

Town Suing State Today Over 'Cherry Sheet' Aid

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Deady Denies Change In Attitude on Square

By JOHN SCHIDLOVSKY
Union Staff

Springfield School Supt. Dr. John E. Deady said Wednesday night that he has not softened his stand in support of educational use for Federal Square.

In acknowledging that "it might very well be possible to accommodate a new high school with industry now on the site, Deady denied a published report that he has "eased" his position supporting educational use.

"I haven't softened my views at all," Deady said.

Deady reiterated his support for a general educational complex on the former Armory property. The City Council has been asked by the School Committee to turn over property on the city's 14.5 acres at the site it is necessary to have school. Specifications for the school already are being drawn up by School Department staffers.

"It is not our intention to be unreasonable about the property," Deady said. "We are as acutely aware of the economic needs of the city as of the educational needs."

Deady said before any determination can be made of what can be built on the site, it is necessary to have a "precise estimate of the actual acreage available and an analysis of other land."

Deady said at present no one is making such a study and that the only group that is planning such a study is a three-man council committee appointed Monday. Thus far, only Councilor Paul C. Akerman, who has supported industrial use of the

WNEC Seeks License for FM Station

Western New England College students have applied for a permit to construct a new educational FM radio station broadcasting to the Greater Springfield Area, Federal Communications officials in Washington announced Wednesday.

Dean of students Andrew J. Mulcahy, Jr. said students applied for the permit "some time ago, but in the initial request they were too near other (local FM) stations and must have reapplied."

There is an FM station broadcasting from Amherst College, he noted.

Students at WNEC have operated an AM station on campus for several years. An FM license would allow them to expand their operation to the Greater Springfield area, the dean said.

Members of the radio station have been working with members of the campus electrical engineering department who supplied technical aid in planning the proposed FM station, he said.

Three From Area Graduated by MIT

Three students from Western Massachusetts are listed as recent graduates from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. Receiving degrees were Scott S. Brown of 30 Woodland Rd., Longmeadow; Bruce I. Fornhalf of 32 Bruce Well Ave., North Adams and Kevin F. Marzotto of 3 Fasse Place, Pittsfield.

By MARK VOGLER
Union Staff

West Springfield will sue the state today for alleged inequities in this year's "Cherry Sheet" distribution of state aid.

The decision was reached Wednesday at a Board of Selectmen meeting after Chairman James J. Flemming charged that West Springfield "has been short - changed for the past few years," adding "we must rectify the ills before things become much worse."

Flemming said he disputes the method in which the state distributes the aid because "they are using a formula which doesn't exist and has been opposed by the General Court."

"In our judgment the Cherry Sheet has discriminated against this town for the past six years. Therefore, we have decided to sue the State of Massachusetts."

Edward C. Peck, the town's legal counsel, said Wednesday night he will file the suit this morning in Hampden County Superior Court in Springfield.

Peck said he expects a hearing within 10 days, at which time he'll apply for a temporary restraining order to freeze revenue being distributed by the state treasurer.

Peck will ask the court in his brief to decide whether the distribution formula is unconstitutional on various grounds.

West Springfield joins the City of Lowell in court action opposing the state on the method it uses to distribute its aid. However, Lowell indicated in its suit, filed in May, that the formula is all right if applied the way it reads.

"We're opposed to the formula because we're against what it says," Peck asserted.

West Springfield questioned the Department of Corporation and Taxation's concept of basing a town's educational opportunities and quality upon a community's affluence - which it contends the current formula does.

It also regards as "questionable" the kind of job a commission comprised of three men can do in evaluating and applying the formula to 352 cities and towns.

"The state is making discretionary judgments which are wrong. The affluence of a town doesn't relate to how a child is being educated. That's an impossible thing to do."

Cherry Sheet estimates under the new 18 - month budget totaled \$1,964,343 for the town, only a \$500,000 increase over last year's figure which was for a 12 - month period.

Flemming complained previously that the Town of Westfield, which has a comparable population, is receiving more than double the amount received by West Springfield.

site, has been named to the group by Council President Mary K. Egan.

Deady said he hopes the council committee will determine if any other land parcels need to be joined with the Federal Square site for the new high school.

The council is divided over whether to use the land for educational or industrial facilities. Mayor William C. Sullivan has indicated concern with what will happen to Digital Equipment Corp., which has a 10-year lease on a building at the site.

Agawam Salutes Woman's Service

By DAKIN CHAMBERLAIN
Union Staff

An Agawam woman was praised in a legislative resolution Wednesday night and congratulated on "her 50th year of dedicated service to Agawam."

State Rep. Edward W. Connelly R - Agawam brought a resolution from the Massachusetts House of Representatives which praised Mrs. H. Preston Worden for her 50 years of service to the town.

The resolution was signed by the speaker of the House, Rep. David M. Bartley, D - Holyoke, and had a blue ribbon attached by a gold seal in one corner.

"She was very surprised and it really shook her up," said Connelly soon after presenting it to her. Connelly introduced the resolution to the House because of Mrs. Worden's "great dedication to the town."

About 300 friends and acquaintances gathered at the Capt. Charles Leonard House in Agawam to honor Mrs. Worden, who will retire to a house on the farm where she was born in Eliot, Maine, in July.

Mrs. Worden was the assistant superintendent of Agawam schools from 1922 - 25. "I aided the superintendent of the elementary school who, incidentally, also was the principal of the school," Mrs. Worden recalled.

Mrs. Worden then married "the most eligible bachelor in Agawam," she said with a big smile on her face.

A charter member of the



MRS. H. PRESTON WORDEN

Agawam Women's Club, she is still an active participant in the club and has held "every job except the presidency. I didn't want that job."

Mrs. Worden is one of the original trustees of the Capt. Charles Leonard House, which was opened in 1939.

She was the superintendent of Agawam Congregational Church Sunday School for a few years, a member of the Agawam Women's Republican Club and at one time was a member of the Hampden Improvement League.

Mrs. Worden was one of the founders and the first president of the Agawam Garden Club, and has participated in the Christmas Seal program and work of the Agawam Center Library Association and the Agawam Historical Society.



Gold Badge for Veteran Officer

Retired Springfield Police Lt. Philip M. Griffin, center, receives a gold badge from Springfield Police Capt. Daniel J. Shea during a testimonial for the 43-year law enforcement veteran at Donie's Supper Club in Willimansett Wednesday night. Others are, from left, District Attorney Matthew J. Ryan Jr., master of ceremonies; Mrs. Griffin and Atty. Daniel M. Keyes of Springfield. Griffin retired last month.

Sisitsky Foe Surfaces Early

By GLENN BRIERE
Union Political Writer

Robert J. Morrell, a Blandford Republican who plans to challenge State Sen. Alan D. Sisitsky, D-Springfield, next year, said last night that "when you have one party in complete control, you don't have good government."

Morrell, town moderator of Blandford, told members of the Longmeadow Republican Town Committee he plans to run largely because more Republicans are needed in the Senate.

The 34-year-old political scientist professor at Berkshire Community College, outlined his planned College, in remarks at the Longmeadow Community House, in his campaign for Senate.

"I am an unannounced candidate, but let's not play these silly games that some politicians play," he said. "I am a candidate and I have



ROBERT J. MORRELL

been campaigning since January."

Morrell said he plans to spend the rest of 1973 speaking to both Republican and Democratic groups as

well as civic organizations. Then, he expects to make his formal announcement early next year.

He said he will emphasize the need for more balance between the two parties in the Legislature.

"In 1952, we Republicans had control of both houses and we did as bad a job as the Democrats are doing now," he said. "When you have one party in complete control, you don't have good government."

Morrell said Republicans have been concentrating on getting specific candidates elected governor and U.S. senator but have not been paying enough attention to the legislative races.

He said Republicans can be elected with a good effort, citing John H. Fitzpatrick's election to the Berkshire district Senate seat in a Democratic area.

"We should take the Democratic approach to

campaigning," he said. "Have fun, talk to people, and don't be afraid to go into areas that are enemy territory."

Morrell acknowledged that while he would be favored in the so-called "hill towns" in the western part of the Hampden-Berkshire district, he needs more visibility in the Springfield-Longmeadow area.

A possible GOP primary opponent for Morrell, State Rep. Iris K. Holland, R-Springfield, was in the audience. Mrs. Holland is weighing a run for Sisitsky's seat but has not decided whether to change his strategy and that he would welcome a primary contest.

Morrell is a graduate of Springfield College and has done advanced study at Westfield State College. He has been on the faculty of Berkshire Community College for seven years.

Union to Assist Ambulance Strikers

By THOMAS KOCH
Union Staff

Pioneer Valley AFL-CIO council members last night approved a move to provide pickets to assist striking ambulance workers at three local ambulance service agencies.

Herman Greenberg, president of the 35,000-member council, said council board members also voted yesterday to begin a leaflet campaign throughout Greater Springfield to explain the strike and asking local citizens to use other local ambulance services.

Forest Park Ambulance Service, Gold Cross Ambulance Service and Harris Ambulance Service workers all walked out on strike last week, John Foley, business agent of Local 550, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Workers Union, AFL-CIO, representing the workers, said.

Workers at Forest Park Ambulance Service voted in the union last September but, when workers went out on strike, a contract agreement had not been reached with Henry R. Soutiere, president of the three companies.

Henry Hall, Jr., former crew chief for Forest Park Ambulance Service, said the average worker now earns about \$2.50 an hour.

"We love our work. We're

Foley said workers are asking for increased pay, one paid holiday a year, health insurance and union recognition.

Soutiere said he believes the union wants ambulance crew chiefs to be paid \$3.60 an hour and ambulance attendants \$3.10 an hour.

Foley said the average pay being asked for workers is \$3 an hour.

Henry Hall, Jr., former crew chief for Forest Park Ambulance Service, said the average worker now earns about \$2.50 an hour.

"We love our work. We're

trained and we take pride in it. But I think we should be able to earn a living wage."

Hall, an ex-Air Force paramedic, said Soutiere said before the union was voted in Forest Park last September he "had planned to give them health insurance but after that I thought I'd save it for a bargaining point."

Soutiere said "no one in this business has paid holidays" and, on the proposed wage scale, said "we're not going to do it."

Greenberg last week requested, through Soutiere's attorney, that he meet with union officials but so far no meeting has been set up, Foley said.

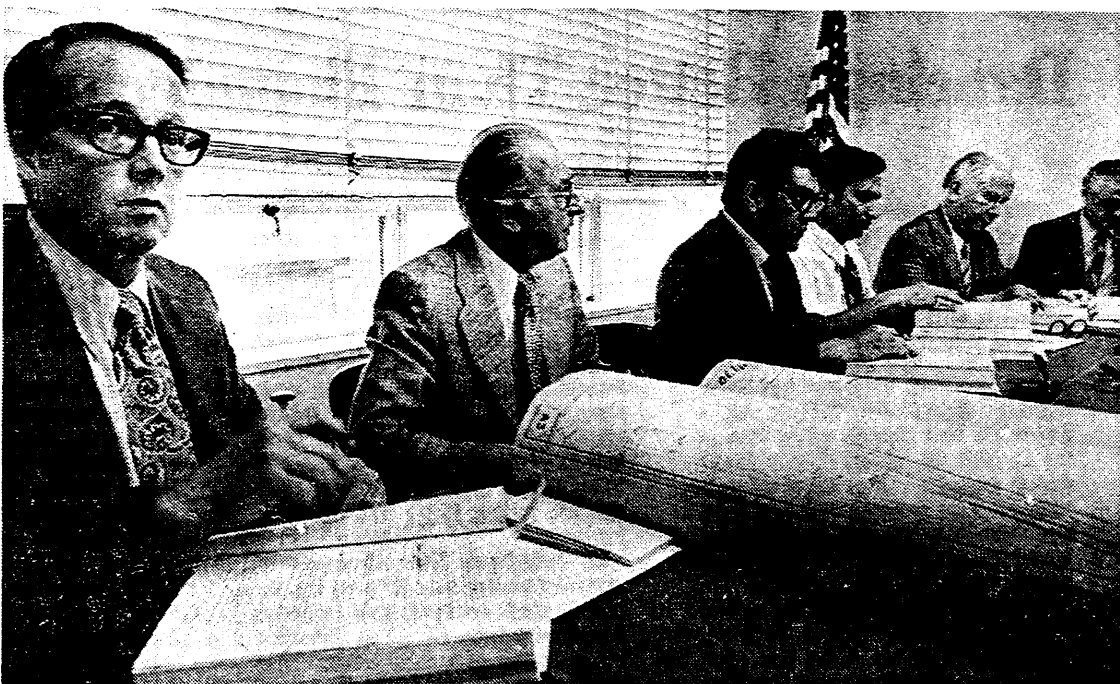
Gold Cross and Harris ambulance workers are striking for union representation, better wages and in protest of alleged "decreasing service to the public" by the ambulance services, Edward E. Veroneau, former Gold Cross ambulance dispatcher, said.

Strikers said the companies, under Soutiere, have decreased night service, have poorly stocked ambulances which at times are sent on the road when in need of repair.

Foley said council members will be asked to help man picket lines at Forest Park and Gold Cross ambulance headquarters as well as hand out leaflets which explain the union's position.

The leaflets, which will be distributed throughout Greater Springfield to hospitals, nursing homes and the general public, will ask citizens to use other ambulance services in this area, he said.

Work Begins Today on Hall of Justice Site



Gathered for signing of a \$11.3 million contract for the new Hampden County Hall of Justice are, from left, William Anderson, president of Ley Construction Co.; Walter J. Poitras, director of the state Bureau of Building Construction; County Commissioners Armando G. Dimauro, Richard Thomas and Stephen A. Moynahan and architect Eduardo Catalano.

By JEAN BRAUCHER
Union Staff

Fencing will begin today at State Street and East Columbus Avenue, Springfield for the new Hampden County Hall of Justice.

Demolition of the three buildings now on the site also begins today.

The \$11.3 million contract for the county complex was signed yesterday by the county commissioners; William Anderson, president, Ley Construction Co. of Enfield, Conn.; and Walter J. Poitras, director, state Bureau of Building Construction.

Associated Wreckers are scheduled to complete demolition of the old Springfield Institution for Savings building a 52 State St., the GAR building at 44 State St. and a gas station at State Street and East Columbus Avenue within a month.

Two weeks will then be needed to clean up the site before groundbreaking ceremonies for the Hall of Justice are held in August, County Commission Chair-

man Armando G. Dimauro said.

Bids for a \$4 million, 19-year bond to finance construction this year will be opened in Boston June 27. The bond will be used for \$1.5 million in debts already accrued and the rest, \$2.75 million, will be for construction costs for the rest of 1973. Other bonds will be sought next year.

The new courthouse is scheduled for occupancy July 10, 1975. Phase two of the project (demolition of the building that houses the registries of deeds and probate, and construction of an underground parking garage and a plaza) is to be completed by July 4, 1976.

The new complex will house Hampden County Superior and Probate Courts, Springfield District Court, the Registries of Deeds and Probate, and the county commissioners, treasurer's and district attorney's offices.

The present Superior Court building will be extensively renovated at a cost of \$800,000 to \$1 million mainly for use by Springfield Juvenile Court.