



the Public SECTOR

Official publication of The Civil Service Employees' Association

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Proposed federal budget cuts could impact heavily upon a number of NYS public service programs. The CSEA Mental Hygiene Presidents Committee says one such area would be the mental hygiene system. See page 5.

State office complex workers breathe easier; source of sickening exhaust fumes is located

Union charges complex needs more exits so an emergency evacuation could be made



ALBANY — The air in the Swan Street building of the Empire State Plaza here has been cleared of exhaust odors now that the State Employees Health Service Bureau, with cooperation from the CSEA/state safety committee, has had the source of the fumes determined.

Meanwhile in another matter, the safety committee has petitioned the state Office of General Services to install additional emergency exits in the two outer cores of the three-section building.

Presently, according to safety committee spokesman Dann Wood there is only one ground floor emergency exit serving each core of three

floors. An emergency evacuation could turn into a disaster, he said.

Wood added that the middle core does have sufficient exits.

In response to the petition, OGS wrote the committee that it would conduct a cost analysis for the construction of the exits. Wood said he will give OGS some time for this and will take further action, if necessary.

The Health Services Bureau called in an Occupational and Safety Hazards Act inspector after the safety committee received complaints from several employees who suffered headaches and nausea from the presence of exhaust fumes in some sections of the building. The inspector determined that the fumes were coming from trucks parked in the loading docks with their engines running.

Exhaust was sucked into the building through a conveyor system.

At the inspector's suggestion, OGS has instructed all drivers to turn off truck engines while at the loading docks.

OGS has also told the committee it will have signs to this effect posted and the Capitol Police has been requested to patrol the area more often to be sure the directive is being followed.

PCB update

BINGHAMTON — State Employees affected by the recent accident at the State Office Building in Binghamton have been advised that the clean-up of PCB contamination in the building could take as long as six months.

Chuck Eynon, President of CSEA Local 002, has been attending daily press conferences to obtain updated information on the clean-up activities.

"Under the circumstances, they seem to be making some progress. Naturally, they must be very cautious. Clean-up crews are working 12-hour shifts and have cleaned three floors. I have talked to David Sipe, engineer in charge of clean-up, and he explained that before they can progress to another floor or area they must await the approval of the Health Department. It is a long, step by step process that cannot be rushed," Eynon said.

Contamination in Binghamton is extensive; clean up time is as yet unknown

According to a spokesman for the State, the Office of OGS is considering six Binghamton locations to serve as permanent/temporary offices.

At present, more than 200 State employees are working in various sites throughout the city of

Binghamton. DOT is headquartered in the Naval Reserve Center; Taxation & Finance and Workman's Compensation employees are located in the Marine Midland Plaza; Motor Vehicle Department employees are performing all duties that cannot be handled by computer from the lobby of the Broome County Office Building; Department of Labor workers are located in Washington Street offices, while the Human Rights Department is sharing space with the Office of Urban Renewal.

"We will continue to keep a close watch on daily progress and are considering some form of general membership meeting to be held in the area the week of February 23rd. We plan to set a date and time after we formulate some plans at the Regional Conference in Syracuse (February 20-21-22). One of the main concerns of the membership is for the personal property in the building," Synon said.

Editor's Note: The Public Sector will continue its update reports on progress at the State Office Building in Binghamton and plans coverage of the upcoming Local 002 membership meeting.

Cost of basic necessities tops inflation

WASHINGTON — Prices for the basic necessities of life — energy, food, shelter, and medical care — outstripped the cost of other goods and items that Americans typically buy in 1980, and the outlook this year is for more of the same.

These are the conclusions of two studies of price movements in various sectors of the economy, one by the AFL-CIO's Dept. of Economic Research, the second by the foundation-funded National Center for Economic Alternatives.

The AFL-CIO analysis showed that prices of the combined group of necessities rose 14 percent over the twelve months of 1980, while prices of

all other non-necessity items went up 9.9 percent. Inflation for the year, as measured by the government's consumer price index, posted a 12.5 percent rate.

A similar study, by the Washington-based National Center for Economic Alternatives, paralleled the federation's findings. Both analyses used data furnished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Energy prices were the fastest rising of any sector in 1980, surging 17.9 percent, the AFL-CIO study found. Shelter costs were next, rising 15.4 percent. Food prices were up 10.7 percent, and medical care 10.3 percent. Other items increased at an average of less than 10 percent.

Public worker buying power on the decline

WASHINGTON — A study of wage movements among state and local public workers nationwide over a five-year period, 1974-79, show a steady loss in buying power due primarily to inflation.

Published by the AFL-CIO Public Employee Dept., the analysis points out that total average annual earnings for state employees over the five years increased 38.7 percent. But over the same period inflation, as measured by the federal government's consumer price index, surged 47.5 percent.

For other public sector workers, the loss in purchasing power was even

greater. County employees, for instance, saw their yearly earnings rise an average of only 35.3 percent. Municipal workers' earnings during the five years rose 34.7 percent. For township employees and school district employees, the average five-year rise was 35.5 and 35.8 percent, respectively. The survey is based on figures supplied by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While both private and public sector workers are being massively victimized by today's soaring inflation, public sector state and local workers have had to shoulder much more than their share of these wage setbacks, PED Executive Director John Leyden observed.

Federal job freeze to create huge backlog

WASHINGTON — Federal agencies, already operating shorthanded, will fall even further behind their workload under the Reagan Administration's job freeze without substantially cutting payroll costs, President Kenneth T. Blaylock of the American Federation of Government Employees predicted.

Blaylock stressed that the

Reagan freeze order will only worsen the problems that resulted from President Carter's directive a year ago that agencies could fill only one of every two vacancies that occurred. He added that the action will prove to be little more than a "counter-productive symbolic gesture" to fulfill a campaign pledge.

Blaylock turned aside the con-

tion that there are far more federal workers than are needed to do the job. "In reality," he declared, "there are fewer federal workers on the rolls today than there were in 1961." He said that the real problem is the "imbalance" in the federal workforce that has grown since the mid-sixties, with a "dramatic shift" of workers into statistical and reporting jobs.



OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Division of Buildings Unit of Suffolk County Local 852 are installed by Local 852 Executive Vice President Robert Kolterman including, from right, President Charles DeMartino, Treasurer William Varga, First Vice President William Bovbleday, Sergeant at Arms Nicholas DiGregorio, Fourth Vice President Kenneth Cerreta and Second Vice President Robert Bennett.

Region I bids due Feb. 28

NORTH AMITYVILLE — Members of Long Island Region I who wish to be considered for nomination to run for a regional office must file an official application at Region I Headquarters between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, Region I President Danny Donohue announced.

He said official applications are available at the regional headquarters, 740 Broadway, North Amityville; (516) 789-1170.

The regional offices are president; first, second, third and fourth vice president; secretary and treasurer.

Applications received will be considered by the Region I Nominating Committee of:

John Aloisio, Robert Campbell, Steve Devorsney, Laura Fortner, Thomas Harris, Alex Kosiczky, Raymond Magliulo, Louis Mannellino, Ida McDaniel, Stanley Meadows, Carlo Pugliese, Stanley Roberts and Trudy Schwin.

Nominations for Local 411 offices

Nominations for Kings Park Psychiatric Center Local 411 will be accepted from March 2-16, by resume only, Local President Tony Bentivegna has announced. Nominations should be submitted

from March 17-31 by petition only. All nominations should be sent to nominating committee chairwoman Victoria Williams at the local office at 75 East Main St., Kings Park, N.Y. 11754.



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Calendar of EVENTS

February

- 25—Nassau County Local 830 Executive Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., Salisbury Inn, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.
- 26—28th annual New York State Employees Brotherhood Committee observance, Roosevelt Hotel, New York City.

March

- 3—Westchester County Unit shop steward training, 7 p.m., 85 Court Street, White Plains.
- 4—Long Island Region I Mental Hygiene Task Force meeting, noon, Region I Satellite Office, Hauppauge.
- 7—Suffolk Education Local OSHA workshop, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Middle Island Middle School, Rocky Point-Yaphank Road, Middle Island.
- 10—Suffolk County Local 852 Executive Committee meeting, 7 p.m., 755 Waverly Avenue, Holtsville.
- 11—Hudson Valley Armory Employees Local 252 Meeting, 1 p.m., Newburgh Armory, 355 South William St. Newburgh.
- 12—Saratoga County Local 846 shop stewards meeting, 5 p.m., Solar Building, High St., Ballston Spa.
- 16—Capital Region IV membership meeting (dinner), 5:30 p.m., Best Western Thruway House, Western Ave., Albany.
- 17—Saratoga County Local 846 Executive Committee meeting, 7 p.m., Solar Building, High St., Ballston Spa.

EAP project underway at Dept. of Audit & Control

ALBANY — More than 2,000 employees in the Department of Audit and Control will soon have access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) thanks to a new labor / management agreement signed earlier this month.

Audit and Control Local No. 651 President Barbara Skelly and Employees Retirement System Local No. 652 President Jeanne Pratt joined with other labor and management representatives in the agency to develop the program. The EAP will assist employees with such concerns as alcoholism or family problems.

"We formed a committee in November to work on this project," said Barbara Skelly, who chaired the effort, "and we hope to have the program actually in operation by April. Now we're looking for EAP coordinators.

"I think we were able to move so rapidly for two reasons. First, we had the experience of some other agencies and Locals to use as examples. And with Comptroller Regan 100 percent behind the EAP concept, we had excellent cooperation from management."

CSEA STATEWIDE PRESIDENT WILLIAM L. McGOWAN, Local 652 President Jeanne Pratt and Local 651 President Barbara Skelly look on as Comptroller Edward Regan adds his signature to the EAP agreement which will serve some 2000 employees in Audit and Control.



Ralph Spagnolo elected to CSEA Board

EAST MEADOW — Ralph Spagnolo, president of the Department of Public Works Unit of Nassau County Local 830, has been elected to fill the remainder of the late Irving Flaumenbaum's term on the CSEA Board of Directors. Spagnolo was elected at a recent meeting of the Local 830 Executive

Committee.

He joins Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello as the two Local 830 members of the CSEA Board of Directors and the statewide County Executive Committee.

Also at the Local 830 Executive Committee meeting, the committee voted to donate \$1,000 to the Arthritis

Foundation's Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial Fellowship. Other donations voted at the meeting were to the Syracuse City School District Clerical Unit which was on strike in 1980, the Heart Fund, the March of Dimes, Long Island Federation of Labor Journal and the Long Island Building Trade Unions Journal.

Abbatiello also announced the appointment of Thomas Stapleton as chairman of the Local 830 Legislative and Political Action Committee. Stapleton has been a member of the committee since its inception in 1973.

Stapleton has been active in CSEA for 18 years as an officer of the City of Long Beach Unit and as a member of the Local 830 Audit, Budget, Nominations and Political Action Committees.

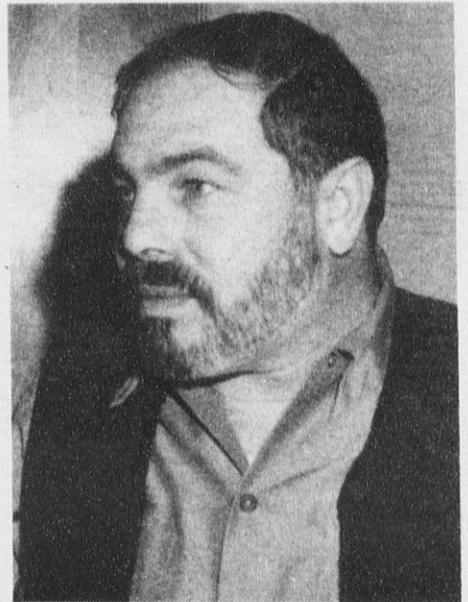
Long Island Region I President Danny Donohue made three committee appointments of Local 830 members, including Stapleton and Thomas Gargiulo to the Region I Legislative and Political Action Committee and Jay Cartman as vice chairman of the Region I Contingency Action Committee.

Abbatiello also reminds all public employees in the Nassau County area that a new State law passed in Albany

last year permits public employees to work at Roosevelt Raceway in Westbury. "Thanks to this new law, a lot of CSEA members will be able to earn some badly needed extra money," he said.



NEW CSEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER Ralph Spagnolo, left, the man elected to fill the remainder of the late Irving Flaumenbaum's term, discusses his new role with Board Member and Nassau County Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello.



RECENTLY APPOINTED MEMBER of the Long Island Region I Legislative and Political Action Committee is Thomas Gargiulo of Nassau County Local 830.

Strike penalty payroll deductions ruled improper

CSEA has won a court ruling that the state improperly deducted strike penalties from Corrections Department employees' paychecks in connection with a 1979 job action.

Albany County state Supreme Court Justice Harold J. Hughes has ruled that the state made payroll deductions later than allowed by the Civil Service Law.

A job action occurred in the state's prison system between April 18 and May 4, 1979. CSEA represents civilian prison employees, some of whom allegedly did not cross picket lines to report to work during the guards' walkout.

Under the Taylor Law, public employees lose two days' pay for each day they participate in a job action. This penalty must be deducted no later than 90 days after an official strike determination.

According to CSEA attorney Michael Smith, "100 or more" CSEA members who suffered payroll deductions during or after January 1980 would be reimbursed under Hughes' decision. Smith said it is expected the state will appeal the ruling to the Appellate Division.



HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY — Three Albany Housing Authority employees, represented by CSEA, have been presented with AHA certificates of appreciation for their honesty. From left is CSEA Local 801 President Joseph T. Raymond; member Brindley Arthurton, who found and turned in \$145; AHA manager Margaret Page; and member Steve Budesa, second from right, who is being congratulated by AHA Executive Director Joseph F. Laden for turning in \$765 he found on AHA property.

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A NUMBER OF CSEA OFFICIALS were among those attending the recent SUNY Chancellor's Report Dinner in Huntington. Included were, from left, Irene Nash of SUNY Farmingdale Local 606; CSEA Region I President Danny Donohue; CWEP Committee Chairman Harry Weiner; Ida McDaniel of SUNY Old Westbury Local 618; and Charline Alonso of SUNY Stony Brook Local 614.

Date set to open Local 830 talks

MINEOLA — An April 1 target date has been set to open negotiations on behalf of 14,000 Nassau County employees represented by CSEA. Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello is setting that target in a letter to County Executive Francis Purcell.

The current contract between the County and CSEA expired at the end of this year.

Abbatiello, in preparation for those negotiations, said a steering committee will be formed in February to prepare the union's demands. He said he would chair that committee which would consist of one member for each 500 persons from each of the more 20 county departments.

Also in February, Abbatiello said the negotiating committee of approximately 12 persons would be formed.

He said in addition to money, a major item will be the restoration of the graded salary plan for employees hired since 1977.

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KEEP CSEA INFORMED ON MAILING ADDRESS

In the event that you change your mailing address, please fill out the below form and send it to:

CSEA, Inc., P.O. Box 125, Capitol Station, Albany, New York 12224.

This form is also available from local presidents for CSEA members, but is reproduced here for convenience.

Change of Address for 'The Public Sector'

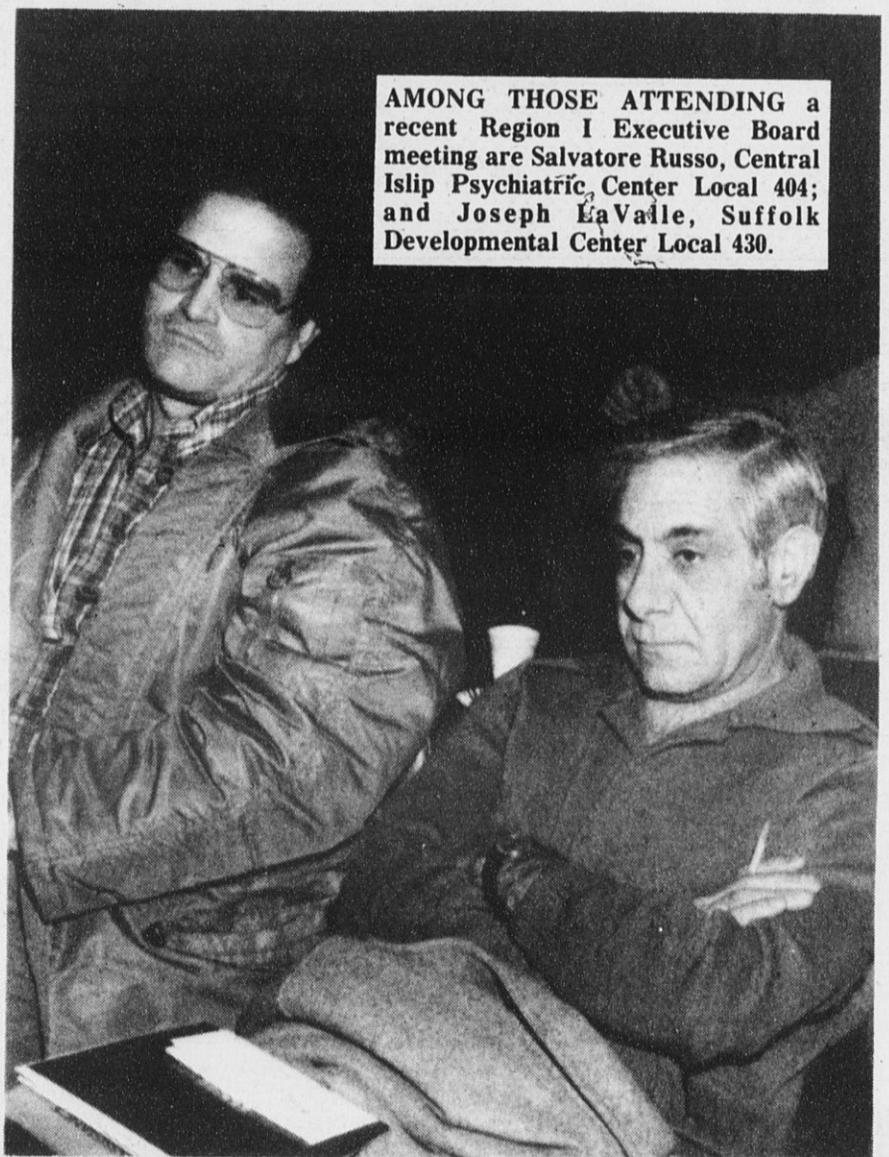
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My present label reads exactly as shown here (or affix mailing label)

Name _____ Local Number _____
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MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Agency where employed _____
My social security no. _____ Agency No. _____



AMONG THOSE ATTENDING a recent Region I Executive Board meeting are Salvatore Russo, Central Islip Psychiatric Center Local 404; and Joseph LaVade, Suffolk Developmental Center Local 430.

Rensselaer unit starts monthly newsletter

TROY — The Rensselaer County Unit of CSEA has expanded its channel of communication with the membership, starting a monthly newsletter to keep members informed of union news as well as a certain amount of personal information.

According to CSEA Unit President Carol Larpenteur, the focus of the paper will not only be on hard news, but on "the folksy news," to enable all unit members to become better acquainted with one another. The county employees, Larpenteur says, work at various locations throughout the city of Troy and its outskirts, and often do not know one another.

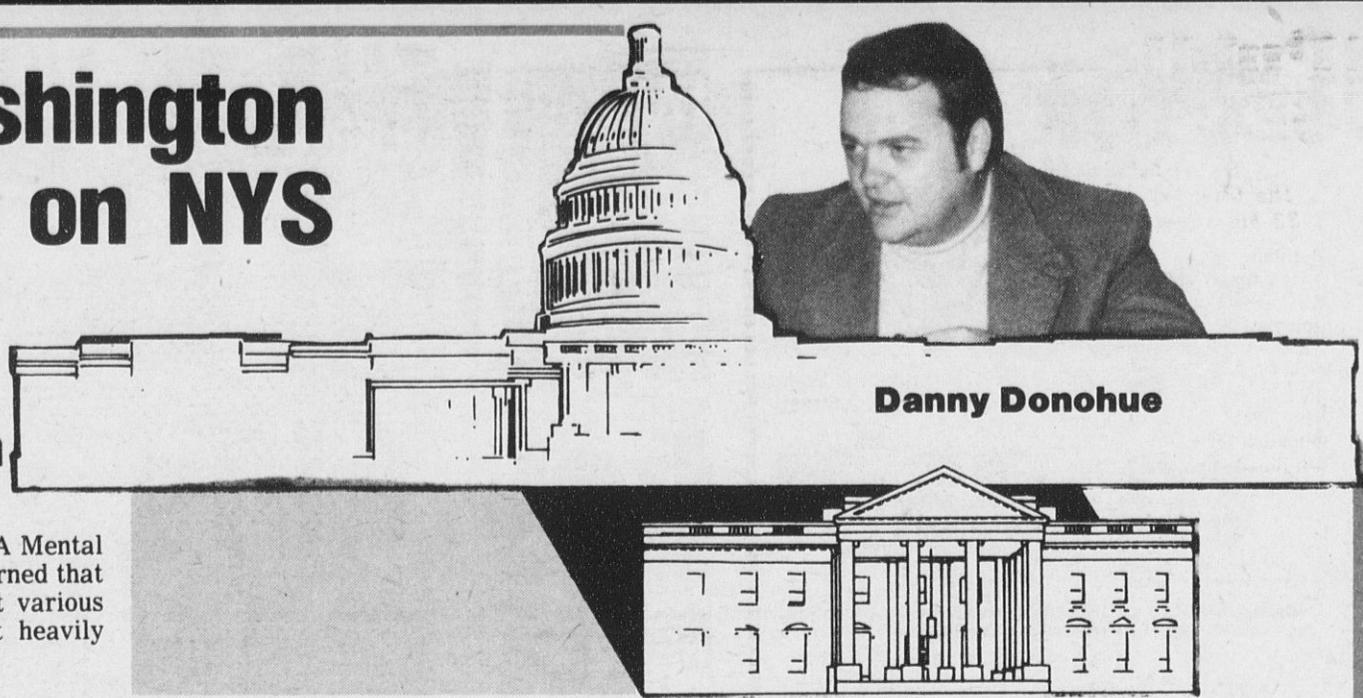
Department of Social Services employee Marta Tuthill has been named editor.

The unit is sponsoring a contest to name the newsletter and will award \$25 for the winning entry. Suggestions can be mailed to Marta Tuthill "Name the Newsletter," Renss. Co. Unit CSEA, 1801 Sixth Avenue, Troy 12180.

Cuts in Washington put burden on NYS

Union must stand ready to oppose budget cutting by Reagan administration

The chairman of the influential CSEA Mental Hygiene Presidents Committee has warned that the Reagan Administration call to cut various social program funding could impact heavily



upon the care of mental hygiene system clients.

Committee Chairman Danny Donohue has released a report stating "The new administration of President Ronald Reagan must be watched closely by those of us involved in mental hygiene. Calls by the administration to cut various social programs — if enacted — could have a serious impact on the federal funds provided to the states for the care of patients in the mental hygiene systems."

Donohue explained that millions of federal dollars help fund the mental health and retardation systems in New York State through the Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid programs.

"If those programs are cut, the taxpayers of New York State will be forced to pick up the entire burden," he said.

He then called attention to the importance to CSEA's recent affiliation with AFSCME in regard to this potential problem.

"The merger with AFSCME is of prime importance. It gives CSEA representation before the Congress. It is Congress and not the new administration which will ultimately set the budget for the federal government.

"So it is up to us to watch closely what the Reagan administration proposes and then to put forth our best effort to see that the mental hygiene systems we work in are not placed in jeopardy," Donohue said.

Turning closer to home, Donohue said: "I am confident the CSEA regional political action committees all will, if necessary, make the union's position crystal clear to our congressmen when they return home from Washington.

"That is why you — our union — have to play an active part in the political action process in your region and throughout the whole state."

"The problems of closings and mergers of facilities are still with us and most likely will continue to be with us for a long time.

"It will be that way until the State government again realizes you cannot put a price on the life, safety and well being of citizens of the state in need of mental hygiene services.

"These services ultimately must be provided by the State or they will not be provided at all," Donohue said.

Donohue said the governor has promised that mental hygiene services will be provided by the best possible means available. In the past, Carey has said the State employees have been the best, Donohue said.

He said: "It is now up to you and your CSEA brothers and sisters to make sure Carey continues to live up to his commitment."

The importance of mental hygiene within CSEA membership was emphasized by Donohue.

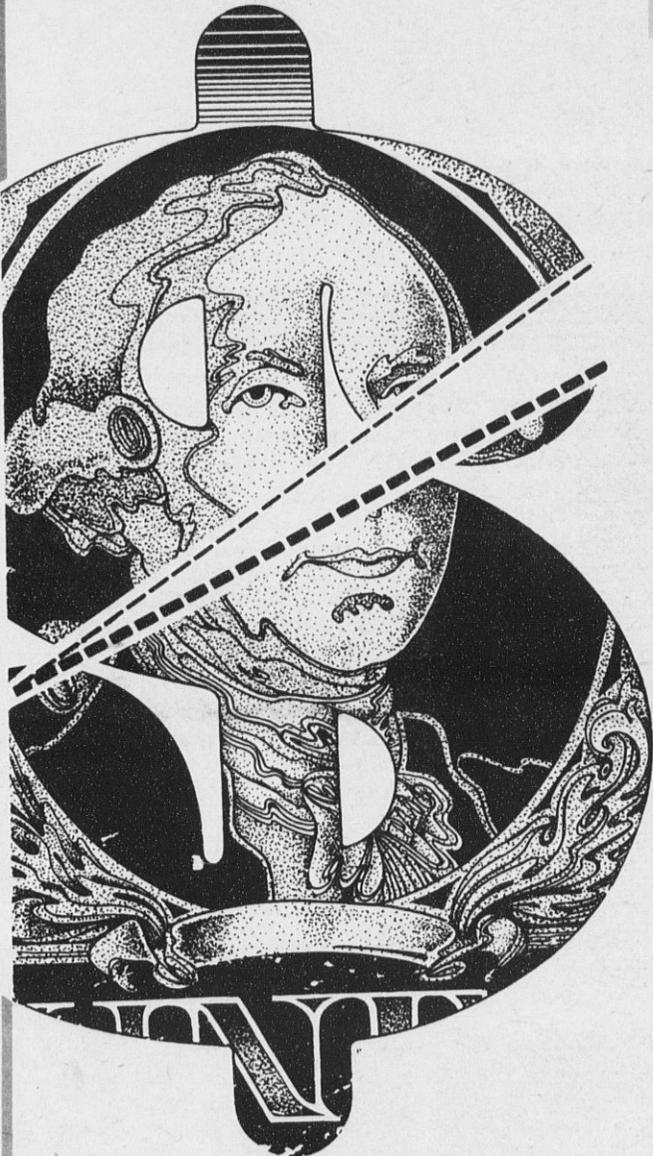
"What is the union? It is the members. If you don't care, all of us will suffer.

"Mental Hygiene is more than one-fourth of the CSEA membership. If we are involved and active, that means a large part of CSEA is involved and active.

"We must continue the fight to protect not just our jobs but the welfare of the patients and the future of the communities where we live and pay taxes."

Donohue reminds members of the Mental Hygiene Presidents Committee that the committee most likely will meet during the State Delegates Workshop in Syracuse, May 20-22.

At that meeting, an election for secretary of the committee will be held to complete the remainder of the term of Betty Duffy, who has retired from State service.



MEANWHILE: Presidential freezing of pending regs keeps several labor-backed measures in limbo stage

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's 60-day freeze of pending government regulations has put in limbo a group of labor-supported measures affecting the safety, health and wages of America's workers, according to the AFL-CIO.

Along with scores of other pending government actions, many clearly non-controversial, they have been labeled by the Reagan White House as "midnight regulations" of the outgoing Carter Administration and pulled back for review.

They will be scrutinized for cost-effectiveness and, the White House stressed, in terms of the Administration goal of "lessening rather than increasing the regulatory burden."

In fact, regulations are the means by which the Executive Branch of government administers the laws passed by Congress, which only rarely are self-enforcing. In at least some cases, suspending regulations amounts to suspension of the law on

which they are based.

Thus, the regulatory freeze will hold up — at least until Mar. 30 — the implementation of "walkaround pay" rights for worker representatives during workplace inspections by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

It will allow Indiana to continue to operate a state job safety and health program that the AFL-CIO has repeatedly criticized as grossly inferior to the federal program it replaced. OSHA had begun administrative action to suspend certification of the Indiana program because of its "consistent pattern of poor performance."

Also held up by the government-wide regulatory freeze are changes in Davis-Bacon Act procedures for setting prevailing wage rates on federally-funded construction. It includes some changes sought by employers. But an open-shop contractors' association complained it didn't go far enough to meet their objections

and has urged the Reagan Administration to rescind it.

The freeze means at least a further delay in an already years-delayed action by the Labor Dept. to raise the wage test for exemption from overtime pay requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Regulations with schedules effective dates beyond Mar. 30 also must pass the screening process even though they are not formally under the freeze. These include a long-range hearing conservation program to protect more than 5 million workers who are regularly exposed to high levels of noise. It was scheduled to take effect in mid-April.

Reagan also prohibited issuance of any new final regulations — with limited exceptions — by any agency. This holdup would presumably cover OSHA's proposed toxic labeling standard which would provide precise chemical identification and warning on hazardous substances.

Public employee unions open lobbying campaign to gain key bills

Administration pledges to support pension increase; permanent agency shop bill

The joint lobbying efforts on behalf of public employee unions officially began with the fourth annual Legislative breakfast for the Public Employee Conference held on February 10, 1981. This is considered the traditional time to familiarize the legislative leaders with the program legislation that the Conference will be supporting. Public Employee Conference represents approximately 800,000 employees in New York State.

The legislative leaders who attended the breakfast were Acting Governor Mario Cuomo, Speaker of the Assembly Stanley Fink, Assembly Minority Leader James Emery, Majority Leader of the Senate Warren Anderson and Minority Leader of the Senate Manfred Ohrenstein.

Among the other legislators attending the Conference breakfast were Senators Richard E. Schermerhorn, John J. Marchi, John J. Flynn and Martin Connor, and Assemblymen Joseph Lentol, Frank Barbaro, Guy Velella and Nicholas Spano. Key legislative staff members were Rick Farley, Counsel to Senate Majority Leader; Ross Graham, Executive Assistant to Senate Minority Leader; Richard Brevoort, Secretary to Senate Minority Leader; Kenneth Shapiro, Counsel to the Assembly Speaker; Margo May, Program and Committee Staff; Ron Rich, Ways and Means Committee, and George Humphrey, Director of Operations for Assembly Minority.

The legislative leaders voiced their support for the PEC legislative program. Assembly Minority Leader, James Emery, indicated the record of support of the Assembly minority for the past two years has been excellent and pledged their continued support of this group.

Manfred Ohrenstein, Minority Leader of the New York State Senate, voiced his support on behalf of his membership for the program of PEC. He talked of the support his conference gave during the 1980 budget fight.

Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink

talked of all of the public employee unions in relation to the condition of New York State and reiterated the legislative record of the Assembly Democrats on past PEC legislation in the past years.

Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson called for the immediate passage of CSEA's program bill which would provide cost of living increases for retirees.



SENATE MINORITY LEADER Fred Ohrenstein states position on legislation.

Acting Governor Mario Cuomo stated the Governor's strong support for "... a permanent Agency Shop for all public employees of New York State."

He stated that the Carey administration strongly supported bills amending the Taylor Law such as Injunctive Notice and Liverpool. He also stated that since proper monies were allocated for a cost of living adjustment for retirees that he would support the signing of this type of legislation.

CSEA President William L. McGowan, who is also a vice president of the Public Employee Conference, called the PEC breakfast program an excellent forum for the public employee union leadership and key legislative leaders to discuss



SENATE MAJORITY LEADER Warren M. Anderson addresses PEC members about current and pending legislative considerations.

items of mutual interest, and said PEC officials were encouraged by many of the positions of the legislative leaders toward PEC proposals.

Also attending the PEC breakfast from CSEA were Executive Vice President Tom McDonough, Joseph Dolan, Executive Director; James D. Featherstonhaugh, chief lobbyist; Stephen J. Wiley, Counsel; Bernard J. Ryan, Director of CSEA's Legislative and Political Action Office; Thomas J. Haley, Assistant Director; Ramona Gallagher, Political Training Specialist; Joyce Dimitri, secretary; Ellen Caruso, secretary, and interns Libby Johnson and Ivy Spiegel.

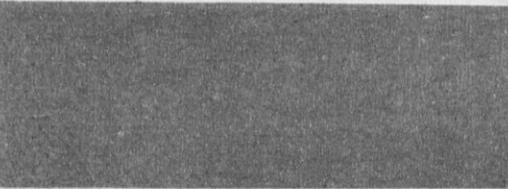


ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER Jim Emery makes a point during PEC meeting.

PEC



ASSEMBLY SPEAKER Stanley Fink discussing proposed legislation affecting public employee union members.



CSEA LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION DIRECTOR Bernard Ryan, left below, discusses items of mutual interest with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations Director Meyer Frucher at PEC session.



CSEA PRESIDENT WILLIAM L. McGOWAN, center, discusses public employee legislation status with **Barry Feinstein**, left, chairman of the Public Employee Conference, and **Atty. James Featherstonhaugh**, right, chief CSEA lobbyist.



CSEA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Thomas McDonough, left, discusses legislation matters with **Assemblyman Nick Spano**, ranking minority member of the Assembly Governmental Employees Committee.



LT. GOVERNOR MARIO CUOMO, right, and **CSEA President William L. McGowan**, left, discussed proposed legislation over breakfast. Lt. Governor Cuomo was among many top legislative and executive leaders to address public employee union representatives.

Pair of pacts ratified for West Seneca

WEST SENECA — Blue collar and white collar members of CSEA units have agreed to terms of new collective bargaining contracts with the town of West Seneca.

Over 130 employees are affected by the agreements of the two units of Erie County Local 815.

The blue-collar agreement features a nine per cent wage increase in the first year and seven per cent in the second year of the two year agreement.

Other benefits include one "floating" holiday in the first year, \$260 towards a GHI Dental Plan and an agency shop clause.

White collar employees will receive a nine per cent wage increase in both contract years in addition to a floating holiday, increased sick leave accumulation and longevity and agency shop and non-sub-contracting clauses.

CSEA Chief Negotiator Vince Sicari was aided by committees that included Pres. Jim Kittner, Bob Schultz, Ray Johnson, Sam Accordino, Tom Casey, Bill Shanahan and John Riedel for the blue collar unit and Pres. Mildred Steiner, Don Mendola, Shirley Buyea, Tim Davis, Len Wisniewski, Mary Bruester, Bill Czuprynski and Gary Brommer for the white collar workers.

Local 335 notes nominations now being accepted

BUFFALO — The opening of nominations for office in Judiciary Local 335 has been announced by nominating committee chairperson Joseph Hartman.

Nominations are being accepted for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

All requests for nominations should be mailed to Joseph Hartman, 236 Brookside Terrace, Tonawanda, N.Y., 14150, no later than midnight, March 6.

Exam schedule for computer operator announced by OCA

NEW YORK — The Office of Court Administration has announced the opening of filing for three examinations in the Computer Operator Series. The examinations are scheduled to be held May 2, 1981 and applications will be accepted until March 20, 1981.

The eligible lists established as a result of these examinations will be used to fill appropriate positions in the Unified Court System in New York State. Applications and announcements may be obtained in the courts and court agencies throughout the State or by writing or coming to the Office of Court Administration, Staffing Services Unit, Room 1209, 270 Broadway, New York, New York 10007.

PROFILE.... ray o'connor

Diversified background of regional president brings many talents to key union position

By Gerald Alperstein
Associate Editor

WHITE PLAINS — Raymond J. O'Connor, the man who succeeded the late James Lennon as Southern Region III president, has asked for the "support of the membership during this time of tragic transition for the region." O'Connor became region president upon the untimely death of Mr. Lennon on February 10.

O'Connor said he would like to receive input from the CSEA leadership throughout Region III. "In the next few weeks, I will be assessing the needs of the region. I would like to more fully utilize the talents of our CSEA leadership in the region," he said. He asks that those wishing to make suggestions to him either call or write him at the regional offices in Fishkill or White Plains.

O'Connor, speaking of the late Mr. Lennon, said: "Jimmy was a union man all his adult life, a man active in his community and church and a family man. His children are a credit to him and to his wife, Eleanor.

"He was a most active and energetic regional president, an affable person to work with.

"Most of all, he was a warm, understanding human being."

In February 1978, O'Connor was elected president of the 5,000-member Westchester County Unit.

In 1979, he was overwhelmingly elected first vice president of Region III. Also in that year, he was appointed to the statewide Constitution and By-laws Committee by CSEA President William L. McGowan and was appointed chairman of the Region III Constitution and By-laws Committee by Mr. Lennon. He also served as Westchester County Local 860 Election Committee chairman that year.

He was overwhelmingly re-elected president of the Westchester County Unit in 1980. In 1980, he also was elected to be a delegate to the AFSCME Convention, and AFSCME President Jerry Wurf appointed him to the AFSCME Professional Committee.

President McGowan in 1981 appointed O'Connor as the first CSEA County Division member to be a



Raymond J. O'Connor

trustee of the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund.

O'Connor said the highlights of his three years as president of the Westchester County Unit included:

— The successful campaign in 1978 against a proposed 10 percent reduction in the county workforce in which not one CSEA-represented employee was laid off.

— Negotiating Westchester County employees into the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund dental plan in 1979.

— Negotiating in 1979 with the county executive for the return to work of the county corrections officers without loss of pay or benefits.

— Leading the negotiations with Westchester County in 1980 for a new two-year contract which included two pay raises of 8.5 percent plus increments and the establishment of the Westchester County CSEA Inc. Employee Benefit Fund.

He has been a CSEA member since being hired in 1970 as a probation officer by Westchester County. In 1974, he was elected first vice president and shop steward of the Probation Department Section of the unit. He was re-elected in 1976.

In 1977, the then Unit President Michael Morella appointed O'Connor to fill a vacancy on the Local 860 Executive Committee.

As a probation officer, he worked at the White Plains Family Court and at the Yonkers District Office.



Southern Region



O'Connor's life prior to joining CSEA included membership in two other unions, world travel, education and religious involvement.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1929 and grew up in the Astoria section of Queens. When he was 16 in 1946, he quit high school and joined the merchant marine, becoming a member of the National Maritime Union — Congress of Industrial Organizations.

From 1946 to 1966, he held various jobs in the engine and boiler rooms of the ships he worked on. He was an active member in the National Maritime Union, serving as a convention delegate in 1953 and 1960 and holding the ship-board positions of engine room delegate and ship's chairman a number of times.

"I must have been on 40 or 50 ships and I sailed all over the world. If there is an ocean port somewhere, I've probably been there," O'Connor said.

O'Connor became a licensed third assistant engineer in 1966 and became a member of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association — AFL-CIO. He served as a third engineer until he started working for Westchester County in 1970.

Serious religious involvement

has played a major role in O'Connor's life. He earned his high school equivalency in 1958. In 1961, he started studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood, first at St. Philip Neri School for Delayed Vocations of Boston College and then at Major Seminary for the Arch Diocese of New York, St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers.

From 1961 to 1969, while studying for the priesthood, he spent his summers and part of 1966 and 1967 at sea.

In 1968-69, he was deacon at a parish in the Bronx.

One month before his scheduled ordination, O'Connor decided not to become a priest.

His education during his training for the priesthood earned him a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in philosophy and a Master of Divinity degree majoring in theology.

While working for Westchester County in 1970 he attended Fordham Law School part-time for one year before switching to the Hunter College School of Social Work. He earned a Master of Social Work degree in 1975 and passed the examination for New York State Certified Social Worker that year.

O'Connor and his wife, Jean, were married in 1971. They have no children.

'MICKEY' CLARK

...and the hostage's homecoming

**Husband was a POW
Son was a pilot of freedom**



CSEA MEMBER 'MICKEY' CLARK is the mother of Sergeant Kevin Clark, a flight steward aboard the hostage's homecoming jet "Freedom One." Her son's special mission to Germany came as a surprise when a local newspaper called to verify Kevin's name on a list of military personnel.

By Stanley Hornak

STONY POINT — They clapped when they took off from Germany, they cheered at the sight of ham and cheese sandwiches, and when they landed at Stewart Air Force Base the noise was deafening.

"Mickey" Clark had the inside scoop, a special connection to the flight of "Freedom One" which brought the hostages home from Iran, and that special connection was her son, Kevin.

In telling the story, "Mickey" begins by explaining that her 29-year old son is a staff sergeant attached to the 89th Military Airlift Wing, "Presidential Fleet," located at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. "Mickey," herself, is a senior mail clerk who works for Rockland County and belongs to CSEA.

Kevin is a flight steward, "trained almost like those in commercial service," and his assignments include "Air Force Two," the vice president's jet. But on Jan. 17 he got a special assignment that he — and his mother — will remember the rest of their lives.

Mrs. Clark recalls that on the 17th her son called to say he was going to Germany, "for a few days." Since he is almost always on the go, there was nothing unusual about it, "there aren't too many places where he hasn't been."

A few days later, however, she got her first tip on the real nature of Kevin's odyssey when a local newspaper called to verify that he was on the list of military personnel who flew to Weisbaden to prepare the hostages'

homecoming. The news came as a surprise, "I was real thrilled, but I wouldn't believe it until Kevin told me himself."

The next break came when she learned that the 52 freed Americans would be landing at Stewart, "practically in our back yard," just over an hour's drive from the Clark home in Stony Point.

A lot of thoughts crossed "Mickey" Clark's mind next Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25, as she watched the ex-hostages return on TV. She "cried from the minute I saw them," and also kept a sharp lookout for her son, but to no avail. She also thought how fitting it was for him to be there since his own father, John, was himself a POW during World War II.

John Clark who died in 1977 is well remembered in CSEA's Region 3 where he served for many years as president of Letchworth Village Local 412, was a first vice president of the region, and also a member of the statewide Board of Directors. The late Mr. Clark was uniquely memorialized when the power plant at Letchworth Village was renamed the "John T. Clark Power Plant" and a permanent plaque in his memory was installed within the power plant facility by CSEA.

Several hours after the plane landed, Kevin had a chance to call, and told his mother, "how great it was to be part of the flight." She remembers telling him, "thank God it's you," and feeling honored that he was with the ex-hostages on their return voyage.

Kevin made what was to be a whirlwind visit home the next day, before taking the 52 hostages and their families to Washington on Tuesday.

Mrs. Clark says that in the three hours they spent together, she had, "little time to talk because of the phone." Local newspapers also sent reporters to do interviews, take pictures and, "share our joy."

Kevin told them of how the plane was stocked with chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter and jelly, and gallons of milk and orange juice. The main meal included shrimp cocktail, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, sirloin steak and cheesecake for dessert. There was no rice, even though one of the returnees facetiously asked where it was. He described the overall mood as "jubilant," best exemplified by the man who, when he boarded the Air Force jet, stomped both his feet and yelled, "I'm free." They all appeared in good health, but he did notice that a few of them were rather quiet and thoughtful.

The ex-hostages told of how, "the support of fellow citizens and people around the world kept us going," and Kevin said they were, "ordinary people, regular folks who were eager now to get home and be on their own again."

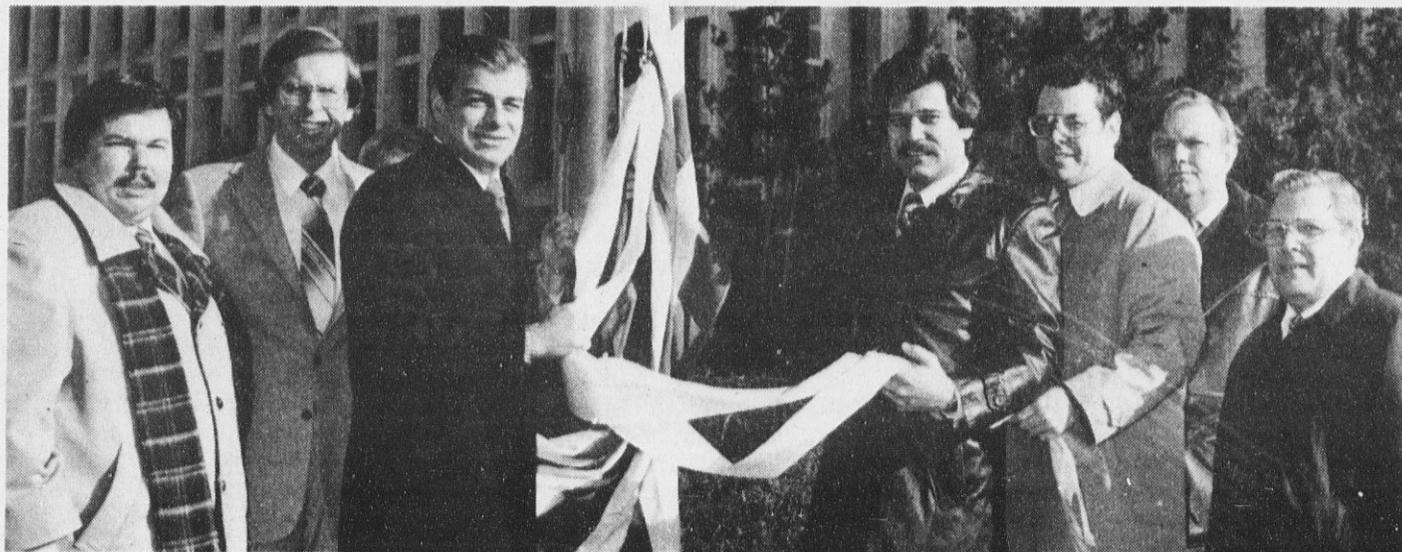
Their saga has now come to an end. Its closing chapter was one that "Mickey" Clark and her son, Kevin, will never forget.



THREE OF THE FIVE FLIGHT STEWARDS on the plane that flew the hostages back to the United States share their adventures with "Mickey" Clark. They are, from left, Kevin Clark, Dennis Christafaro, Mrs. Clerk and Larry Brown.

—photo courtesy of Haverstraw Times (c) 1981

YELLOW RIBBONS. CSEA and elected officials join to raise yellow ribbons under American flag at Hempstead Town Hall Jan. 30 in salute to hostages returned from Iran. CSEA provided eight-foot ribbons for display on 30 town flagpoles. From left are: CSEA Second Vice President John Ninivaggi, Town Clerk Daniel Fisher Jr., Presiding Supervisor Thomas S. Gulotta, CSEA President Gus Nielsen Jr., Councilman Peter King, CSEA Financial Secretary Ken Brotherton, and CSEA First Vice President Ben Bentivegna. Nielsen noted that hostages were fellow public employees.



Talks solve EnCon labor problems

ALBANY — A number of problems which have long plagued certain state Department of Environmental Conservation employees have been resolved, largely as a result of an extended series of meetings between the Civil Service Employees Assn. and management representatives from EnCon.

The meetings were originally requested by CSEA Capital Region Director Jack Corcoran and Field Representative Charles Scott, after several attempts to deal with the problems of EnCon employees at ski centers, parks and fish hatcheries failed.

"It seemed these employees were getting one bad deal after

another from EnCon management, and it got to the point where we felt like we were getting nowhere in finding solutions," Corcoran said.

At the first meeting Corcoran and Scott presented EnCon officials with a list of 25 items which they felt needed serious attention.

As a result of the continuous discussions, Corcoran reports, the rights and benefits of seasonal workers are now being explained to them; overtime and meal allowance payments are being made to employees on a regular basis; seasonal employees are being rehired without delay; job notices for promotional opportunities are being posted at worksites; those seasonal workers

earning less than minimum wage have been granted raises to bring pay scales up to the minimum, and supervisors are being trained to understand and properly enforce the employees' contract.

In the past the CSEA and EnCon officials clashed on these issues.

Many of the difficulties, the union believes, stemmed from a lack of communications between the main EnCon personnel office in Albany and worksite branch offices.

"At times it seemed the main office was operating under one set of policies and the branch office under another set. And our employees were caught in the middle," Corcoran said.



Jack Corcoran



DIVISION OF PROBATION DIRECTOR Thomas J. Callanan, seated right, recently addressed the February meeting of the CSEA statewide Probation Committee in Albany. Others seated from left are CSEA staff coordinator Walter Leubner, committee member Jim Brearton of Westchester County and Skip Preddice of the Division of Probation. Standing, from left, are Jim Brady of Erie County, Jack Whalen of Westchester, Jim Mattei of Nassau County, Gary L. Clark of Genesee County, and Eulis M. Cathey of Erie.

Concerns aired at Probation meeting

ALBANY — Members of CSEA's Statewide Probation Committee and representatives of the State Division of Probation met here earlier this month to discuss in depth a number of mutual concerns.

The exchange of ideas with State Director of Probation Thomas Callanan and Skip Preddice from the division's public relations office during the session, resulted in a meeting that was "informative and useful," a committee spokesman reports.

The issues addressed included, the discontinuance of state operation of probation services for Fulton, Montgomery and Warren Counties; plans to revise the division's rules and regulations; plans to allow probation assistants with five years of service entry, by competitive exam, into the probation officer training program; a high turnover rate in the field; concern over President Reagan's philosophy of more funding for apprehension and imprisonment to the detriment of probation services; counties using probation officer trainees for two years instead of the division's one year recommendation, and the study of exams for relevance of questions.

Francine Perretta was recently appointed Region IV's representative to the committee, it was announced.

Axing of ABC a budget blunder of enormous consequences; restoration of funds urged

ALBANY — A budget proposal by the Carey Administration to ax the state's Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) would be a blunder of enormous consequences, according to a report by the Albany Institute of Governmental Studies. The report, which was released last week, says that the ABC is a vital agency that provides a wide range of services to the state's residents. It also notes that the ABC has a long history of successful operation and that its elimination would be a major setback for the state's alcohol and beverage industry.

The report also points out that the ABC has a strong track record of providing services to the community, including the regulation of alcohol and beverage sales, the enforcement of liquor laws, and the operation of state-owned liquor stores. It concludes that the ABC is a valuable asset to the state and that its elimination would be a major loss to the state's residents and the alcohol and beverage industry.

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SEE PAGE 6
cwep... it's working

the Public Sector

Official publication of the Albany Institute of Governmental Studies
Vol. 3, No. 18
Wednesday, February 11, 1981
1981 state issue

CARRY NATION

1881

There is an increasing recognition in our society of the danger posed by alcohol to the individual and to the community as a whole. The state's Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) is the agency responsible for the regulation of alcohol and beverage sales, the enforcement of liquor laws, and the operation of state-owned liquor stores. The ABC has a long history of successful operation and that its elimination would be a major setback for the state's alcohol and beverage industry.

CAREY STATE

1981

PERSONNEL
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
LICENSING
REGULATIONS
TAX REVENUE
CONTROL OF ABUSES

The Carey Administration's proposal to ax the state's Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) is a major setback for the state's alcohol and beverage industry. The ABC has a long history of successful operation and that its elimination would be a major loss to the state's residents and the alcohol and beverage industry.

PAGE ONE STORY, above, in February 11, 1981 issue dealt with proposed axing of ABC. At right is how Public Sector's award-winning political cartoonist Ralph Distin sees the issue.



TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD UNIT OFFICERS, from left. Joseph Parise. Pat Caturano. Charles Di Pietro, John Ninivaggi, Ben Bentivegna, Nicholas Gangale, President Gus Nielsen, John Aloisio, Jeanette Mosca, Kenneth Bagattelle, Kenneth Brotherton and Lezly Uguz are installed by Long Island Region I President Danny Donohue, back to camera on right, while Nassau County Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello, front center, looks on.



Hempstead election results

HEMPSTEAD — Gus Nielsen has been re-elected president of the Town of Hempstead Unit of Nassau County Local 830. Local 830 reported the results of the unit election as follows:

President: Gus Nielsen

First vice president: Ben Bentivegna

Second vice president: John Ninivaggi

Third vice president: Charles DiPietro

Fourth vice president: Pat Caturano

Fifth vice president: Joseph Parise

Executive representative: John Aloisio

Recording secretary: Jeannette Mosca

Corresponding secretary: Lezly Uguz

Financial secretary: Kenneth Brotherton

Treasurer: Kenneth Bagattelle

Sergeant at arms: Nicholas Gangale

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT for officers of the 2,500-member Town of Hempstead Unit of Nassau County Local 830 are signed by Town of Hempstead Presiding Supervisor Thomas Gulotta, sitting, while Unit President Gus Nielsen, Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello and Long Island Region I President Danny Donohue observe.

Directory of CSEA Regional Offices

REGION I

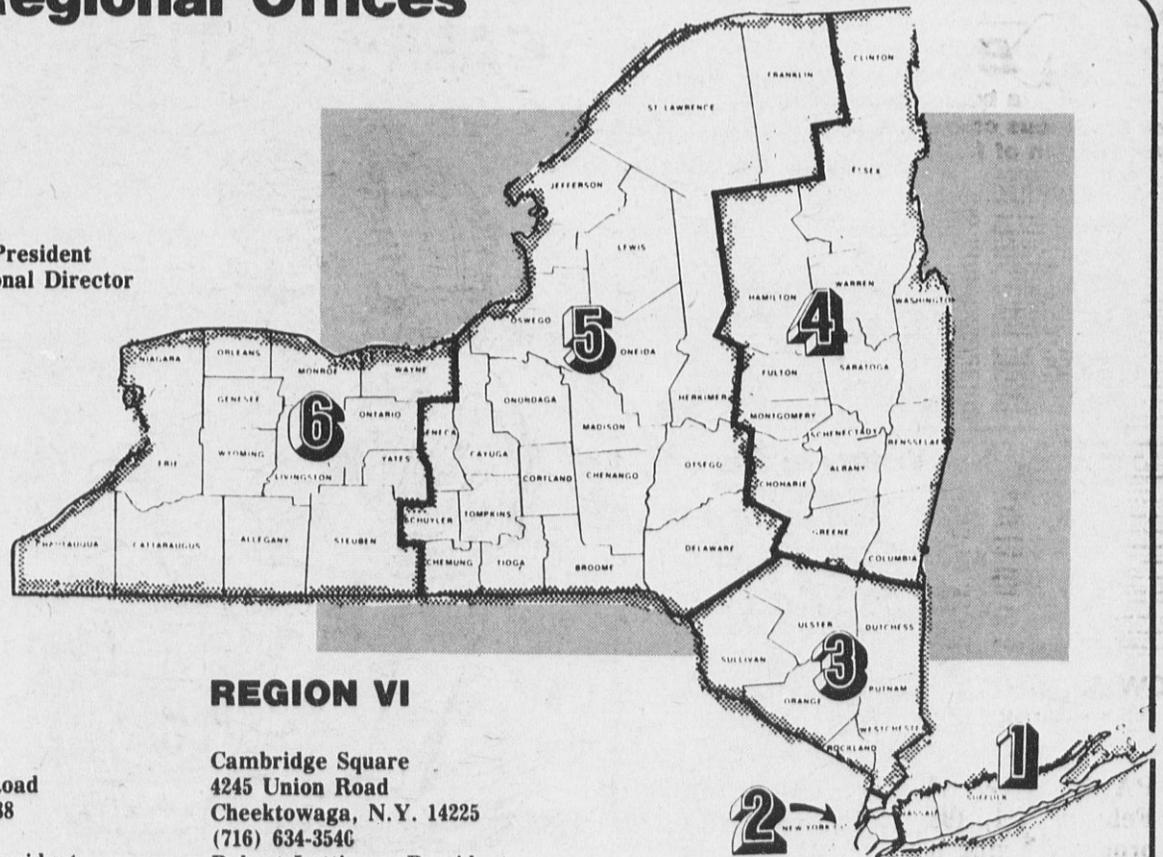
740 Broadway,
North Amityville, N.Y. 11701
(516) 789-1170
Dan Donohue, President
William Griffin, Regional Director

REGION IV

1215 Western Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12203
(518) 489-5424
Joseph McDermott, President
John Corcoran, Regional Director

REGION II

11 Park Place
Suite 1405,
New York, N.Y. 10007
(212) 962-3090
James Gripper, President
George Bispham, Regional Director



REGION III

Rural Route 1
Box 34
Old Route 9
Fishkill, N.Y. 12524
(914) 896-8180
Raymond J. O'Connor, President
Thomas Luposello, Regional Director

REGION V

Suite 308
290 Elwood Davis Road
Liverpool, N.Y. 13088
(315) 451-6330
James J. Moore, President
Frank Martello, Regional Director

REGION VI

Cambridge Square
4245 Union Road
Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225
(716) 634-354C
Robert Lattimer, President
Lee Frank, Regional Director

Class action grievance filed for Westchester workers exposed to asbestos

Asbestos-contaminated basement now sealed off from workers; protective clothing required

WHITE PLAINS — A grievance asking for continued medical screenings for Westchester County employees exposed to asbestos in the basement of County Office Building II has been filed by the Westchester County Unit.

The basement of the building, 150 Grand Street, White Plains, was the scene of a water pipe rupturing which released asbestos from the ceiling. Asbestos is a cause of cancer and other major illnesses.

The basement houses offices of the County Department of Social Services and more than 100 persons are usually in the basement in the course of work day, Unit Business Agent Carmine DiBattista said.

Freezing temperatures on or before Monday, Jan. 19, 1981, caused the flooding and the release of the asbestos, he said.

That morning some employees were sent into the basement to clean up, he said.

Unit Grievance Chairman John Whalen said the class action grievance was filed on Jan. 21, 1981. It asks that medical screenings be provided for those employees who were made to clean up the area without proper safeguards or training, he said.

The Public Sector was unable to photograph the basement area on Jan. 28 because the area was sealed off and only persons wearing protective clothing and masks are permitted in the area.

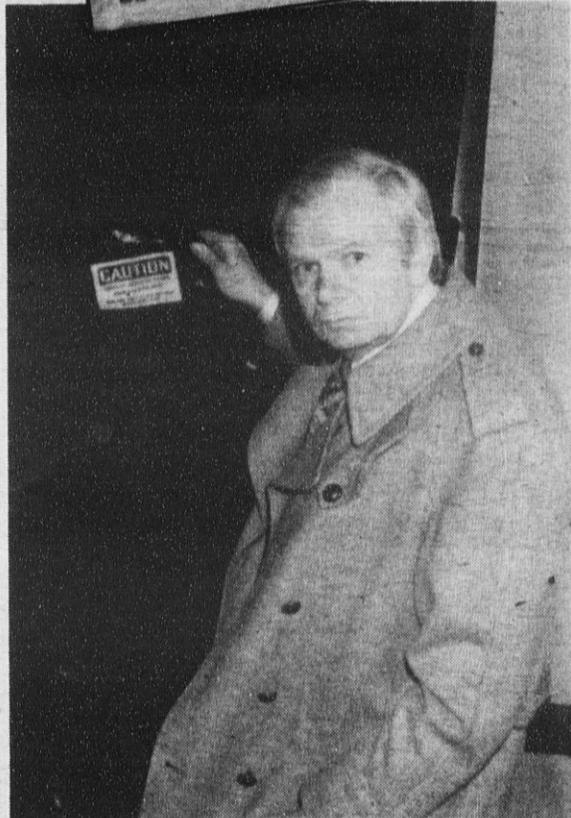
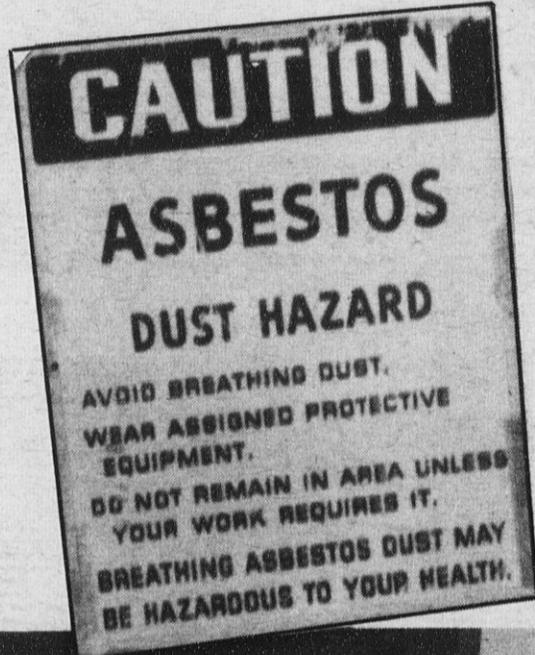
On the afternoon of Jan. 19, the County warned all employees to avoid exposure to the asbestos-contaminated basement and the area was sealed off, DiBattista said.

County Unit President Raymond J. O'Connor, who is also CSEA Region III President, said: "I am pleased that even though the County's response was late for some employees, the County did react quickly to seal up the area and to protect its employees."

Since that time, the County has brought in an outside contractor for the massive job of removing the asbestos and cleaning the basement, DiBattista said.

He said the Westchester County Unit office was informed of the condition of the basement by employees who worked there, including Unit First Vice President William Smith.

Unit Health and Safety Committee member Frank Guido, who works in 150 Grand Street, was sent to investigate the situation in the basement.



THE SIGN ON THE STAIRWAY to the basement of Westchester County Office Building II says it all. County Unit Business Agent Carmine DiBattista went to inspect the basement where a massive asbestos hazard is being removed but was unable to enter the area because of the danger, without protective clothing and masks, to his own health.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY UNIT PRESIDENT Raymond J. O'Connor, who is also CSEA Region II president, is blocked from inspecting the basement of County Office Building II where a massive asbestos clean-up operation is underway. The area is sealed off to all those except the workmen who are wearing protective clothing and masks.



SUFFOLK COUNTY LOCAL 852 President Ben Boczkowski, left, installs the new officers of the Town of Brookhaven White Collar Unit, including from left, President Gerry Myott, Third Vice President Allen Strauss, Treasurer Dolores Lawler, Recording Secretary Julia DeTorre, Corresponding Secretary Carol Hulse and Sergeant at Arms Stephanie Galante. First Vice President Jackie Dawson and Second Vice President John Girandola are not pictured.



TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN WHITE COLLAR UNIT President Gerry Myott, left, is congratulated upon taking office by Town Supervisor Joel Lefkowitz. Joining them is Suffolk County Local 852 President Ben Boczkowski.