

# THE TIMES

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## Rinald Would Allocate % Of Tax To Ease Local Tax Load

Many Union County citizens have expressed strong support for my proposal that 30 percent of sales tax revenues be allocated for direct aid to counties and municipalities in order to reduce local property taxes. The importance of enacting some form of legislation toward that end has been underscored in recent weeks by the sharp increases in budgets proposed by county and local governments and the resultant jumps in property tax rates.

During the campaign for a broad-based tax, it was strongly implied that a statewide levy would provide relief for our beleaguered property-owners. With the exception of 1966, when extraordinary aid was given to municipalities, the fulfillment has fallen far short of the promise.

Since the day I took office I have been working on a bill to ascertain that counties and municipalities receive an adequate share of sales tax revenues. Part of the problem in having such a bill enacted into law is the difficulty of getting an exact accounting of how the sales tax revenues are spent.

Last week, I received a letter from State Treasurer John A. Kervick that confirmed my contention that sales tax revenues are tossed into a big pile with other state revenues and there is no way of determining precisely how the money is spent. Mr. Kervick wrote that "sales tax revenue is now mingled with and treated as any other revenue. Therefore, it is impossible for us to say exactly how each dollar of sales tax revenue was appropriated since we do not appropriate from separate revenue accounts, but from the general treasury."

The state treasurer provided a list of \$254 million in significant or new appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30,

## Junior Women Assist Amputees

A New Jersey upper extremity amputee is offered financial aid for surgery, prosthesis and rehabilitation therapy through the Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club, a member of the Junior Membership Department of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Assistance is available to any State resident unable to assume the financial obligations entailed.

The Upper Extremity Amputee Fund, established by the statewide organization of 4,500 young women in 1955, has, to date, given assistance to 100 residents. Of these, 20 have received duplicate assistance.

Applications for assistance and further information is available by contacting Mrs. Dominick Di-Francesco, president of the Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club.

## Would Allocate Tax To Ease Local Tax Load

which he indicated represented increases over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, the year before the sales tax went into effect. He also estimated the sales tax revenues for the present fiscal year at \$22.5 million.

Despite the long list of items that the sales tax presumably helped finance, the fact remains that a certain percentage of the revenue should be set aside for aid to municipalities and counties, if we are ever to reduce or at least stabilize local property tax rates. One significant

obstacle to earmarking funds for such a purpose is a prohibition against dedicating state revenues without a constitutional amendment.

It is my intention to solve this problem by amending the sales tax law itself to permit direct aid for local and county governments. Putting a portion of the sales tax revenues into an account other than the state's general revenue account, then disbursing it directly in the form of aid is one way of realizing the desired result.

## Young Dems Club Meets

The Scotch Plains Area Young Dems held their monthly meeting Thursday, February 8th.

Topics under discussion: Buffet Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Senior Democratic Club, to be held on March 9th and the Annual Spring Cocktail Party at which the outstanding Young Democrat of 1967 is presented with the Ray Waterkotte Memorial Award. The date has yet to be decided.

The Social Chairman's report included a Ski Trip to Belleayre, New York, the weekend of February 9th. This event is being sponsored by the Elizabeth Young

Democratic Club and is open to all clubs in Union County.

There will be another trip to Great Gorge on Washington's Birthday; also open to the County. Anyone interested in coming is asked to contact; Kathy Reilly, 1185 Woodside Road, Scotch Plains for details.

Before adjourning, Mr. Cohen president of the club announced Kathy Reilly's appointment as State Committeewoman from Union County. Miss Reilly is presently serving in the position of Corresponding Secretary for the Scotch Plains Club.

## GOP Names County Chairman

Richard G. Schoel of 26 Fair Hill Road, Westfield, has been named Union County Republican Chairman. Mr. Schoel, a dark horse candidate, was the victor on the third ballot Wednesday night (Feb. 7) after five hours of voting had failed to pick a winner. Five candidates were in the race.

Active in Union County Republican affairs since 1960, Mr.

Schoel is a member of the Westfield Committee and the County Executive Committee, a ward leader and campaign chairman.

He is an engineering graduate of the University of Michigan. Mr. Schoel has been employed by Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick for the past 13 years, and is presently a product group director.

# School Board Head Discusses Budget

## Times Reporter Gets Some Answers to Timely Questions

First priority on the list of a Board of Education President these days is, of course, the obtaining of voter approval for an annual school budget. Second only to that in priority is the scheduling of his time. Fitting one's self into the program of Sheldon Anderson, local Board president, is not a question of finding a free evening but rather of finding a free hour before or after an already crammed daily log. We managed to achieve that feat in the hopes of bringing our readers some answers to questions they might have concerning the revised budget of \$7,173,264 to be voted upon on Tuesday, February 20.

The first budget, totaling \$7,317,599, and representing an 18% overall increase in the cost of Scotch Plains-Fanwood education, was defeated 3-1 on February 6. The revised budget figure takes \$144,335, or 13% off the increase amount, with budget cuts falling into following major areas: elimination of the driver education program in the high school; reduction in the bus service provided for children in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools; a \$25,000 cutback in administrative salaries; a \$76,000 reduction in instructional salaries; a \$11,880 trimming in capital expenses, affecting several paving and improvement projects.

Mr. Anderson explained that the budget preparation this year could be called "Mission Impossible". The Board started out with a 1/4 million less in state aid this year (money granted for first 5 years of regionalization - with our 5 year period completed last year) \$150,000 less in surplus monies from sales tax; a \$15,000 cut in federal aids; and anticipation of the need for substantial teachers' salary increases to maintain a competitive position with surrounding districts upping their salary guides. In the first budget, he said, the Board of Education attempted to cut as much as possible without "putting the system backward".

### Why The Cut In Bus Service?

To date, area children in grades K through 2 have been provided with free bus service if they lived over a 1-mile distance from the school, and for third graders over 1-1/2 miles. Under the revised budget, children to grade 8 will be bused if they live over a 2-mile limit. Why cut here? Anderson explained that state law sets a 2-mile requirement for children up to grade 8, and a 2-1/3 mile requirement for grades 9 through 12. He said until now the local system had a more liberal policy than most communities, who adhere to the state limits. "While we are changing adversely, we are in effect doing what exists throughout the state."

### Why Eliminate Driver Education?

Anderson said the Board of

## Who's on First?



MR. EARL CHAMBERLIN

The TIMES' interview with the then Board of Education President Sheldon Anderson, reported elsewhere on this page, took place on Monday night. On Tuesday night Mr. Anderson was replaced as Board President by Earl M. Chamberlin. In the same meeting Mr. Herbert Soffer was named Vice-President replacing Herbert Samenfeld. The Board also seated three newly elected members. These were Charles A. Ferguson and William D. Mason of Scotch Plains, and Benjamin L. Serra of Fanwood.

Education members did not like to see the Driver Education program go. However, faced with what he termed a voter "mandate" to reduce costs, the driver education program saves money in an area which does not affect the general core of educational quality. Cars and four teachers will be eliminated, and two additional teachers anticipated to handle increased enrollment will not be required, he said, and

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Because of Washington's Birthday

THE TIMES

will be published

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Deadline for copy will be

3PM Fri. Feb. 16