

# Council Backs Uniform Shopping Hours

By LINDA SITEMAN  
Union Staff

The Springfield City Council business and industry subcommittee has given its majority support to a proposal for uniform retailing hours in an expanded concept of downtown to be known as Springfield Centre.

With the cooperation of citizens, merchants, and municipal officials, the Springfield Central Business District, Inc. has proposed planned and uniform economic and physical growth for downtown.

The initial priority recommendation of the SCBD is implementation of uniform retail store hours for all central business district merchants.

City Councillors Leonard J. Collamore and Daniel M. Walsh 3rd, members of the council's subcommittee commended the priority recommendations and pledged support to all efforts to revitalize downtown.

Collamore said the proposed changes, particularly the uniform store openings, "make a great deal of sense."

Springfield Sunday and the story in The Republican are the best things to be done for downtown," he said. "I think this can really help the central business district become what it should be."

Collamore said he likes the idea of a name change, particularly on major highway signs, that would indicate the exits for Springfield Centre.

He termed the tree plantings an "excellent project, one that will dress up Main Street and entire shoppers downtown."

The SCBD, in cooperation with the city, plans to have 200 trees planted by fall in addition to plantings already made.

The installation of high intensity lighting downtown has significantly reduced crime and should be expanded as recommended in

get people excited about and talking about downtown."

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the SCBD report, Collamore said.

Collamore said he would favor anything "that would

Walsh said he would also meet with the SCBD to discuss implementation of uniform retail hours.

"We have to have a shift in emphasis," he said. "Up to now, the emphasis has been to get people off the streets. It's this way in every large American city but it's just the opposite in the capital cities of Europe."

Councillor Walsh said there were "a lot of exciting things in the proposed changes for downtown" that he would like to see implemented.

He said he would discuss the feasibility of eliminating

on-street parking in the downtown area with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority.

## The day John Havlicek played a game... and made all the calls.



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"As I was dialing the number, I thought this was a pretty bold idea for Dial. After all, they didn't know what I might ask."

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"I was amazed. I mean, he didn't even ask for my name. And there wasn't any sales pitch. He just helped me—with no strings attached."

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## Getting in Shape

Getting in shape for the Wilbraham Police Association's sports night planned for May 25, at Minnechaug Regional High School, are Police Chief Norton Brainard, umpire, Sgt. Anthony Bernardes, catcher, and Patrolman Larry Cloutier, batter. Don Nelson of the Boston Celtics and Terry O'Reilly and Greg Sheppard of the Boston Bruins are scheduled to appear at the event which is free to children.

## Disc Jockey Ends 101-Hour Marathon

By MARY KEANE  
Union Staff

After 101 hours of continuous broadcasting, WTXL disc jockey and Program Director Gerry Tower said "I didn't feel tired until the doctors told me I had to get off the air."

Tower was to end a 104-hour marathon at 6 p.m. Monday at the request of doctors supervising the broadcast for the benefit of the American Red Cross.

He completed 101 and one-half hours before falling asleep at 3:30 p.m. in the studio.

The marathon broadcasts began Feb. 14, and so far at least \$700 has been raised for the Red Cross in pledges and sales of records at Neptune Water Beds of West Springfield, according to WTXL officials.

Beginning Feb. 14, Neptune Water Beds pledged to donate five per cent of all record sales to the Red Cross. And last Tuesday, the WTXL disc jockeys began asking for pledges as they continued their marathon.

A fatigued Tower told the Union he'd had the idea for the marathon over a year ago, but when the Byron MacGregor "Americans" record illustrated the financial problems of the American Red Cross, he

decided to try to raise money for the group.

Tower ended Monday the second of his marathon broadcasts: earlier in February, he'd stayed on the air 64 hours. Tower was taken to Neptune Water Beds after his broadcast to catch up on his sleep on one of their water beds.

The broadcast marathon continues with Tom Kelly, who previously stayed on the air 89 hours, and with Kevin O'Neal, who'd previously stayed on for 76 hours. Another WTXL disc jockey, Bill Cleveland, stayed on for 62 hours.

## Arson Suspect 'Competent'

Paul V. Grammo, accused of setting adjoining parochial schools ablaze, was found competent to stand trial by a Springfield District Court psychiatrist Monday.

Dr. Donald Neilson, court psychiatrist, examined the unemployed musician from 36 Willow St., for about an hour at District Court, his lawyer, Atty. Howard J. Cotter, said.

Grammo is charged with arson in connection with the fire at Sacred Heart School and Notre Dame High School, both at 27 Everett St., Feb. 24.

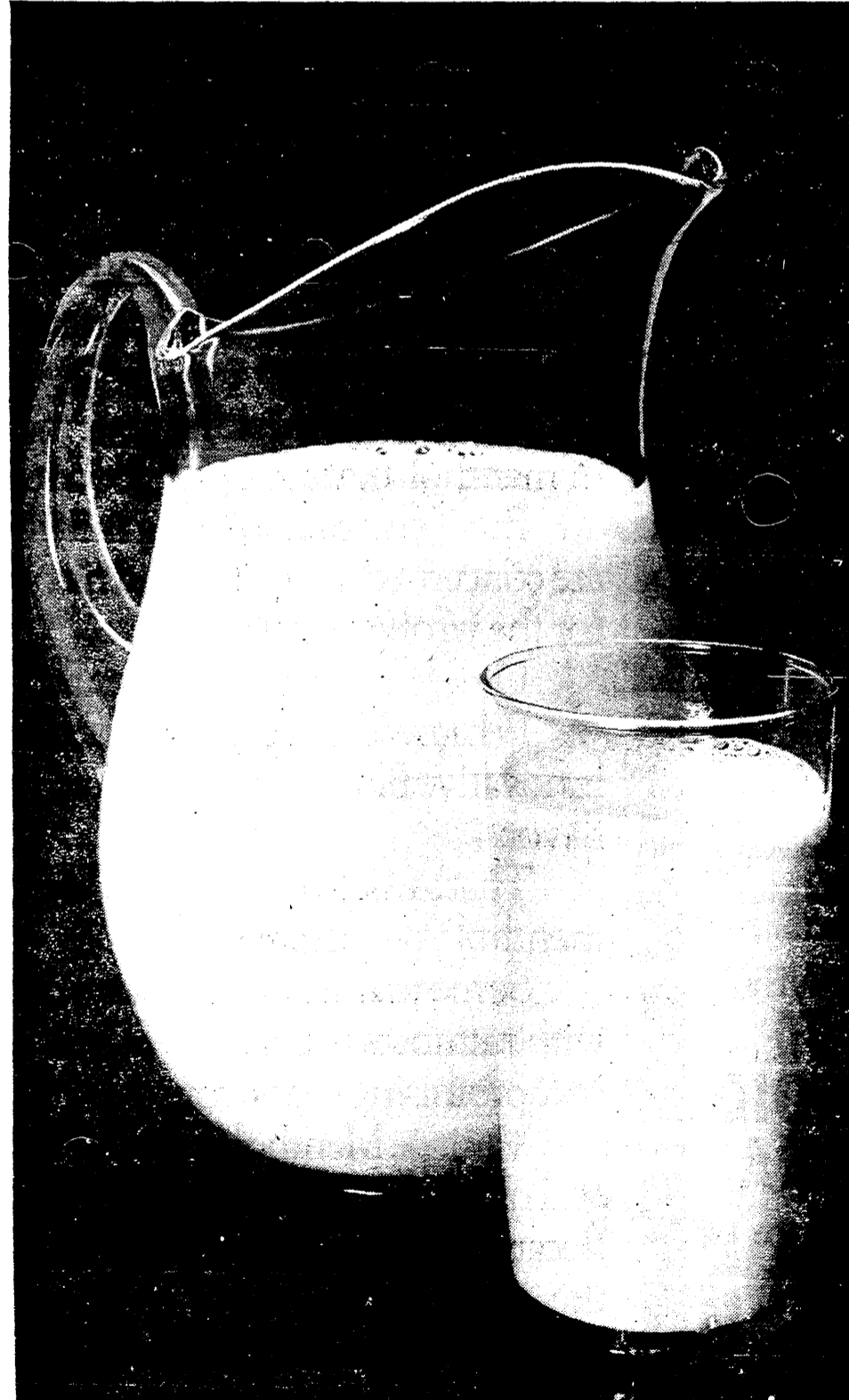
The court entered a not guilty plea in his behalf and ordered him held at Hampden County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail the next day.

Following the psychiatric examination, the arson case and an unrelated larceny case, were continued until March 13, for a probable cause hearing, Cotter said.

Cotter said his client will be in Superior Court to request a reduction of his \$10,000 bail, the day after the hearing.

Last week, the more than 800 students at the fire-damaged schools, resumed classes at three vacant Springfield Catholic Diocese facilities.

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