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Township Committee Will Seek Share of State Sales Tax

The Scotch Plains Township Committee will request the state government to enact a binding formula for the distribution of state sales tax revenues. In a resolution to be sent to all municipalities and legislators in the area, the Committee said they see no discernable plan obvious for the tax relief promised with the initiation of the sales tax. They ask legislation requiring the return of state sales tax revenues to the municipalities to ease tax burdens for homeowners.

Kelmo Porter, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church, who asked Township Committee awareness and investigation into discrimination charges at the High School two weeks ago, again said his community was concerned. Speaking at the Tuesday night township committee meeting, he expressed hope that Negro children would have a fair break in all activities throughout the school system. He said the Negro community is concerned about housing, schools, PTA, and wants to make itself involved in the total community.

Gilbert Ridley, a resident of Fanwood and President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Human Rights Council, said he and the Council were concerned. He offered the Council's help in solving any problems between the two ethnic groups in the community. He said it is a good community, which is why he and many Negroes moved here. Ridley said "If we're able to keep all lines of communication open, to improve where weak, face problems in the school system, then we can do a lot in a very short time to bridge the gap. If anyone has any ideas, or problems, the Council has the organization, resources, and know-how and will be happy to serve".

A group of residents attended a public hearing on Tuesday night regarding the provision of bituminous concrete pavement, and granite block curbs on Forepaugh Avenue and Weaver Street. Some of the homeowners asked that the improvements be cancelled, while others questioned the necessity for bituminous concrete and curbing, suggesting instead a gravel road. If the improvements are approved, the property owners with frontage on Weaver Street and Forepaugh Avenue will be assessed, as will residents of several other streets whose homes either back onto or abut the affected streets.

The residents said they did not feel that the roads were used enough to necessitate the improvements. Mayor Santo Salvo said that the paving was part of an overall program to pave all roads within the township, hopefully by 1970. He said plowing and filling in of holes on streets which are unpaved are expensive.

One resident asked why he should be assessed, when he had paid taxes into capital improvement funds for forty years. The Mayor explained that home owners who buy new homes are similarly assessed, with the assessment included in the cost of the house.

After hearing the opinions, the Township Committee agreed to reserve decision on the matter, and to meet at a later date with

Will Screen Delegates

The Union County Republican Screening Committee announced that they will meet on Saturday, March 30, to screen the Twelfth Congressional District Delegates to the national convention. The meeting will be held at the Cranford Municipal Building, beginning at 9 a.m.

The candidates for the Thirteenth Congressional District will be screened at a date yet to be announced.

Candidates for Freeholder and Sheriff will be screened on Saturday, April 6, at the same time and location.

All Republicans interested in appearing before the Screening Committee should send a letter to the Chairman at 224 East Broad Street, Westfield.

representatives from the neighborhood for further discussion.

The Committee introduced an ordinance establishing a new title, Superintendent of Recreation, at a salary of \$9,000 to \$10,000. The salary was budgeted in the municipal salary guide, without a title. The Recreation Commission submitted a title and job description, in preparation for the legal establishment of the position.

Mr. Nettingham, of 2544 Plainfield Avenue, questioned the form of notices sent to taxpayers from the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Nettingham said he felt that when a variance was under consideration, and taxpayers within 200 feet of the property in question were notified, the notice should state that a variance is required for said use of the property. He said that a notice he received that Louis Marino wished to use a building at 2544 Plainfield Avenue for a motor vehicle repair

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Police Wives Plan Open Meeting

It was announced today that preparations have been made for an open meeting to be held March 12, by the Scotch Plains Police Wives Association.

The topic of the meeting will be on narcotics.

Det. Lt. Joseph Powers of the Scotch Plains Police Department will be the guest speaker for the evening. A film entitled, "Fight for Life", will be shown.

All interested persons are cordially invited to attend. The meeting will start at 8:15 p.m. at Town House on the Green, off Westfield Road.

Schools Without Teachers ...

Fanwood Council Approves Budget

A municipal budget of \$886,748 up \$102,048 from last year's \$748,700 was passed by the Fanwood Borough Council at its annual budget hearing on Wednesday, February 28. The budget raises the municipal portion of the tax dollar from \$1.18 to approximately \$1.24. The Council, when requested, said they were unable to give estimates of the total tax rate in Fanwood for 1968, since neither county budget or local school budget had been approved at the time.

The hearing was attended by 25 citizens, in contrast with 3 citizens last year. There were one or two questions concerning the increase in interest on bonds and notes. It was explained that many improvements last year were paid for from capital improvements funds, or short-term notes. The \$325,000 bond issue recently floated by the Borough is responsible for the increase.

Two residents requested the Council to do everything possible to reduce the school budget, which was reduced by \$327,000 after the budget hearing. Mrs. L. C. Boxhill of 75 Watson Road said that the increased budget would make it very difficult for her and her husband to live on their fixed retirement income in Fanwood.

Richard Bard asked the Council to cut the budget \$500,000. He said the school system pays top rates in the state in four maximums on the New Jersey Education Association's salary guide. He added that the only minimum Scotch Plains and Fanwood do not lead in is in the Bachelor's degree category. Bard said he felt voters voted against increases in the salary guide, and the guide should be cut "deeply enough to make them cut the salary guides". He said the guide shows Scotch Plains as the second for 6-year training levels, led by Mendham, with total of 37 teachers. He said the system is fifth in the state for five-year training.

In a letter from the Association of Good Schools, the Council was urged to effect no reductions in the budget from the level of the budget voted upon on February 20. The Association, in a resolution, stated that the Board of Education is dedicated to a sound school system at sensible costs, and the Council should consider the same goals.

Mayor Roland Beetham said that he felt the Council had been prudent in preparing the municipal budget, and would make a decision on the school budget that they sincerely felt would be the correct one for Fanwood residents.

The municipal budget increases are due, he said, to salary increases for police, public works, and administrative per-

Reactions Range from Anger to Cautious Disapproval

330 Absentee Teachers Force School Closings

Three hundred and thirty teachers in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools attended a Professional Day on Tuesday, and did not report to their classrooms. The Professional Day, sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association, was held at the Italian-American Hall in Scotch Plains to protest recent cuts in the school budget. The absence of approximately 80 percent of the teachers was followed by the closing of all eleven schools within the district by 10 a.m. Tuesday morning. Teachers were asked to submit a signed statement to their principals signifying their intention not to teach on Tuesday by the close of the school day on Monday afternoon. The statements read:

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A.C.L.U. Protests Fingerprinting

Arthur D'Italia, Chairman of the Hudson County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, today condemned as "shocking and unconscionable" the fingerprinting of several shop classes of Kearny High School students.

Kearny High had been the scene of a small fire in the print shop last weekend. On Monday and Tuesday all the students in several printing classes had been fingerprinted by order of Kearny Police Chief Paul Mulligan. The fingerprint order had been consented to by Kearny High Principal Edward Brehm.

D'Italia said, "Fingerprinting procedures for juveniles are carefully regulated by state law. Police fingerprinting of juveniles between 17 and 18 can only take place when there is an arrest and fingerprint records must be destroyed if there is an acquittal. There is no authority for fingerprinting juveniles under the age of 17.

sonnel (46% of the increase); \$39,000 in additional funds for debt service, representing amortization and interest on the 1967 bond issue; an increase in the reserve for uncollected taxes to offset anticipated school budget.

The total amount to be raised by taxation is \$469,748, up \$14,048 since 1967. Anticipated revenues are up from \$329,000 in 1967 to \$417,000 in 1968.

Shouts of glee resounded over loudspeakers on Tuesday morning, as some 7500 students greeted news of a holiday.

Reaction was not enthusiastic, however, on the part of some local officials, taxpayers, parents, and teachers who did not join their fellows at the Professional Day meeting.

Asked for the Township Committee's opinion of the teacher "day" at Tuesday's township committee meeting, Mayor Thomas Santo Salvo said he personally thought the teacher action was "premature". "They should have waited to see what items were cut from the budget. I do not personally believe the teachers have endeared themselves to the people of Scotch Plains".

Committeewoman Edith Powers said she concurred completely with Santo Salvo. "If the teachers are so very interested in our children, they could have done this on a Saturday" she said.

Ray Winters, a local realtor, said he has talked to many taxpayers about the budget. He said he and others he's talked to feel "we're being dictated to by a union, an association, call it what you will, as to what to pay, not to pay, what to get. We can pay x number of dollars. We should decide what we can afford". He added that when the employee tells the employer what to pay, the employer becomes the employee.

John Hanco of O'Donnell Avenue asked the Township Committee to investigate legal means to force teachers to remain in school.

He said six of the sixteen families on his block "are ready to move yesterday, not because they can't afford it, but because they're tired of being told what they can afford". He said the voter turnout dictated even greater cuts in the budget. He asked the Township Committee to try to arrange a weighted vote for Scotch Plains in future determinations of budget cuts between the governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, since Scotch Plains pays 75%. Mayor Santo Salvo said the matter was already under study.

One teacher was was in her classroom said "I feel that's where I belonged. I'm being paid to teach. We have to do what we think is best, and the meeting goes against my feelings." She said she felt that her fellow teachers were acting to back up the Board of Education, and expressed concern that "the school closing could happen in a good school system with a good name."

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