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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N. J. THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1972

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Defeat of Tax Bill Leaves School Funding Questions Unanswered

Tax Reform in New Jersey died by a 23 to 52 vote in an emotion-packed General Assembly on Monday. That was the margin of defeat for the state income tax proposal, the "heart" of the 58-bill package Governor Cahill had recommended to reform the state tax structure. The remainder of the proposals was withdrawn. Property taxes in Fanwood and Scotch Plains would have been reduced by 38% had the proposals passed.

Our two Assemblymen, Peter McDonough and Arthur Manner, voted against the proposal.

Fanwood council - president Van Dyke Pollitt, a member of the Governor's Tax Policy Committee, was "not surprised" by the defeat of the program and pointed out two major questions that remain unresolved.

"I have spoken to over 60 groups throughout our County to explain the tax package and noted a pervasive feeling of distrust of government on every occasion," he said. "People simply don't trust government spending and don't want to give the State two additional broad-based taxes to play with."

The package included the new income tax and a \$1.00 Uniform Property Tax to join the existing 5% sales tax.

"The distrust was translated into the mail received by the Governor and the legislators that averaged 8 to 1 against the proposals," Pollitt said. "The fear of giving Dr. Marburger more 'clout' with state funding responsibility for the public schools was also reflected in the vote."

Pollitt noted that two major questions remain unresolved. "The Botter decision which makes use of the property tax an unconstitutional means of funding education is still the law of the state," he said. "If the

decision is upheld by the Supreme Court in September - and I believe it will be - the Legislature will have no alternative but to raise \$1.3 billion by new broad-based taxation. I fear they will turn to a \$2.25 Uniform Property Tax to fund education which will, in my judgment, destroy the home rule concept in our public schools administration," Pollitt said.

The second unresolved question is the distribution formula of the Federal Revenue Sharing proposal which has passed the House and is presently pending in the U.S. Senate. As presently written, New Jersey would lose an estimated \$36 - 40 million because we have no income tax statute.

Pollitt predicted that a program of property classification would soon be considered by the Legislature but added he hoped "this temptation would be avoided." He claimed it would drive business out of the state.

"I suppose the major reason for the defeat was that people simply would not believe that meaningful and lasting property relief would result from the program," Pollitt said. "We were promised property tax relief from the sales tax and we expected it from the Lottery. Because neither resulted, the public simply wouldn't believe this

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Fanwood Recreation Officials Plagued By Teenage Loiterers

Police Report Crime Increase

Chief Joseph J. Powers of the Scotch Plains Police Department reported that during the second quarter of 1972 there had been an increase in all serious crimes in Scotch Plains with the exception of Robbery. Serious crimes



CHIEF JOSEPH J. POWERS

considered include rape, robbery, assault, breaking, entering and larceny, larceny, and auto theft. During the first three months of this year, 175 serious crimes were reported. The second three months shows an increase to 248.

It should be noted that during the first six months of 1972, there was a slight decline in crimes as compared to the first six months of 1971 . . . 423 crimes as compared to 436 in 1971.

The number of juveniles handled during this six-month period compared to last year also shows an increase, 1972-299, as compared to 255 in 1971. Likewise, the number of adults arrested for various crimes also shows an increase of 98 as compared to 95 in 1971.

The Chief requested that during this vacation period all homeowners secure their homes in the proper manner before leaving on vacation. Also, for those remaining at home, he issued a reminder to report anything they might see or hear of a suspicious nature around a neighbor's home. Police will check immediately if residents call 322-7100. Such calls are helpful to the departmental effort to curb the crimes of breaking and entering private homes and of vandalism, both of which are on the upswing during summer.

A further aid to the Department has been made available to the public in the form of a marking tool used to identify property of the homeowner. The program is called "Theft-Guard" and any citizen of Scotch Plains may avail himself of the machines by stopping at Police Headquarters.

Ask Stiffer Laws To Permit Effective Police Action

Recreation officials and town fathers of Fanwood are concerned over the impact created by groups of young people hanging around the entrance to LaGrande Park in Fanwood. The teenagers have made it a habit to gather at the corner park entrance both day and night and their presence has been a deterrent to young children who hesitate to enter the park when the teenagers are present. Also, it was pointed out, many parents see the bands of teenagers congregating at the park entrance and are reluctant to permit their children to use the park, which has always been one of the most popular recreational facilities in the borough.

"The taxpayers of Fanwood have a \$5,000 investment in the summer park program," Recreation Commissioner Jerry Boryea told the Fanwood Borough Council last Wednesday, and disruption of the program cannot be tolerated. Boryea said he and Ed Lambertsen, Executive Director of the Recreation Commission, were visiting the Council meeting to seek Council backing which would give the police and the Recreation Commission "teeth" to move the teenagers out. Boryea said the police board had been requested to pursue a program of strong surveillance and harassment.

According to Van Dyke Pollitt, president of the Borough Council, the group ranges from 15 to 35 young adults at any given time. They occupy the paved area at the corner of Second Street and LaGrande Avenue. Recently, the park director forced the teenagers to register as is required of younger children using the park facilities. The 16 teens who happened to be gathered at that time included only three Fanwood residents. Thirteen were from Scotch Plains and one was from Irvington. They "disrupt or discourage" the free use of the Fanwood facilities by Fanwood children, Pollitt said.

He conceded that there is a problem with young people due to lack of jobs or a place to congregate, and Pollitt felt perhaps another more secluded section of the park might be set aside for the teens. Regarding a program for teenagers, Boryea pointed out that the park director had suggested the teenagers participate, offering to set up baseball, football, etc. The teenagers said they only wanted to "hang around." Boryea said the group have been harassed in other towns by police, and have decided to try the Fanwood facility as a gathering spot.

Mayor Theodore Trumpp said that the Recreation Commission had attempted to provide a teen program several years ago, but outdoor dances had drawn many teens from far distances, creating a "potentially explosive" situation. The dances did not benefit Fanwood or neighboring communities. "We want an atmosphere in which our kids can mature and grow," Trumpp said,

and pointed out the Borough is not adverse to doing anything productive in the way of activities for teenagers. The Council and Recreation Commission welcomes suggestions from teens themselves, he said.

Councilman Stephen Ritter praised the vast majority of Fanwood teenagers as good young people, as did Boryea, who noted that out of 1000 teenagers in Fanwood, only about three are part of the group causing disruption to the park program.

What exactly does the law permit in the way of dispersement tactics, asked Mrs. Lee Reilly. A recent Supreme Court decision struck down anti-loitering legislation, Pollitt replied. However, if the young people interfere with the park program they could be moved out on that count, he said.

The Council approved an ordinance which appropriates \$16,500 for purchase of a back hoe and a chipper. A second ordinance provides for replacement of curbing in many areas of town. A new ordinance which was introduced provides a new borough map, which has been updated.

Upon recommendation of the Planning Board, the Council approved a subdivision in Montrose Avenue.

The Fanwood Council went on record in opposition to a hike in water company rates of 34 percent. The water company has requested permission from the Public Utilities Commission for such an increase. The Council urged the P.U.C. to consider Nixon's wage-price guidelines in hearing the application.

The Council will receive bids at 8:30 p.m. on August 9 for \$560,000 of bonds for capital improvements. The improvements have been completed and money has been already approved by ordinance. The bids on the bonds will be done now, since the Council considers this an opportune time for such action.

Fred Chemidlin wrote to the Council suggesting study of the intersection of Forest and Tillotson Roads for potentially dangerous traffic conditions there. Chemidlin said there have been several accidents there, and asked consideration of a Stop sign at the corner.

Police Report On Vandalism

VANDALISM REPORT - COMPILED BY THE SCOTCH PLAINS JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB AS REPORTED BY THE SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Window broken at Tom's Pit Stop on Route 22.
2. Windows broken at McGinn School.
3. Children ringing door bells and throwing eggs at homes on Concord Road.
4. Children climbing fence, swimming in pool and then throwing lawn furniture into pool at private home on Brandywine Court.
5. Window broken at business on Park Avenue.
6. Window broken at Goodrich Air Conditioning on Plainfield Avenue.
7. Damage done to milk freezer at Hershey's Delicatessen on East Second Street.
8. Windows broken at Terrill Junior High School.
9. Mail torn up at private home on Hawthorne Street.
10. Lime thrown on green at Scotch Hills Country Club.

One hundred twenty-two (122) complaints of vandalism were reported to the Scotch Plains Police Department during the first three months of 1972. Vandalism in our town and the methods used to destroy, damage or deface public and private property is also on the increase. Because of these acts of vandalism, the cost to repair or replace damaged property is also on the rise.

Each and every one of us living in this area has a responsibility not only to ourselves but also to our community. If you see anyone suspicious please call the Scotch Plains Police Department at 322-7100.

VANDALISM -- FANWOOD

COMPILED BY THE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB OF FANWOOD AS REPORTED BY THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

1. Smashed door on a truck at 32 Laurel Place.
2. Two broken windows at LaGrande School.
3. Mailbox overturned at Midway and Hunter.
4. Four more broken windows at LaGrande School.
5. Four more broken windows at LaGrande School (making 10, in total).
6. Dogwood tree broken at LaGrande School.
7. Unlawful entry and damage done at Woodside Bible Chapel.