresh Milk.
Thursday — Chilled Fruit Juice, Assorted Cold Cereal, Hot Buttered Toast, Farm Fresh Milk.
Friday — Chilled Fruit Juice, Assorted Bakery Fresh Doughnuts, Farm Fresh Milk.
Monday — Chilled Fruit Juice, Assorted Cold Cereal, Hot Buttered Toast with Jelly, Dairy Fresh Milk.
Tuesday — Chilled Fruit Juice, Hot French Toast with Butter and Syrup, Dairy Fresh Milk.

NORWOOD-NORFOLK
Wednesday — Fresh Tom Turkey and Country Dressing on Creamy Mashed Potatoes or Hot Dog on Roll, Hot Buttered Green Beans, Bakery Bread and Butter, Gravy Style Cookies, Farm Fresh Milk.
Thursday — Super Barbecue on a Bun or Hamburger on Roll, Golden Tatar Rounds, Hot Buttered Corn, Fresh Bread and Butter, Jello with Topping, Farm Fresh Milk.
Friday — American Style Baked Macaroni and Cheese or Hot Dog on Roll, Hot Buttered Peas, Bakery Bread and Butter, Golden Chilled Peaches, Farm Fresh Milk.

Monday — Cheeseburger on a Range Bun or Hot Dog on Roll, Golden Potato Chips, Hot Buttered Wax Beans, Chilled Fruit Milk, Dairy Fresh Milk.
Tuesday — Shamurger on Roll with Extra Cheese or Hamburger on Roll, Golden Tatar Rounds, Tossed Spring Greens with Savory Dressing, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Dairy Fresh Milk.

LAWRENCE AVENUE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Wednesday — Hamburger Roll, Potato Gravy, Oranges, Milk.
Thursday — Sloppy Joe, Cole Slaw, Fruit, Ice Cream, Milk.
Friday — Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad, Fruited Jello, Milk.
Monday — Pork Gravy-Potato, Roll, Apple, Milk.
Tuesday — Hot Dog Roll, Potato Chips, Carrot Sticks, Fruit, Milk.

ST. LAWRENCE CENTRAL
Wednesday — Turkey Subs with Cheese, Lettuce, Onions, Italian Dressing, Oven Baked French Fries with Catsup, Pears, Milk — whole or skim.
Thursday — Juice, Baked Fish on Roll with Tartar Sauce, Sliced Cheese, Buttered Green Beans — H.S., Toss Salad with Dressing — Elem., Peanut Butter Treat, Milk — whole or skim.
Friday — Juice, Hot Chicken Sandwich with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Chocolate Birthday Cake with Frosting for month of December, Milk — whole or skim.
Monday — Hot Dog in Bun with Mustard or Michigan Hots, Grated Cheese, Golden French Fries with Catsup, Assorted Fruits, Milk — whole or skim.
Tuesday — Juice, Real Roast Christmas Turkey, Dressing, Cranberries, Whipped Potatoes with Gravy or Glazed Sweet Potatoes, Christmas Cake with Frosting, Milk — whole or skim.

MADRID-WADDINGTON
Wednesday — Fruit Juice, Cheese Pizza, Celery Sticks, Pears, Milk.
Thursday — Hot Dog on Roll, Cheese Sticks, Oven Baked Beans, Apple Crisp, Milk.
Friday — Sloppy Joe on Roll, Corn, Sliced Peaches, Milk.
Monday — Cheeseburger on a Bun, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit, Milk.
Tuesday — Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Bread and Butter, Pears, Milk.

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