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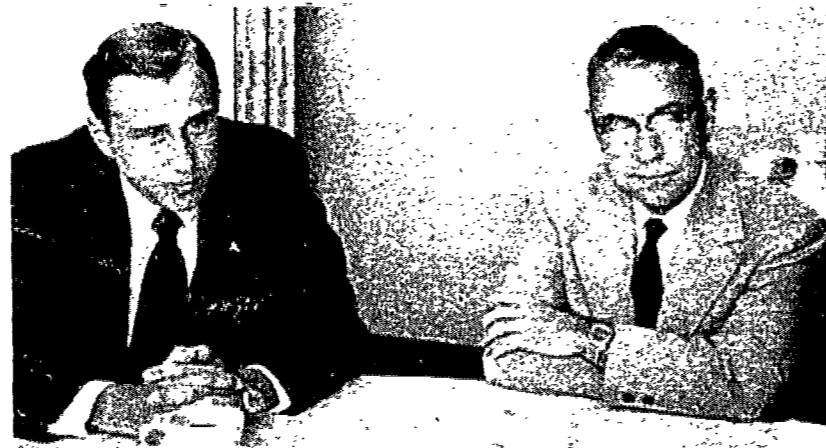
SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1972

15 CENTS A COPY

## Nixon-Law Details Pre its Views On Vocational Education

By JOAN MONAHAN

"President Nixon is very interested in vocational education. He admires you very much for your decision to choose a vocation and to go ahead and get training in it," Edward Cox told students at Union County Vocational-Technical School last Friday, as he visited the school to demonstrate the President's concern with vocational training.



Edward Cox is shown with George Baxel, President of Union County Technical Institute during his visit to the Institute.

The young attorney's visit to the Raritan Road complex was announced only a day ahead. He spent about an hour at the institution, providing time for an address to a group of students, a tour of the three-building complex, and a short press conference.

"We have had many firsts at Union County Tech, but we have a very different person today, a representative of the President of the United States," said Dr. George Baxel, president of the school, in welcoming the former Tricia Nixon's husband. W. S. McKinlay, President of the Board of Education, was also among the welcoming body.

Cox labeled himself "unemployed" at 25 years old, and he wishes his profession of law did not require the number of years of training which it does. "I'm a lawyer, too, and neither of us is pleased with the education it takes," Cox said, citing the requisite four years of high school, four years of college, and three of law school. He feels he is "overeducated" and would personally have preferred to learn while on the job. He cited John Marshall and Louis Brandeis among those attorneys he most admired. Marshall had but six months of training, while Brandeis went directly from high school into two years of legal education.

While Cox did not necessarily suggest abandonment of law schools, he said he would like to see an aspiring lawyer given the opportunity to make his own choice. The law is more of a vocation, requiring solution of practical, day-to-day problems, while an academician, in contrast, might require a college education. Cox felt that, while he might not now have the great relish for the legal past which he acquired in law school, he might have opted for on-the-job training had such a choice been available.

The students he visited, in contrast, are prepared to enter the work force in two years.

The school trains students in 14 different vocations, and those have "been important to the country in the past and with your help will make it great in the future," Cox said. The background of the school provided a colorful and varied panoply of the fascinating diversification of vocational and technical training. Cox visited laboratories where dental technicians receive training. He said a few words to a class of future "para professionals" -- the new breed of medical personnel who rank between a doctor and a nurse, providing much needed relief to busy doctors.

He shook hands with beauticians of the future, against a background of dozens of wigs in a Beauty Culture classroom, and he compared notes with students in a technical class, telling them what power drills he has personally used.

Since he is unemployed until results of his bar exam are received in December, Cox said he'll be spending all his time campaigning for Nixon's reelection. His concerns are the major issues which concern the president, he said, citing how to get out of the war, what defense posture the country should assume, and welfare reform. The economy is the major concern of most Americans, he feels. "Americans want jobs, and don't want welfare," Cox said. The President's economic program is working, he said. It created 2.5 million more jobs from August 15th of last year to August 15th of 1972, and has resulted in the first increase in "real" wages (wages after one deducts inflation and cost of living hikes) since 1965 -- a 5 percent increase.

Cox will have lots of advice on campaigning from a veteran -- his wife, Tricia. She had "on-the-job" training in campaigning in 1968 and 1970, he pointed out.

Before Cox arrived, school officials and press gathered in the lobby of the building and discussed the possible security measures and personnel who might accompany the visitor. Although no special requests had

## Student Athletes To Be Charged For Sports

### Board Blames Tight Budget, Money To Go For Equipment

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district has introduced a new charge of \$8 per athlete for students, both male and female, who participate in varsity sports at both junior and senior high level. The action will affect participants in at least 12 different sports, ranging from varsity football to junior high basketball, from girls' tennis teams to seventh grade soccer. Budget limitations have been cited as the reason for the action, which will hopefully be of only a single year's duration, according to Board of Education President Peter N. Britton.

Fred Laberge, Superintendent of Schools, said last week that a very tight budget over the past three years has resulted in a \$10,000 deficit in the area of the sports program, which heretofore had been offered free to interested students.

In addition to the charge of \$8, the district will no longer continue to provide footwear (shoes, sneakers, spikes, etc.) for all sports. Footwear now in stock, reconditioned from previous years, will be issued on a first-come, first served basis until the present supply is depleted, after which the student athletes will supply their own shoes.

Failure to pay the \$8 charge will prohibit participation in a sport. The assessment will be charged separately for each sport in which a student seeks to engage.

Britton said he had received a number of calls and inquiries regarding the fee being charged. Notices have already been sent home with athletes signed up for fall sports. Britton said four alternatives were discussed by the Board of Education. They included: elimination of one or more sports; a reduction in the schedule (number of games played); transfer of monies from other accounts; and, finally, subsidizing the program through a participation fee to be paid by each student. Of the four alternatives available, the participation fee was felt to be a reasonable expedient.

Britton said elimination of a single sport or more than one sport would have had a serious effect upon the program. Reduction of the game schedule was impossible for the current year, since two-year contracts have already been entered into with school districts played in the various sports. Trying to find money in other accounts or surplus was considered, but obligations of the school district negated that possibility, Britton's statement read. Additional monies over that which was budgeted must already be found for contractual obligations for teachers' salaries, for the elementary school lunch program, and for costs of increased vandalism. "Monies are not available as they have been in prior years," Britton said. "I would point out that in previous years requests for monies by those responsible for the athletic program have been reduced. The Board has set priorities and it has not been possible to meet

the money needs for this program as well as other programs. This last year the account was increased by six percent as were other accounts within the budget and the six percent was less than the amount requested," Britton concluded.

The announcement sent home with high school students stated: "The high cost of operating a total program of athletics, i.e. transportation, officiating, reconditioning, equipment, insurance, coaches' salaries, medical supplies, police coverage, ticket takers and sellers, field maintenance, etc. has necessitated these actions being taken."

Britton noted that some confusion exists over just how the \$8 will be used. Each student pays the fee if he wishes to participate, the board president said, but if the coach cuts the squad or the number of students trying out, the fee is returned. If on the other hand, the student remains on the squad or if he quits of his own volition, the fee is non-returnable. The monies collected are entered in a separate account from which teams will purchase such items as helmets, shoulder pads, game jerseys, game balls, score books, baseball mitts, safety gear for wrestling, hockey sticks for girls hockey, etc. Other costs involved in the varsity program are reasonably static, it was indicated. The number of officials and the pay scale is a matter of

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### For Absentee Voters

Applications for absentee ballots are available for qualified voters at the office of the Township Clerk in Scotch Plains and the Borough Clerk in Fanwood. The applications, which must be in the offices of the County Clerk, Union County Courthouse, Elizabeth, 7 days prior to the Election, may be filled out by the following:

- Those in military service
- Those who are patients in veterans hospitals.
- Citizens who expect to be outside the state.
- Citizens who will be within the state but because of illness or physical disability, or because of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of their religion or because of resident attendance at school, college or university are unable to cast a ballot at the polling place.

### Tennis Courts Hearing Set For Sept.19

The Scotch Plains Township Committee will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 19th in order to conduct a public hearing on an ordinance which provides for the construction of tennis courts in Kramer Manor Park. All residents who are interested in the issue -- pro or con -- are welcome to present their views. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, Park Ave., Scotch Plains at 8:00 P.M.

### No Principal Yet For Park Junior High

Park Junior High School is still without a school principal, but the Board of Education is moving ahead as fast as possible in finding one, according to Board President Peter Britton.

William Toohy asked the Board last week, at a special meeting, when they anticipated some action. Toohy said the Board had previously announced that a principal would be named before the school term began. He also asked whether an acting principal had been named to supervise the school. Former principal Frank Volpe resigned last spring to assume a position elsewhere.

Toohy was told that no acting principal will be named. The assistant principal has the authority at the school now, and the Board planned to interview a candidate for the principalship last week.

been made to the school regarding security, fifteen parking spaces had been cleared and reserved. However, just after 10:00 a.m., the front door of the school opened and Cox walked in alone. He arrived by car, with only one unidentified escort, a chauffeur.

Cox registered his enthusiasm for the local county school, stating that it was one of the most attractive he had ever seen, with lots of open space and landscaping around it. He found students there more enthusiastic about their career training and their education than students in most colleges he has visited.

The Vocational-Technical Institute was financed partially by federal funds. It now educates students in three daily shifts, with 75 percent of them from 16 different high schools in the county, working on a cooperative basis. The school is now seeking \$300,000 in federal funds toward construction of a Health Careers Building, with total costs estimated at \$3.4 million.